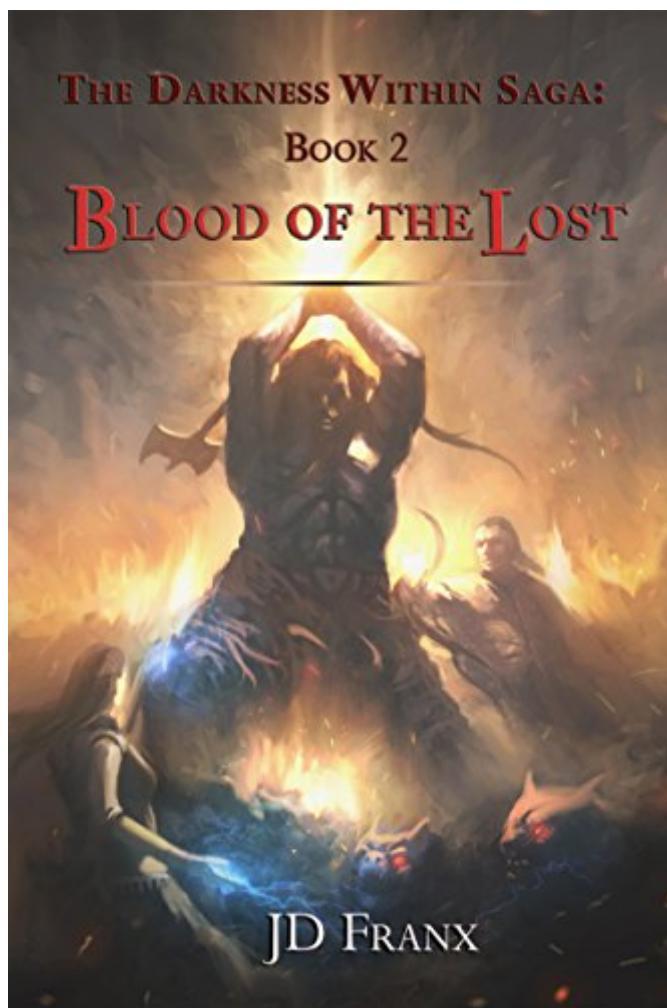


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# Blood Of The Lost: The Darkness Within Saga: Book 2



## Synopsis

Book 2 from JD Franx's epic new saga! Few people survive the suffering that Kael Symes has experienced. Hot steel, demonic magic, and the loss of those he loves. After escaping the horrors of Arkum Zul, Kael and his companions survive a terror-filled night on the ocean only to find themselves shipwrecked and stranded in the Wildlands. With forest tribals on the warpath and old enemies roaming the forest, Kael struggles to come to terms with what he is slowly becomingâ "a killer. A DeathWizard. In the fight against the evil that threatens to consume him, Kael learns that the Dwarven Mountains far to the north may hide an ancient monolith that holds the answer to the corruption that flows in his veins. But trekking across Talohna is a dangerous prospect. It is a world that holds its secrets close. The cost of uncovering them may very well be his soul and quite possibly his life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Blood of the Lost is the second book in JD Franx's Darkness Within Saga and I am so in love with this series. A lot of independently published books do not have the kind of scope and scale that JD's books do. The world building in this series is absolutely incredible which is exactly how an epic fantasy series should be! There are too few books like this in the world!

I was lucky enough to read the first book then right away read the second. The main characters seem realistic in their antagonism of each other, which I found was a great way to push the plot along and promote the idea that you really don't know who is right and who is wrong in this world. -- though by the end it becomes painfully clear. It's not really a surprise, but it's satisfying as the characters true selves begin to be revealed by their actions. The plot and the characters are dense and thick and I am in awe of the feat. The writing and grammar is smoother. How can it not be, this author really puts in his dues with this intricate story. In the first book his imagination wasn't quite that creative, but by this, the end of the second, his creativity has definitely caught up to give us a fresh new world. Awesome. Buy this.

