



## Wyrd Blood

*Donna Augustine*

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Sometimes I wonder what life was like before magic burst into existence, before the Magical War of 810 destroyed our world. What it was like before there were Wyrd Blood, or we were forced into hiding.

And that's what I've been doing for years, hiding me and my crew. But that's about to end. My crew is starving and things are getting dire. When I get desperate enough to try and steal from Ryker, one of the toughest men in these parts, things go bad and my Wyrd Blood origins are outed.

But it's not all bad. Ryker can help keep me alive from the mysterious illness that's been plaguing me. He can also feed my crew. The only thing I have to do in return is start another war.

## Wyrd Blood Details

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Author : Donna Augustine

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## From Reader Review Wyrd Blood for online ebook

### **Mara says**

2 1/2

This book started with a bang and ended in a disappointing fizzle. I read the first half and almost couldn't put it down, even with its flaws and holes. But somewhat, somewhere along the chapters the story started to unravel. At 80% I was close to DNF.

One of the main reasons was the heroine that regressed with every chapter. She started as a woman and moved back in time to girl child. I couldn't believe it. Both her and her crew were depicted like dogs: panting around the hand that feeds them and idolizing the human even when it kicks you.

It might be his curse, but it was painful to see. From clever, cunny survivors they were transformed into idiots without an inch of brain. They had no loyalty, and even less brain. And it so clashed with the world and the beginning. (Think Lord of the Flies going Twilight).

The plot revolved around her magic that was needed to break a ward. But there was almost no explanation to it, no magic systems to back it up. Way worse the book revolves around nothing, because they keep talking about training her, but there's no training. At least the usual definition of it where there's one who teaches or shows how to do something and the other learns and repeats. Here we had an excuse to make the 2 MC staying together and showing (?) the readers (not this one) how the 2 thawed. Pretty painful, sorry.

The backstory was hinted, but never coalesced into anything, and when it did appear it made her behavior even less logic.

I found no reason for many of her actions or feelings. Again given the world they weren't that solid IMHO.

I'm not going to keep reading the series.

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### **Kelly Clare says**

This book is everything; Subtle humour, a slow-burn relationship, a plot you can't predict. Donna Augustine strikes again!

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### **Feminista says**

Rating 3.5 out of 5.

Interesting plot and world setting. However I didn't enjoy the Ryken's revolving door.

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### **Sarah Shiplee says**

For me the issue with this book and the sequel is that the main character and love interest are basically identical to her 'The Wilds' series if not incredibly similar to all her series' MC's.

The character is this awkward, sheltered woman who has the maturity of a 15 year old and can't seem to figure out why she gets the warm and fuzzies for this all knowing, mature grumpy guy who is this supposed sexual god. There's one scene which feels like it's lifted straight from 'the wilds' where the MC "mistakes" the guys romantic interest. Even the plot premise is loosely the same; grumpy guy needs powerful girl to solve his problems and they just so happen to be made for each other.

I loved the Karma series and I did like The Wilds series (although I find this adolescent behaving woman thing a bit bizarre; why would a guy be interested in a woman who behaves like a 15 year old) but this series is a bit meh.

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### **JadeShea says**

Bugs is starving, and she's trying to hide what she can do, while still trying to get food for her crew. But when she is captured by Ryker, the notorious Wyrd Blood who is supposed to be ruthless, and bad. Things go from bad to worse when he ends up helping, and making her do what he wants.

This book was very very interesting. I didn't like how Bugs acted sometimes, so that's what made it not really a four star, but I really enjoyed the plot, and I loved the end. I'm looking forward to more. This has huge promise to be another one of this author's great series! I can't wait for more.

