



2016

Five Kingdoms #4: Death Weavers

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McMillan, Tessa (2016) "Five Kingdoms #4: Death Weavers," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 37 : Iss. 10 , Article 12.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol37/iss10/12>

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Book Review

Title: Five Kingdoms #4: Death Weavers

Author: Brandon Mull

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Publisher: Aladdin

Publication Year: 2016

ISBN: 9781442497092

Number of Pages: 502

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding



Review

Leaving Constance in the safety of Zeropolis's Unseen, Cole and his friends enter Necronum. At holy or haunted locations within the kingdom, the spirits of the dead (known as echoes) and the souls of the living (bright echoes) can traverse between reality and the afterlife (the echolands). Following clues from an echo named Sando, Cole's party learns that Honor and Destiny are trapped within the echolands. However, Sando deceives Cole and imprisons Mira, Jace, and Joe's bright echoes. Sando is a henchman to Nazeem, the evil originator and leader of the shapecrafting movement. With Hunter and Dalton watching over the comatose bodies of their three friends, Cole enters the echolands to rescue the three princesses, Jace, and Joe. Aided by many departed heroes and gifted shapers, Cole heals his shaping power, rescues the princesses and his friends, traps Nazeem in a temporary prison, and restores Destiny's shaping ability. Dandalus, a shaper and creator of the Outskirts, transports the bright echoes of Cole and his friends back into their bodies.

In the fourth book of his *Five Kingdoms* series, Mull puts his own twist on death and adds another complex world to his Outskirts foundation. But first a note to parents, teachers, and young readers. Even though "death" is in the title, no mindless, bloodied zombies or rotting corpses are present. In Mull's interpretation, death is the departure of the soul, or echo, from the body. Once the echo leaves reality, it lives in the echolands until the pull from the Other, or higher paradise, makes them move on. As Cole journeys through the echolands, departed characters from previous books rejoin his mission to save the Pemberton sisters. In his own way, Mull shows that the dead still care for the living and do what they can from the other side. *Death Weavers* mimics such books as Garth Nix's *Abhorsen Chronicles* and Janet Lee Carey's *Stealing Death*. As an added treat, fans of Mull's *Beyonders* series may see two familiar faces who aid Cole's mission in the echolands. An unpredictable and hauntingly surreal book worth the read!