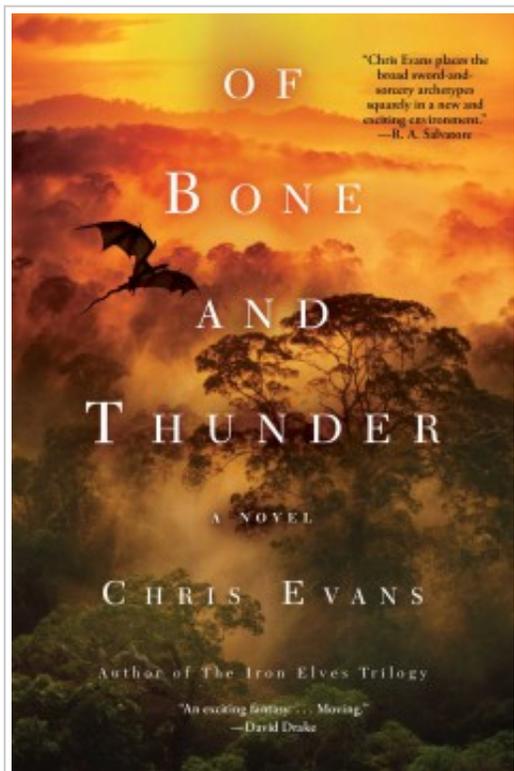


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Of Bone and Thunder

by Chris Evans

Price: \$26.99(Hardcover)

Published: October 14, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A land of thick jungle and mist-swirled mountains. An enemy moving unseen beneath the lush canopy. The growing threat of thaumics—a magic wielded by few that threatens to destabilize all. The youth of a kingdom sent to fight in a faraway hell while back home, discord and disillusionment reign...

Fantasy author Chris Evans masterfully pushes the boundaries of the genre in his brilliant, groundbreaking new epic, a unique and penetrating vision channeling the cultural upheaval, racial animus, and wholesale destruction of the Vietnam War. Here, in the distant nation of Luitox, which is wracked by rebellion, thaumic users copilot mammoth armored dragons alongside fliers who do not trust their strange methods. Warriors trained in crossbow, stealth, and catapult are plunged into sudden chaotic battles with the mysterious Forest Collective, an elusive enemy with a...

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What We Say

Chris Evans is the author of the Iron Elves trilogy but his work is new to me. In this original work, he sets a Vietnam War-like quagmire in the fantastical setting of another world to give a new sense of urgency and moral complexity to the sci-fi/fantasy war novel. The effect is quite striking. He begins with a raw recruit who slowly gets addicted to a drug to keep away the horrors of their situation fighting for the Kingdom against the "slyts," the slang term for their essentially faceless and nameless enemy. Even the Kingdom is sort of a joke, since it turns out the King isn't really the King but in fact a bastard. So who are they fighting for? And what are they fighting for? The religion that dominates their people is cold comfort to most of the soldiers, who curse whenever the Holy Book of their faith is mentioned by newcomers. Instead of napalm and helicopters, this war has dragons and their fire (the twists Evans puts on dragons are especially vivid and clever). Another twist: dwarves are ever-present but despised by many. They were slaves until a few decades earlier but prejudice runs high; tensions always run high, they aren't allowed to bear arms (much like many black soldiers in WW II who were often consigned to dangerous or menial tasks), and if they're wounded dwarves are given inferior medical care. Evans keeps raising the stakes as he introduces more and more characters -- a clueless commander, a dragon rider, doctors, a government agent involved in intrigue and the wizard-like soldiers who plumb what seems like sorcery to strike out against their enemy. The goal of the soldiers we follow is to lure the lurking enemy into striking against their stronghold in a valley called Bone and Thunder so that the enemy -- once seen -- can be destroyed. It works all too well. The more harried and hopeless their task becomes, the more this book achieves its goal of breathing new life into the genre of fantastical war books. No good versus evil here, just layers and layers of grey. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"A masterful debut -- if J.R.R. Tolkien and Bernard Cornwell had a literary love child, this would be it." - **Karen Traviss, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Star Wars: Legacy of the Force-Revelation and City of Pearl**

"Fascinating...combining the best touches of fantasy and military storytelling." - **John Ringo, New York Times bestselling author of the Legacy of the Aldenata and The Council Wars series**

"A thrilling epic from beginning to end, filled with wit, intrigue, and twists and turns reminiscent of Glen Cook's The Black Company. A grand new entry in the field of fantasy masters!" - **Richard A. Knaak, New York Times bestselling author in the Dragonlance, The Dragonrealm, World of Warcraft, and Diablo series**

"A fantasy in which the gritty realities of war and politics are as important as the magic -- and all are handled very well." - **David Drake, national bestselling author of the Lord of the Isles and Hammer's Slammers series**

"Imagine Napoleon's armies invading Middle Earth, mixing gunpowder with magic, monsters, and heroes. The Iron Elves will march across the landscape of fantasy and claim new territory...."

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