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### **Lily says**

I really loved it. This is exactly the kind of fantasy I like to read.....an interesting world but it's not bogged down by too much description, a lot of actual dark stuff happening or being alluded to but also a lot of humor to keep the story enjoyable, and great lead characters. I thought the heroine was really great....at first when she's with her crew, she seems very tough because she has to be. Later as things get easier, we see her act more her actual age (18/19) but still stand her ground and stay a leader. Normally don't like such young heroines because I don't like ya or new adult, but this story works more as an adult fantasy novel. Her relationship with the male lead is well done emotionally and it stays interesting and fun throughout.

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### **Meena says**

This book was a very entertaining read. If you love her other books definitely read this one!

Love all the characters!! And Bugs...well...I love all her inner monologues and thoughts. They were very silly and innocents at the same time. I can't wait to watch her grow into her character in the next book. I also love the pace of the romance. It went from hate to like and now friends.

Ryker was likable and a great match for Bugs. And I hope she doesn't stay with the name Bugs throughout the whole series because I keep forgetting her name.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and I can't wait for book 2!!

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### **Jo Dawson says**

Charged with eeking out a meager life for herself and her crew in the Ruined City, "Bugs" has a trove of secrets, the least of which is that she has Wyrd Blood, that is magical abilities. What should be a blessing leaves her marked for the unscrupulous to exploit, so a secret life is adequate, until she's forced to cut a deal with Ryker, a leader of a nearby colony. An uneasy alliance is formed and Bugs learns there is so much more about life, and herself, then she ever realized.

This was an excellent read; Donna Augustine's world building is perfect - a different time period with its own caste system was superbly developed. I love reading her books because she has a way to write the strong and flawed heroines, you want to nudge and push them a bit, but mostly you just want to keep turning the page! I can't wait for the follow-up!

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### **Rebecca says**

I honestly don't know what to say about this book. I was a little excited since the premise seemed promising, but I didn't have great expectations. The previous books I read from this author are all similar to this one: Pretty good concept, interesting beginning, then somehow goes rapidly downhill and sort of fizzles out.

Not awful, but just not memorable.

This book is about a girl-thief (I don't even remember her name) who has some power that she has kept hidden her whole life and which she uses to keep herself and her crew alive by robbing people.

Neither the powers, nor the countries and political systems are explained at all! It is said she cares incredibly for her crew, but when they leave her or (view spoiler) she barely even reacts, and when she does, she does something super unnecessary and stupid.

Like, for example, (view spoiler)

The thing is, where was the storyline? The climax was anticlimatic as could be, any problems they encountered were disregarded in a sentence and even (view spoiler) Even had there been any real stakes, I didn't have any sort of connection to those pale, uninteresting characters.

Someone might ask themselves, if I hated that book, why did I give it 2 Stars?

The writing was not terrible, I liked the concept of the book, and overall, I didn't have an unpleasant experience reading it. It is kind of dumb, and neither the world building nor characters are fleshed out, but it is a fun read nonetheless. There is a very slight chance I might even read the next book.

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### **Michele says**

I've read the author's Wilds and Ollie Witt series. Bugs, the protagonist of Wyrd Blood, is cut from the same

cloth...snarky and antisocial with a past she is unwilling to revisit. Bugs lives in a world where those with magical "wyrd" blood are aggressively hunted by those in power to fight wars. A stubborn survivor, she ekes out an existence along with her loyal crew in a violent Mad Max'esque border community. Not even her crew knows the powerful magic she so desperately hides.

Things change when she catches the attention of Ryker, leader of a "country" that Bugs and her crew routinely steal from. Detained during a raid, Ryker offers Bugs a deal she can't refuse...help him steal something from a neighboring "country," and he'll forgive the trespass, feed her crew and help with a pesky 'death mark.'

In true Augustine fashion, Ryker is attracted to Bugs (and vice versa), yet they deal with said attraction in a less than adult manner. Bugs has never gotten close to anyone, and continuously misinterprets Ryker's reactions. Ryker has no idea how to handle Bugs and is alternately intrigued, baffled and frustrated.

I am always amused by this author's feisty, antisocial...and surprisingly vulnerable protagonists. How Bugs interprets the world and the actions of those around her is highly entertaining. Definitely worth a read.

