



The Red Wraith

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As magic awakens in Early America, Naysin, a child of the Lepane nation, manifests talents that cause him to defile his tribe's harvest ceremony. His punishment is exile. In the years that follow, Naysin's spirit fathers keep goading him into misusing his abilities. On the island of Bimshire, he inspires a slave rebellion before abandoning it; near his former home, he marches European settlers to their deaths; and in the forests of Edgeland, he ends a battle by massacring both sides. Such acts cause much of the New World to see him as the Red Wraith, an indigenous monster who delights in butchering white innocents. The infamy is well-earned, but that's not who he wants to be. And when he encounters a group of fellow magic-users, Naysin realizes how he can set everything right.

The Red Wraith Details

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Author : Nick Wisseman

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From Reader Review The Red Wraith for online ebook

Julianne says

This was fast-paced and exciting, with a good magic system - appealing, understandable, relevant to the created world. The writing was very good, the plot interesting, the settings and historical touches finely detailed, the characters engaging and believable. (Although Naysin is a teenage boy, so not always the most lovable protagonist - but I stayed interested in him and his fate even when he was acting annoyingly.)

The only thing I didn't really like is that near the end, right at the climax of an important scene where you know that Something Big is going (has) to happen, there's a 2-chapter jump back through history. I can see why it's there, because the reader is experiencing the whole novel through Naysin's eyes and that's when he gets this new information - but as a reader it was hard to stop and become interested in this back history when I really wanted to know what was going to happen next! But this was only a minor mini-annoyance: this back information break in the story was intrinsically interesting, and in general I thought the choice of having a third-person limited narrator worked very well throughout the book.

All in all, a great book by a talented storyteller!

Stephanie says

The Red Wraith, is a fast-paced book that is more than what it seems. This new world that the Author creates is wonderful and interesting mixed with complex characters, makes this book so much more. Everything that Nick Wisseman puts into this story seems very accurate, and believable. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves reading books that are different, and also people who like historical fiction.

Alexandra Engellmann says

This blend of historical fiction and fantasy about Native Americans and the Europeans that disturbed their peace was a great story with a unique magic system and a fascinating setting. The most interesting to me was the concept of the protagonist, who was torn between the darkness and light, trying to find his way in the rapidly changing course of life in his country. The tension it created was both about the demons in every one of us and the hope, and so this fantasy story explores some very serious topics along with the magical world in it and the boy's destiny.

The world-building was brilliant, without the need to shove anything into the reader's face. There's a lot of details, but the reader gets to explore them gradually together with the main character, and this is the best way to introduce someone to a new world, in my opinion. Otherwise it would be difficult to navigate among all the new ideas and words. The magic system was connected with the real world in an effortless way that makes it impossible not to slip into the story, wishing it was real.

The inner conflict that the boy has to fight, mixed with the fast-paced plot and unpredictable twists, turned this book into something of a surprise for me. Historical books tend to be slower, and their excitement mostly lies in their beauty and amazing settings. Here, everything worked out nicely to create a very gripping read.

Overall, a very solid and original novel that I recommend to all fans of fantasy set in the past.

*I got a free copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Ginger says

I love this author. You can tell he does a lot of research to create his characters, and really cares about getting the story right. I can't wait to read this book.

Audrey says

Historical fiction with a fantasy twist. While I feel that it had a slow start personally, it definitely ended with a bang. A good choice of read for anyone who enjoys fantasy and Native American history.

*I received this book for free.

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

Nick Wisseman brings us a historical fiction with a touch of fantasy in *The Red Wraith*. The story follows a young teenager who's been exiled from his tribe for defiling a ceremony due to his uncontrollable new-found magical powers. His journey brings him to live through various historical events, from the domination of the native Americans by Europeans to the spread of a disease bound to kill millions. This book is filled with brilliant ideas and the author does an amazing job in fluently incorporating them into his book.

As the story progresses, readers are immersed in the protagonist's struggle to find his purpose in life. In fact, I believe the book does an excellent job in portraying the main character's, Naysin's, pursuit of happiness. His banishment from his tribe and the discovery of his hidden talents bring him to confront various events where he needs to decide if he wants to be seen as a God or as the Devil. The author does an excellent job into astutely showing readers the benefits and the actions of the protagonist throughout this historical fiction. I truly believe that the inner conflict lived by Naysin was the forte of this novel. Reading about Naysin and his fight with his inner demons was intriguing from start to finish. Seeing him struggle between light and darkness was definitely fascinating, especially when you take into consideration the historical events as well as the beautiful fantasy twist of the novel.

The magic concept in this novel is definitely innovative. The use of "kug" and "mir" was captivating and brilliant. It managed to blend with reality seamlessly and always brought something new to the story. In fact, the whole idea was as much a learning experience for the protagonist than for readers, and that served as a great hook for readers. However, towards the ending, the use of this concept drastically became enormous and almost overwhelming. It felt like a huge leap and that the story could've benefited with a little more foreshadowing to help readers see the action scenes to come. Although the story was essentially a long journey through various historical events and a search for purpose, the plot still seemed close to messy. Aside from the brilliant exploration of the disease that ate away numerous native Americans, the repercussions of this infection and the search for answers for the protagonist, several events felt almost random and irregular.

The Red Wraith is still an innovative and brilliant novel that touches upon countless ideas. It incorporates a

clever magical world and blends it perfectly into this historical fiction. Nick Wisseman's way with words definitely helped create an enchanting novel.

