



Bones of the Hills

Conn Iggulden

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Genghis Khan, risen from outcast to ruler has united battling tribes, but faces troubles. Emissaries are tortured and killed. Trade route efforts are violently rebuffed. The Mongolian army is stretched to the furthest corners of Khan's realm, and destruction looms.

Bones of the Hills Details

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Sith Lancerlot says

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Donna says

What a great series this has been. I've enjoyed all three (so far) more than I thought possible. What I enjoy the most, is how the author brings this tribe to life within the boundaries of historical facts. There is an authentic feel to the characters/figures with their everyday life, relationships, and goals. I love that feel.

One other thing that makes this series worth the read, is the story itself. It is not only well written, but the plot twists are creatively woven in that kept me glued to the book. I'm glad I was able to listen to this in one day.

KNIGHT says

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Rhonda says

Excellent book, excellent author. 5+++ stars!

David Bellow says

This is the Empire Strikes Back of this series. A dark and brooding saga of ruthless empire building and a strained father-son relationship. This installment rediscovered the strong voice and emotional resonance lacking in Lords of the Bow, and it might even be the best of the series.

Vagner Stefanello says

Review in Portuguese from Desbravando Livros:

Essa resenha contém alguns spoilers do final desse livro e também dos livros anteriores.

Após devastar boa parte do território chinês, Genghis Khan mira suas atenções mais ao sul e ao oeste, onde a maioria dos povos islâmicos/muçulmanos estão. Tudo começou com a morte de patrulheiros enviados por Genghis a terras distantes. Com a sua morte, o líder mongol não pode deixar essa ameaça de lado e precisará reunir todas as forças para marchar contra o novo inimigo.

Importante situar o leitor de que esse 3º volume de O Conquistador se inicia três anos após o 2º, quando Genghis envia seus vários generais a várias direções para que conquistem novos lugares.

Essa situação é perfeita para entendermos um pouquinho mais da mente daquele que é considerado o maior conquistador de toda a História: não é permitido ameaçá-lo e esperar sair impune, como foi visto no 2º livro, quando o imperador chinês quebra um acordo com os mongóis e fogem, deixando a sua fortaleza para trás, só para que Genghis e seus guerreiros a queimassem até o chão.

— Eu vim a estas terras porque, quando um homem me ameaça e eu desvio o olhar, ele tirou algo importante de mim. Se eu lutar e morrer, tudo que ele pode tomar é minha vida. Minha coragem e minha dignidade permanecem. Devo fazer menos pela nação que criei? Devo permitir a meu povo menos honra do que reivindico para mim?

Uma das grandes diferenças dessa obra para as demais é que os filhos do grande khan estão crescendo e começando a assumir funções importantes dentro do exército mongol, como o comando das tumans, formações com 10.000 mongóis. E, com esse crescimento, voltam à tona as brigas por poder. Jochi pode não ser filho de Genghis e sim de um estupro que a sua esposa sofreu na infância, e isso reflete diretamente no modo como Genghis o trata e na relação de Jochi com Chagatai, o filho seguinte do khan. Preparem-se para ler sobre momentos bem intensos envolvendo esses dois.

O choque cultural apresentado em Os Ossos das Colinas também merece ser notado, visto que diversas regiões são invadidas durante o período, como a Rússia, Afeganistão, Irã, etc. E, com isso, novas táticas de batalha também são apresentadas. Ao longo de suas campanhas, Genghis reuniu engenheiros das mais variadas nacionalidades que começaram a construir armas de cerco, já que as planícies frias da terra natal dos mongóis ficaram para trás, dando lugar às altas fortalezas dos novos povos. Achei interessante ter todos esses elementos inseridos na narrativa, já que o próprio Genghis assume em alguns momentos que a importância dessas armas de cerco foi tamanha que ele até aproveitava as semanas e os meses em que estava diante de uma fortaleza, apenas esperando que os seus habitantes se rendessem devido à fome, à sede e doenças que os acometiam lá dentro.

