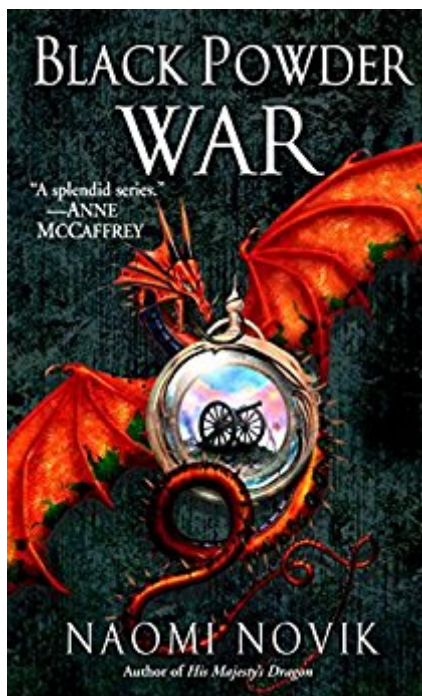


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Black Powder War: A Novel Of Temeraire



Synopsis

“A splendid series.” —Anne McCaffrey “Naomi Novik has done for the Napoleonic Wars what Anne McCaffrey did for science fiction: constructed an alternate reality in which dragons are real in a saga that is impressively original, fully developed, and peopled with characters you care about.” —David Weber, author of the Honor Harrington series

After their fateful adventure in China, Capt. Will Laurence of His Majesty’s Aerial Corps and his extraordinary dragon, Temeraire, are waylaid by a mysterious envoy bearing urgent new orders from Britain. Three valuable dragon eggs have been purchased from the Ottoman Empire, and Laurence and Temeraire must detour to Istanbul to escort the precious cargo back to England. Time is of the essence if the eggs are to be borne home before hatching. Yet disaster threatens the mission at every turn thanks to the diabolical machinations of the Chinese dragon Lien, who blames Temeraire for her master’s death and vows to ally herself with Napoleon and take vengeance. Then, faced with shattering betrayal in an unexpected place, Laurence, Temeraire, and their squad must launch a daring offensive. But what chance do they have against the massed forces of Bonaparte’s implacable army? **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from Naomi Novik’s *Empire of Ivory*.

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Customer Reviews

It is good enough writing and I enjoyed the book, although we are at book 3 now and I'm still not sure where this series is going. It seems there is no real goal for the characters (which might be nice if you think about, they just live their life) - but I am missing a higher goal or purpose you usually see in this type of books. I don't really like the jumping in scenes - it is too jumpy for me (they are one page there, the next one they are at a whole new area) - and this is going through out the series.

I have enjoyed this series thus far. The mixing of fantasy and real world 19th century history works better than I first believed. There are plenty of rich details about the life of the dragons and their riders as well as the society. The only problem I have with these novels is that they seem to follow the "Mercedes Lackey" school of plotting: big action in the beginning then a long, slow middle, with all the various plotlines resolved too quickly in the last 40 pages. With each of the novels I have had to backtrack over the last 2 chapters or so just to figure out what was going on. I will still read any further release in the series though as they are absorbing reads.

As usual, Naomi Novik has written a fantastic novel. Her craftsmanship of words and scenery... mixing history with the fantastical... is a pleasure.

Novik does a credible job inserting Temeraire and Lawrence into the middle of the European War that Bonaparte is waging against Prussia. However the initial trek across the deserts of Mongolia and subsequent escape from Istanbul Turkey tires the reader somewhat with the drudgery of the trip. To Novik's credit, we mentally feel the exhaustion of the trip and subsequent the weariness of the war engagement. So the story continues and the struggle to return to England and help fight Napoleon, who now has the White Celestial dragon Lien as his captain and has a death grudge against Temeraire. I hope the next installment is on the lighter side and let's us enjoy the relationship and personalities of the main characters.

I'm rounding up about half a star. This is a darker book than the previous two, but continues exploring the inertia of stupidity within military and bureaucratic ranks, this time in Prussia. It also

further develops the key characters, all of whom are worth spending time with. There are mysteries here that will be explained in the following book, Empire of Ivory, which is one of my favorites of the series (so far). For now, assume that details are important.

Good golly, this is juicy writing! Superb character development, a dizzyingly complex plot, ranging across the Napoleonic Wars, for crying out loud, and lush attention to detail (so so so well-researched!)- all come together to make an enormously fun, satisfying read.

Temeraire has opened a lot of thought of intelligence. Humans have always held them in esteem over the animal kingdom and we are learning new abilities every day. To the very minimum we owe just care of animals everywhere. The use of the dragon abilities interests me because we always try to find a use as weaponry before anything else. I'm addicted to the series and looking forward to more books.

In going home they come by orders to get three eggs from the Turk but Turk back out of the agreement so they siege the egg and fly away but in that process they lose one man and one egg. Very good read I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I have.

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