I really like this book.. and series... but sometimes it is also pretty frustrating it is written well.. at least it pulls me in and makes me want to read it and I enjoy reading it. I like the characters.. I like the world and magic.. but this book especially it felt like the author was just jamming things in. We don't need a POV for every random character. There be SPOILERS below: The nonstop search for Kael was the majority of this story yet again for ANOTHER entire book. Oh, but this time he literally trips over both Max and Ember and doesn't notice.. The keeping them separated just felt so artificial.. especially since we just dealt with that in the first book. And gee.. Kyah is what she is... (figured she was waaay too good to be true..) and it made absolutely no sense that no one called her on her lies multiple times towards the end.. most of them knew her story made no sense next to the evidence.. but that is kinda dropped.. what happens at the end... was pretty predictable.. Kael can't even read the entire letter he was given/found and never seems to practice or try to learn more.. but hey lets go fight the thing that tosses him around like a child... cause Hulk Smash!!!! or something. oh but hey he clearly has enough time to stop and help random villages and almost die a couple times.. (the amount of times he almost dies should have been a good clue that he should have waited and not rushed off.. just saying..) it isn't even a cliff hanger.. if he doesn't come back.. the entire series flops. Because there is soooo much built into Kael.. what do the blades do.. what does the letter say.. what does the book say... what does the B.B. Purge potion that is dropped do? All the effort put into getting max and ember and kael to the other world to begin with.. etc etc etc. So it is pretty

obvious that he will be returning somehow. Not to mention that aside from Ember and Max and a couple others.. if Kael is gone.. you are left not really caring if the entire world burns. (I am okay with characters dying.. but this just wouldn't make sense for the story) What frustrated me the most aside from the near misses with Ember and Max... is he really didn't 'grow' as a character this book. At least with the first one.. with all the torture he goes through you see him changing -- even as he retains his inner moral compass.. This time.. no good deed goes unpunished.. but aside from wounds.. and learning a couple tricks by accident more than anything.. he doesn't really grow.. though I am sure that will be coming in the next book as he recovers from dying. Ember slightly grows... but she fights for air time with all the other POVs.. so it isn't as apparent.. the nonstop switching to random people... like the dwarves that literally pop up for 2 seconds and then run away after making themselves targets again.. or the Fae Queen.. or the pirates.. or the arena sequence.. etc.. it might be important down the road.. but it just fluffed this book. There is something to be said for keeping POVs to a limited number. I enjoyed those scenes.. but like the ending... the scene about the king should not have been the last chapter.. mostly because we have zero reason to care at all about the king or his pillars or some plot that sythrnax has clearly instigated... With all that said (and hoping it doesn't cause the author to kill off Kael to prove me wrong..lol)... do I hope the next book is quickly released? definitely. I enjoy the ideas and the story.. and when reading I can overlook most of what I am grumbling about.. So if you enjoyed the first one.. go ahead and grab this one. Just be prepared to hope he writes book 3 quickly

I really enjoyed this book. I loved the first book and was disappointed that there was not a second one out right away. So I kept checking every now and then to see if there was a second one. I was very happy to find that there was a second book on one of my checkups. This book does not let you down from the first one. I really like the plot of the book and the characters. The only thing I had a complaint on was the fact that throughout the book, Kael doesn't really grow in his powers. The only times his abilities develop more are when he is fighting an opponent and he doesn't really try to practice at all. Even because of that, I still loved this book and would recommend this series to all. There are very surprising turn of events and it keeps you up. Great book, can't wait for the next one.

In an era where fantasy writers are starting to just pump out 200-300 page chapters (that's basically what these books are) it's refreshing to read a nice 500+ page book. It reminds me reading Goodkind and Ericson. Normally I'm not a fan of books written from the perspectives of more than two or three characters, but for some reason I enjoyed it here. The character development is great

and I'm hooked on the story. Can't wait for the next one.

Very enjoyable series so far. Well written characters who the reader identifies with quickly. Plenty of action and loads of magic. I am eager to read the next book.. only disappointment so far was the resurfacing of Kyah and the seal. .nicely written.

The inconsistency and sprinkles of lines and paragraphs that should have been bleeding from the ink of an editor make for some serious distraction that pulls the reader away from the simple enjoyment of an otherwise interesting story.

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