— Quando eu tiver morrido, não quero que os homens digam: "Vejam quanta riqueza a dele, suas cidades, seus palácios e suas roupas finas." — Gêngis fez uma pausa. — Em vez disso, quero que digam: "Certifiquem-se de que ele morreu mesmo. É um velho maligno que conquistou metade do mundo." — Ele deu um risinho, e parte da tensão se esvaiu do grupo. — Não estamos aqui para ganhar riquezas com um arco. O lobo não pensa em coisas finas, só quer que sua matilha esteja forte e que nenhum outro lobo ouse atravessar seu caminho. Isso basta.

Não posso esquecer de mencionar alguns nomes entre as fileiras do grande khan, como Tsubodai e Jebe, homens que foram crescendo aos poucos dentro do contingente mongol e se tornaram os "cães de caça" de Genghis, ao lado também dos seus irmãos Khasar e Kachiun, que mantém uma relação forte desde a infância, quando estiveram perto da morte e até tiveram que matar um dos irmãos para sobreviver, história essa que foi contada no excelente 1º livro da série, O Lobo das Planícies.

Uma das curiosidades introduzidas aqui são os assassinos, uma seita de matadores experientes contratada pelo povo muçulmano para tentar acabar com a ameaça dos mongóis na sua terra.

Narrado em 3ª pessoa, com mudanças constante de pontos de vista, a narrativa flui como os cavalos mongóis em uma planície, agradável de se ler e com elementos do cenário sempre ali presentes.

Enfim, também preciso dizer que esse volume fecha um "ciclo", digamos assim, nos livros da série. O comando precisa ser passado adiante, como sempre aconteceu em todas as nações guerreiras. Eu temia muito (!) pelo momento em que a morte de Genghis Khan chegaria, assim como todos os leitores e fãs dessa série,

mesmo que os seus minutos finais estejam cercados de diversas especulações e incertezas, que vão desde a causa da sua morte até quem teria sido o responsável.

— *Todos homens morrem — continuou Jelme, ignorando a explosão. — Pode ser esta noite, no ano que vem ou dentro de quarenta anos, quando você estiver desdentado e fraco. Tudo que você pode fazer é escolher como se portar quando ela chegar.*

Até os tempos atuais podemos encontrar descendentes de Genghis Khan entre o povo mongol, e uma das nossas maneiras de reverenciá-lo é lendo essa obra fantástica do Conn Iggulden o quanto antes.

Por fim, só me resta recomendar esses livros a todos aqueles que são amantes de ficção histórica!

Mark Harrison says

When the Shah in Arabia sends Genghis Khan back the heads of his men he riles the great man. He reunites his tribes, some fighting Russian knights, and sets out to settle the score. All his old colleagues feature, his son's feuds finally boil over with grave consequences and the heir to Genghis becomes clearer. Huge battles throughout and the pace never slows. All in all a great adventure tale.

Lisa says

The last part of Genghis' story, I'm kind of glad that he died when he did as I'd continued to find this series a wee bit samey. So many sieges, so many arrows, and so many massacres meant that regardless of who was on the receiving end, I'd started to feel that I'd read it all before.

In this, Genghis continues to kick the shit out of any nation that so much as looks at him funny, while still finding time to be a dick to his kids. He also meets a new enemy that might just be as formidable as he is, while also realising that simply leaving a place once you've annihilated it doesn't mean it stays annihilated, and that he might just have to fight them again on his next trip through. Sadly, there's no time for a second beating before karma stabs him right in the gut. It couldn't have happened to a nicer bloke.

I see now that this isn't actually a trilogy and that the story continues - this time presumably with Genghis' grandson, Kublai, in the lead. I'm not going to be rushing out to read it, as I imagine that it's just more of the same, only with Genghis' name tipped out and Kublai's name scribbled in the margin.

Lance Greenfield says

This is great writing. It is what historical fiction is all about and is why this is my favourite genre. I really wish that I could write like this.

Conn Iggulden excels at bringing the characters and the events to life. It is fast and furious. It is captivating. It is heavily atmospheric. Well done Mr Iggulden; again!

As Ghengis recalls his armies from Chin and other distant outposts so that his united Mongol forces can

wage more terror towards the south and west, huge rivalries brew up and approach boiling point. These rivalries are at their hottest amongst his own family members, and become particularly intense as the Great Khan announces his successor.