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### **Shazcaz says**

Love Donna Augustine books, great female leads, great unique story lines. This book is no exception. Looking forward to the next instalment. Now need some help making a few decisions so off to find me a worm!

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### **Debbie says**

Wyrd Blood Book 1

Donna Augustine

Augustine's first in a new series is a melding of sorts of NA- Urban Fantasy and post apocalyptic fiction set in a world almost a thousand years after the demise of civilization. Her attention to detail in her inventive world building gives readers a clear visual of her fantastic people, places and things. Her main protagonists are a fabulous pair, there's Bugs a mix of wisdom, innocence and common sense and Ryker an enigma whose quiet strength makes him the perfect leader. Her other players are all interesting and the storyline is action packed and engaging and will leave her audience salivating for book two. Well done!

Tantor Media production

Narrated by Nicole Poole

6 hrs – 15 mins

Nicole Poole's narration of Wyrd Blood is fabulous. She handles both male and female voices plus interpreting the emotions of the characters to perfection while keeping the story moving at a great pace. But it's definitely her portrayal of Bugs that stands out, going above and beyond showing Bugs' strength and her vulnerabilities, her compassion and her stubbornness and doing it with an eloquent yet straightforward and expressive style that will keep the audience's rapt attention and waiting for book two with bated breath.

### **SUMMARY:**

It's 910 AC-After the change when magic was unleashed on an unsuspecting world and forever changed it

and not for the better.

Bugs has relied on her Wyrd Blood, (magic) to keep her one step ahead of her enemies and to keep her and her small crew alive and fed in the crumbling Ruined City. But lately something's wrong, she's off her game struck low by a strange illness and that's the only reason she found herself trapped by her enemy. And the only reason she's alive to tell about it is that he wants something from her.

Ryker, lord of the country of Valley has need of someone with strong magic, someone he can use to get through the wards of a neighboring country. Someone who's disposable, luckily the culprit just got herself snagged in one of his traps. Unlucky for him, he might have just met his match.

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### **Wyrdness says**

[The story is set in a medieval fantasy world and told from a 1st person perspective, and though the protagonist has been poor and mostly starving all her life, living in a place where even foraged food is hard to come by let alone baked goods, she nevertheless describes herself as being trapped in a magical "donut" at one point. This makes sense to me as a reader, but how does

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### **Colleen Johnson says**

Donna Augustine never disappoints me. Set in a world so changed from ours, you've got the main character, Bugs, go through so many changes it keeps your mind set on the next word and the next. I couldn't put this down. If you love magic, brooding romance like characters, a character who talks to worms (really cute), cares deeply for her crew and has a heart as big as the universe, this book is for you.

I loved it!

When a bar of soap is so precious people would kill over it or even living in a house without holes in the roof could endanger your life, it's a great world!

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### **Natalie says**

Wyrd Blood Book one By Donna Augustine

I absolutely loved this book and the promise of a great series is set in stone. This is another one of those stories that you will get stuck into and will not want to put the book down!

In this book, we meet Bugs who has magic and is known as a wyrd blood – many years ago, during a power struggle, those people who had (too much) magic had a price on their heads and were easily sold or killed and this is still the case today. Living rough in the ruined city, Bugs and her crew are trying to survive. When she suggests robbing a nearby village to get food for her crew of five, the last thing she expected was to be captured by a stronger wyrd blood named Ryker, who happens to be looking for her. Bargaining for her life, Bugs makes a deal to help Ryker and get into Bedlam which is ruled by a powerful king so Ryker can retrieve something precious, all Bugs needs to do is break the wards protecting the place – easy for someone who knows how to control their magic.

The story is full of magic, trust, friendships and bonds between friends and unexpected people and learning hard truths and sacrifices and the added mysteries that keep you guessing. The love, loss and mysteries will keep you hooked!

I am pleased that there will be another book.

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