2018

Isle of Blood and Stone

Meagan Andrus

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Book Review
Isle of Blood and Stone

Eighteen years ago, the two eldest princes of St. John del Mar and the Royal Navigator were kidnapped and murdered in a devious plot set in motion by the rival kingdom of Mondrago. Neither kingdom fully recovered, and the wounds run deep. Now, two unsigned maps turn up in del Mar with hidden riddles and clues that seem to hint that the events of the past were not as straightforward as they were told. Elias, the son of the lost Royal Navigator and an expert mapmaker, decides to investigate the mysteries and clues left by the maps at the insistence of his friend Ulises, the King of del Mar. Together with Mercedes, a half-Mondragan royal and Ulises’ cousin, the three unearth secrets and plans left buried for decades that maybe should have stayed hidden. It takes many clues, the help of a few trusted friends, and some hard truths to solve the mystery of what really happened to the royal family and both kingdoms eighteen years ago.

This adventurous tale is told with expertise in a richly-built and developed world, familiar but foreign enough to keep things exciting. While the book has some elements of fantasy to it, like sea monsters and royal families, the story is mostly a mystery, with a few hints of romance throughout. It has plenty of twists and turns, and the real culprit is left hidden in plain sight for readers to exclaim over when finally revealed. The characters are relatively well-developed, though some are left to be a bit more one-dimensional. In addition to an exciting mystery, the book features some hard questions that the characters and readers will ultimately have to decide for themselves: Can a person still be good if they’ve done evil things? What is the true meaning of family? And how can one forgive after being forced through difficult trials? Isle of Blood and Stone is a swashbuckling adventure-romance-mystery that will keep readers entertained and engaged until the very last page.

*Contains mild sexual content and moderate violence.