Having read the previous two books in the series, and you really must before you open this one, you will be expecting a high dosage of gruesome brutality. You will not be disappointed. In fact, I can confidently predict that your expectations will be exceeded. However, all of that brutality is in context and is absolutely necessary.

This book will stir your emotions. Iggulden builds the characters up to such an extent that you will feel that you know all of them very well. You will have your favourites, and there will be those whom you will hate. You will feel that many of your new-found friends and acquaintances, and those characters from the previous episodes, are treated unfairly, and you will be awaiting the awful revenge.

There is one particular character in this series whom you will probably already dislike and distrust if you have read thus far. Will he escape, or will he die a horrible death? You can probably guess which, but I won't spoil it by revealing his identity, and you will almost certainly know who I mean when you have read the book. I'll be surprised if you don't.

I can't say much more without adding spoilers. You'll just have to read it, and I hope that you enjoy it as much as I did. It has been a long wait, for me, since I read *Lords of the Bow*, but it has been worth the wait.

Dan Schwent says

Genghis Khan had nearly broken the Chin under his rule when an Arabian city refuses tribute, leading to conflict with Shah Ala-ud-Din Mohammed. Has the Khan finally earned the ire of even an enemy he can't defeat...

The concluding volume of *The Conqueror* trilogy did not disappoint. The rivalry among Genghis's sons Jochi and Chagatai reaches its conclusion. Genghis names his heir. City after city fall before the might of the Khan.

The Khan's Arabian enemies are depicted as more formidable than any he had previously faced. Even though I knew how it was going to end up, I was still convinced the Arabians would come out on top. I particularly enjoyed the use of the assassins, and their leader, the Old Man of the Mountain. The hashish using assassins never get enough play.

The battles were even more spectacular than in previous volumes. *The Conqueror* trilogy deserves the treatment *Rome* got on HBO. Since the Mongols live in tent cities, the budget wouldn't have to be as astronomically high as *Rome*'s.

I can't imagine anyone who read the previous two would choose not to read this. It brings the trilogy to a satisfying conclusion and sets the stage for the next one, focusing on Kublai Khan from what I've heard.

David Sven says

This book sees Genghis Khan and his Mongol Horde encounter the Islamic world. Again, we see a lot of the large set piece battles fleshed out in detail as the Mongols contend with disciplined armies, elephants, and fanatical assassins, often facing numbers two to three times their own. Again, the Mongol ability to shoot unerringly from horseback at full gallop whether charging or retreating was key to their success.

One of the ironies that stands out to me, is that for all the hype surrounding the “Mongol Horde” – there wasn’t really that many of them at all. Sure, they had a large army – but that was pretty much every able bodied man they had as a “nation.” They never had the numbers nor the inclination to occupy the countries they conquered, content to continue their nomadic warrior lifestyle where wealth in terms of gold and silver meant virtually nothing. And still they managed an enforced Mongol peace that was arguably more successful than the Pax Romana – and a lot cheaper. Instead of costly occupation Genghis simply forbade the raising of armies and collected tribute on just the threat of a cruel annihilation, making examples of anyone who had given him their oath and then defied him. There was one scene where Genghis had molten silver poured over one city ruler, filling his eyes and mouth. I’m guessing this was the inspiration for George RR Martins Crown of Gold that Drogo poured over Viserys. There was another account where he executed 163000 bound prisoners for their city defying him. It took 20000 men from dawn to afternoon to finish the butchering, leaving them exhausted and with ruined blades.

This story sees us right through to the death of Genghis. Which brings me to one of the other ironies of arguably the greatest leader of a horse warrior culture – he died falling off his pony. Don’t worry, that’s not how Iggulden is going to tell it. He instead chose to indulge in one of the other more speculative theories surrounding the death of the Great Khan - it’s a little more dramatic than Genghis falling off his horse.

An enjoyable read and highly recommended.

4 stars.

Terri says

I went from really liking this book to only 'liking it' from approximately halfway on. I feel odd about that because the previous two books in this series did float my boat, so to speak, especially the one that went before this one, Lords of the Bow. That was a fabulous read.

This is the book that should have been my favourite in the series. Ghengis Khan invades the Middle East and the Muslim nations rise up against him. With failures and successes on both sides.

