



Water Sleeps: A Novel of the Black Company (The Chronicles of The Black Company Book 8)

By Glen Cook



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Regrouping in Taglios, the surviving members of the Black Company are determined to free their fellow warriors held in stasis beneath the glittering plain. Journey there under terrible conditions, they arrive just in time for a magical conflagration in which the bones of the world will be revealed, the history of the Company unveiled, and new world gained and lost...all at a terrible price.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The eighth volume of the military-fantasy saga of the Black Company of mercenaries, set in a world strongly flavored with elements of South and Southeast Asia, holds to the high standards of previous volumes. It is some years after the close of *She Is the Darkness*, when their nemesis, Soulcatcher, locked most of the company in a magical stasis field; now the motley band of survivors exists at the sufferance of the Radisha of Taglios. This doesn't keep them from wanting to rescue their comrades, however. The survivors' leader is the young woman Sleepy, once the ward of Murgan the Standardbearer but now his successor as Annalist of the Company. She organizes her ragtag followers to steal the various sorcerous secrets of ways to penetrate the stasis field and eventually to kidnap the Radisha of Taglios herself. The rescue party then hotfoots it, with Soulcatcher, her general Mogaba and Kina the Destroyer close on their heels. This novel stands more sturdily on its own than most Black Company books, thanks to the exceptional richness of the world building, exemplified in particular by its feel for Eastern religion. It is compelling to see the dregs of society groping toward a certain nobility through loyalty to lost comrades. The actual rescue has a whiff of anticlimax about it, but the revived Black Company has no shortage of surviving enemies, and further adventures are practically guaranteed and eagerly anticipated.

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From Library Journal

After a 15-year wait, the surviving members of the Black Company marshal their resources and begin an arduous journey back to the glittering plain in an attempt to rescue their captured brethren from a timeless prison. Told from the perspective of an Annalist haunted by dreams of the past and visions of the future, the eighth chronicle of the last of the Free Companies encompasses accounts of guerrilla warfare and open battle as well as the everyday struggles of soldiers caught in a war for survival against immortal enemies. Cook's singular talent for combining gritty realism and high fantasy provides a hard edge to this popular fantasy noir series. Highly recommended.

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From Kirkus Reviews

This outing for the Black Company either the eighth or the ninth, depending on how you count completes the Glittering Stone trilogy (*She is the Darkness*, 1997; *Bleak Seasons*, 1996). Most of the usual crew return: Goblin, One-Eye, the female warrior Sleepy (she's also the new annalist/narrator), the witch Ky Sahra, 14-year-old Tobo (son of former annalist Murgan), and the Company's pilgrim/swordmaster allies, the Nyueng Bao. Murgan, Sahra's husband, is now confined by supernatural means beneath the Glittering Plain, along with the Captain and others, but his spirit's free to roam and spy for the Company. So, how can the Company free their companions from confinement while avoiding destruction by the various gods, goddesses, demons, wizards, etc., who are their adversaries? Tough, gritty gloom-and-doom that should entertain the fans while remaining impenetrable to outsiders. -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katie Martinez:

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