Yours truly,

Lashaan

Lashaan & Trang | Bloggers and Book Reviewers
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

Mehreen Ahmed says

Mehreen Ahmed's review

Fuelled by unpredictable energy, the protagonist finds himself in a situation where he must set the world right. If there was a more imaginative work, than it is The Red Wraith by Nick Wisseman. Descriptive, powerful imagery and a cause to save a lost world - a dream that have all come to play in this veritable explosion of magical realism and forthrightness.

Jim Galford says

A poorly conceived magic tale based upon Native american lines.

Jackie says

Excellent book with lots of magic and action. Loved it from the beginning.

Ben King says

Received this in one of Goodreads giveaways and as promised, here is my review. Apologies if it isn't as long or detailed as others. Possible spoilers.

All in all I enjoyed reading this book. The story was very fast paced but gave enough imagery to understand just what was happening. I liked the magic system of Kug and Mir and the balance that Naysin had to maintain. At a few times it seemed that there wasn't anything he couldn't do, but there was a price it took on him that limited his godlike power. Example being the battle of Edgeland where he wiped out both armies in roughly fifteen seconds. A very brilliant method used, which I do applaud, but in his anger the character overextended the balance he needed to keep and blacked out because of it.

Then the twist at the end that his powers were being fueled to unlock his fathers bonds? A very clever twist.

The historical setting was a bit refreshing. I haven't read many books from the perspective of a native

American and found it a very interesting read to follow. A key part of the plot that I liked was the redemption aspect that Naysin tried to strive for. He knew the wrong he had done and wanted to make things right. He didn't always succeed, but he never stopped trying.

Anyways, there is my mess of a review. I read this while at work between calls in a call center so a re-read is definitely going to happen and I will more than likely hit things I missed my first time through. If you haven't, definitely read this.

Barbara says

A legendary history of North American colonialism, no darker than the truth. I had this gift book for bedtime reading, probably take a couple days if read uninterrupted, while reading *The Ascenders* on my laptop during the day, This voluntary review is my own opinion.

CallMeSensei says

Huh. I'm honestly not even sure how review/rate this book...

The Red Wraith is an interesting attempt a historical fiction and fantasy novel that follow a young Native American boy named Naysin. Naysin has an unusual parentage that allows him to wield two different kinds of magical forces, Kug and Mir, that are rarely ever found together in the same person. His tribe is afraid of what that means and banishes him. This is the story of what comes after: Naysin learning to use his powers, figuring out what it means to have such power, and determining what his purpose must be.

As far the as the historical fiction elements go, the author imagines an Earth with a different timeline of events. No specific time period is mentioned and places are rarely called by name so it's hard to imagine exactly where and when this takes place. But the events are familiar: taking control of Native American lands, spreading pox, forcing different tribes of people into slavery, the idea of something other as being savage, racial slurs, etc.

That fantastical elements are fascinating. The idea of two different kinds of magic, Kug and Mir, which are the embodiment of order and chaos respectively. Kug is about the body and things of solid mass. Mir seems to be more elemental: moving the wind, water, or flame. It represents itself differently in different people and can be an inborn talent or one that is triggered by some event or trauma.

As for the plot and the characters... I'm not sure how many of these characters you're actually supposed to like. They're deeply flawed human beings shaped by the traumatizing events of their world and their abilities. Pale men, Afrii, Metican, Lepane, or otherwise, none of these people are idealized or romanticized above the others. I really enjoyed that about the characters.

The plot, I felt was probably weakest part of this novel. It's a journey of finding out one's purpose in life and as such, it's meandering with lots of stops and starts. But I feel like the author wanted to include so much that some of the finer points got lost underneath all of the other elements. Something was always happening. Someone was dying. Or a new person was introduced. And these things didn't always go together. Not really. And maybe that was the point... but I thought at times that it was a little overwhelming and hard to follow.

I did enjoy this novel so I think it's a solid 3 stars... at least... I'm still not sure.

NOTE: I did receive an ARC of this book from the publisher quite some time ago. I'm sorry this took me such a long time to get around to.

Ron Russell says

I had the opportunity to read an early draft of this book prior to the finished release. While in places still a bit rough it was a fascinating read. I am anxious to read the released version of this book! Mr. Wisseman has quite an imaginative mind to create this novel.

Alyson Stone says

Book: The Red Wraith

Author: Nick Wisseman

Rating: 1 Out of 5 Stars

I would like to thank Nick Wisseman for providing me with a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

This story had a very promising summary and I thought that I was going to love it, but I didn't. I just could not finish it. The writing style just wasn't for me and, I guess, the storyline wasn't either.

First off, I am not one for paragraphs upon paragraphs of things being explained to me with a few action bits thrown in now and then. I just find that some much of the explaining just really takes away from the story and really does not work for most authors. I just really don't have any other way to put it: it was too much for the amount of pages that the book had. The story just went on and on with no ending in sight. Whenever it became clear that my questions were not going to be answered right away and that there was going to be no clear ending, I just gave up.

Plus, the characters really were not all that great. I found myself having a really hard time with keeping everyone straight. What does this mean to me? It means that the characters are flat and just simply no development in them.

While this wasn't a bad book, it just wasn't my cup of tea. I know that I normally write longer reviews, but I just do not have much to say on this one.

Yuelin Zhong says

[I loved how the book started and ended with the same scene- it gave me an unexpected closure of sorts (hide spoiler)]