There are periods of history covered in this book that have always fascinated me. From the invasion of the desert nations by Mongols, to the wiping out of the Assassins of Alamut (the secret sect of Islamic pot smokers who trained and dwelt in isolated and fortified castles in Iran).

All points on the Asian and Islamic historical timeline that hold much fascination for me, but in this book, the third book of Conn Iggulden's Conqueror Series, I find the writing quite weak and it ruins an otherwise fairly good story.

Now I question what has gone before it. was the writing always weak and I didn't notice? I am too scared to

look. I think my mistake lay with reading this book amidst a flurry of Bernard Cornwell books. I read two in Cornwell's Arthur series before Bones of The Hills, and then stopped halfway to read a book from Cornwell's saxon series with a friend, before coming back to the book. Unfortunately, Cornwell can make most writers look a little average and I am wondering if this is what happened here.

I will go onto the fourth book in this Conqueror series in a week or so because, weak writing or not, this is still a fantastic series and the only one of its kind.

Tammy says

Conn Iggulden has the talent for blending history with exceptional story telling. If Bernard Cornwell is the king of this genre, this man may just be the crown prince.

Nate says

The tribes are united under the horsehair banner, the Jin and Xi Xia have been thoroughly smashed and their ancient suppression and subversion of the Mongols avenged, and now it's time for the newly-born Nation to relax and discover its true identity--tent-dwelling, nomadic steppe dwellers or city-ruling urban conquerors--or perhaps a mix of both.

"NO FUCK THAT! THE SHAH JUST INSULTED ME BY KILLING A GROUP OF MY SCOUTS! WE RIDE!"

-Genghis Khan

That's right; *Bones of the Hills* is much like the previous book, inasmuch as it mostly deals with the Mongol conquest of the Khwarezmian Empire through extended campaigning, warring, looting, slaying, and burning. The amount of riding and killing and riding and killing and riding and killing really started to bug me at one point, then I realized this is what I bought and paid for, and to be fair Iggulden is one of the best writers of military fiction I've ever read, even up there with Bernard Cornwell. If you want to know exactly what made the Mongols able to systematically fuck up and reduce all these poor countries to smoldering ruins this is probably the best way to do it. The goofy YA vibe and historical buttfuckery (with one forgivable exception) from his Rome books have been burned away, and what you get is a lean, mean tale of a bunch of dudes riding around shooting the SHIT out of people with 120-pound-pull compound bows. I mean that, too--if you're interested in the parts of Mongol culture that don't have to do with killing people and conquering shit--and they certainly exist--this is not the place to go.

The characters are not terribly vivid and lifelike but you will have your favorites and the ones you despise, which always makes for an interesting read. Jochi is the classic underdog and I loved rooting for him and sharing his triumphs and defeats. I thoroughly admired Tsubodai as an incredibly loyal and brilliant general and commander. I really loathed Kokchu and ironically enough Genghis himself. Ugh...REALLY loathed Genghis. What a cold, hard evil bastard. But this is probably something close to what the historical Chinggis was like. In a sense this is a pretty novel series because the hero (at least of these first three) is in actuality a total villain. Despite the (IMHO weak and watery) *casus belli* of the initial launching of his world invasion, I don't think there was any remotely good reason for the Mongols to savage the world the way they did.

Iggulden makes an attempt to justify it with this stuff about the Chinese constantly fucking with the Mongol tribes, playing them against each other to ultimately weaken them as a people, etc. etc. but I just don't buy it. Genghis himself even says some shit in this book like "We destroy shit because we can." But again--this is what I bought and paid for, and Iggulden has delivered in spades so far.

I really, REALLY like Iggulden's now-established tradition of including the Mongols' enemies as POV characters. The book begins with an extremely harrowing account of the Mongols destroying a Kievan Rus' army from the perspective of one of its knights. It really lets you take hold of the shit end of the stick and sort of experience what it was like to deal with these insanely effective armies. Similarly, a lot of the book deals with the Khwarez prince Jelaudin and his epic struggle against the Mongol invader. There's almost no way not to sympathize with the guy, and it adds an emotional layer to the story that I think really adds to the book's effectiveness. Without it, we would probably become inured to the constant rampaging death and destruction and potentially lose sight of the human toll these conquests took. Good stuff. Of course, it can make for painful reading but that's good. It's almost impossible to look at something like the Mongol conquests (which literally slew so many people they restored a notable amount of carbon to Earth's atmosphere) and apply a recognizably human face to it.

