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Crimson Bound

Whitney Troxel

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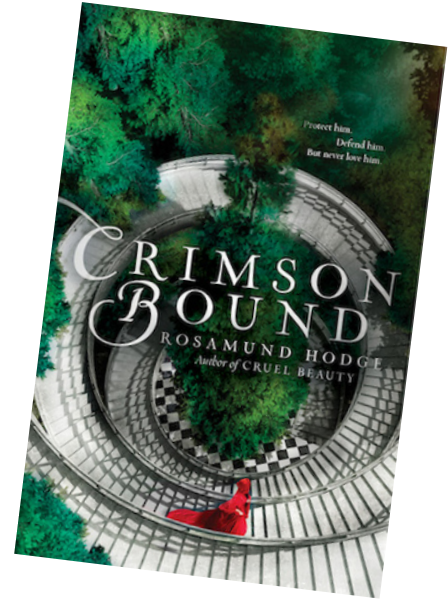
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Book Review

Title: *Crimson Bound*
Author: Rosamund Hodge
Reviewer: Whitney Troxel
Publisher: Balzer + Bray
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9780062224767
Number of Pages: 448
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Dependable



Review

The Devourer once ruled over Rachele's world with endless night. The Devourer and his Forest Born servants terrorized and killed all in their path, until Zisa and Tyr defeated him. But that was a long time ago and few people believe in the Devourer anymore. Even fewer believe that he's coming back. Rachele knows the stories are real, and fears what will happen if the Devourer is not destroyed once and for all. The problem is Rachele is a bloodbound. She was marked by a Forest Born three years ago and will eventually turn into one. Even though she's sworn service to the king she knows it's only a matter of time before the darkness consumes her. Rachele is desperate to find a way to defeat the Devourer, but the king has assigned her to protect one of his illegitimate sons, Armand, who has become a favorite of the people. Being a bodyguard severely limits Rachele's time to search for a weapon to use against the Devourer. At first she hates Armand for being in her way, but she slowly learns to trust him. Together they are able to defeat the Devourer and save the kingdom.

Crimson Bound is loosely based on the Little Red Riding Hood fairy tale. Hodge creates a very intricate and exciting world for this story to take place, filled with vivid imagery and detailed descriptions. The dark-fantasy aspect of the book is very intriguing. However, the plot and characters were disappointing. The romance between Rachele and Armand felt very sudden and forced. Rachele goes from hate to love quickly and with little reason for the change. The narrative meandered through the plot making it difficult to understand the purpose of some character decisions. It also felt like the book could have ended multiple times. When the story did finally wrap up, it was unsatisfying. Overall, the story had great potential but fell short of reaching it.

*Contains mild language and moderate violence and sexual content.