Iggulden's prose is not particularly noteworthy, but it has a special quality that I still have not exactly pinned down. It makes for easy, smooth reading but you can also occasionally gain real insight into the setting and characters and it never becomes simplistic or boring. It's pretty damn close to a perfect balance between florid, purple prose and Hemingway-esque "Genghis rode. Genghis killed"-type boring bluntness. (I know I love James Ellroy, the king of brutally blunt prose, but he is, as always, an exception to the rule.) It's hard to create a writing style that can please the hardened veteran and the rookie with equal measure but I really think Iggulden has managed to do this with his books. Good for him!

So yeah. Very, very entertaining and informative book--warts and all. I'm excited to see where Iggulden goes now that Genghis has finally kicked the bucket, and also not worried at all as I easily and quickly got sick of Genghis' patent son-of-a-bitchery. In fact, one could argue that (at least in the fictional world of these books) he brought upon his own people the division, civil warring and ultimate stagnation that dissolved the massive empire they carved in such a shockingly short time, just by being such a fucking heartless cock.

Anyways...I'll stop harping about how much I hated Genghis in these books and resort to saying that I heartily recommend these books to anyone interested in historical fiction and especially the Mongol conquests. I still think that the definitive telling of the Mongol story still lies out there somewhere, but you still can't go wrong with Iggulden. Dude knows what he's doing and does it well.

Scott Hitchcock says

Book 1: 5*

Book 2: 5*

Book 3: 5*

The author quite simply weaves a great story. I've said it in reviews of the first few books but there's a thin line with a character like Genghis where you go too far and it becomes unbelievable. Or too far and the violence is gratuitous.

These were different times in a harsh land where some acts rival Deadhouse Gates in the level of atrocity and battle. Genghis condemning every man, woman and child to death after starving them out after six month,

reaching a death toll of over 160 thousand. Putting the sword to mothers and children. Beating army's much larger and letting no man leave alive. They brought death from Korea and China all the way back to the Ottoman Empire and Western Russia and everything in between.

Peter says

Achievement

Genghis Khan's armies know no bounds and they extend their empire in all directions. West to Europe and Russia, South into Persia and India, and holding onto the Chin territories in the East. The Mongolians are a united nation with Genghis' families ever growing, with his children now generals. Don't they say that 1 in every 200 people alive today are descendant of Genghis Khan.

This is an epic story to rival all others and it is told at a pace that is fast and exhilarating. The battles scenes are depicted in great nail-biting detail, and the politics and tensions are superbly explored.

Courtney says

I liked this way more than *Lords of the Bow*. So far this is my favourite of the series.

Why did I like it more? There was definitely less of Temuge and Kokchu, neither of which I particularly liked in the previous book. Kokchu was too simplistic a character in my opinion, and Temuge annoyed me whenever he came up. Both are in this book, but they are way more tolerable here.

The battle scenes, while written in the same style as *Lords of the Bow*, seemed to draw me in a lot more as well. And although this book is centered around the Mongol campaigns against the Khwarezm Empire the battles don't completely dominate the book. This left room for my favourite part about Iggulden's writing - the characterizations and the complex relationships he creates and describes so well.

Jochi is a major figure in this book. We've known from the first in the series that Genghis never really accepted him as a son. This comes to the forefront in *Bones of the Hills* as we see the extremely strained relationship between Jochi and Genghis and between Jochi and Chagatai. I really loved the way Iggulden developed Jochi as a character. The scenes with him and Subedei or him and Genghis were some of my favourite parts of the book.

Subedei and Genghis are also excellent characters in their own right. Actually, all of the main ones are. But I'm still disappointed at the lack of Borte. It's pretty obvious by this book that she was never intended to be much of a character but it seems like such a waste, especially when Chakahai is featured more prominently. But then at some point it hit me *why* she played a bigger part in the story and it all made sense. The series still needed much more Borte regardless.

Mizuki says

My review for the first book: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

My review of the second book: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Note: according to the author, The Conqueror series is heavily inspired by *The Secret History of the Mongols*. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sec...)

Damn! The more I read, the more I feel this *Secret History of the Mongols* is pretty much like a tabloid, with so much more juicy dramas than the other historical texts such as the *History of the Yuan Dynasty*! LOL

Note: Yuan Dynasty is the Chinese term for the Mongol Empire, or at least the part of it which was set on Chinese homesoil.

Now it's official! Conn Iggulden's *Conqueror* series: this epic tale of war, conquest, bloodbath, brotherhood, glory, schemes, revenge and betrayal, deserves to get a HBO TV adaptation! I mean it!

When thinking of the life of Genghis Khan and his deeds, a certain soliloquy from *Thunderbolt Fantasy* suddenly comes into my mind:

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-All life is a prelude to death. To serve me until you are a corpse, or to be cut down and become one. You have only two options before my blade.

(Link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunder...>)

Although Thunderbolt Fantasy has nothing to do with Genghis Khan and wars, still this soliloquy seems to be a perfect match.

In this novel, I like how Genghis' many flaws are being highlighted ---for example, the massacres, the massacres! I can't believe I'm saying this but I really had enough of mass killing when I went through this book!

I also like how Genghis' first born son Jochi is set as the tragic hero of this book. The guy had struggled so much to prove himself, to please his father but Genghis never gave him the time of his day! I feel sorry for him. Plus, Jochi's father/son, mentor/pupil bond with General Subutai is also so touching (although it is a bit sad that General Jelme and his father Jarchiudai , who had been quite active in the previous book, don't show up much in this book). Not to mention, the battle scene with Jochi and Subutai taking out the Russian army is just brilliant and breathtaking!

And here is one thing which really bothers me about this series: Mr. Iggulden hardly addressed the fact that Genghis and his armies had raped countless women during their invasions. I mean, isn't it a bit unrealistic for the author to only wrote that the Mogul army merely '*taking woman as slaves or mistresses*' and they '*treated the women roughly at night*', but there is hardly a word about how those women were actually being teared

away from their families and sexually violated by these invaders?

Plus, Genghis had been such a pussy about his son Jochi probably being the bastard of his wife's rapist, but not once had he admitted he and his soldiers had been doing just the same to captured women!

Okay, Mr. Iggulden did highlight this rape issue through the mouth of Genghis' second wife (a Xi Xia princess who was sent to Genghis as a gift by her father), but this exchange is a bit too brief in my opinion.

PS: as usual, plenty of details in the book isn't historically accurate, but this novel still makes up one hell of a good read!

Tim The Enchanter says

Posted to The Literary Lawyer

Good but not Great - 3 Stars

This third book which wraps up the Genghis Khan Trilogy/Story Arc, left me feeling a bit disappointed. Having been wowed by the first two books in the series, I went into this one expecting the same level of excitement, battle and intrigue. What I got was watered down version of the first two. To be honest, I believe much of disappointment stemmed from the fact that, unlike the first two, I listened to this one in the audio format. The experience with the audio was below average and it had an effect on my rating.

Plot Outline

The final book in the Genghis Khan saga focuses on the later years of his life and his conquest in Arab and Islamic lands. Genghis is faced with a new breed of fighter and must seek to survive fanatical jihadist fighter bent on his destruction. Unlike his earlier conquests, he could not simple integrate his new enemy into his own nation. Unlike previous novels, there is substantial focus on the brothers and sons of Genghis. We get to see the men the have all become and their own abilities is war and leadership.

My Thoughts

While I took issue with some elements of the novel, it succeeded on several fronts.

Character Growth

This novel presents a far more introspective Genghis Khan. We see him struggle with concepts of leading cities as opposed to nomadic tribes. He fights with deception, disrespect and his own succession. I was interesting to see the development of rest of this large case of characters.

Great Locations

As with the first two in the series, the locations to which Genghis and his nation travel are one of the highlights of the book. In this book, Genghis travels into Arab lands and the cold inhospitable mountains turn to dusty and arid deserts. The changes also give way to a new breed of fighters fueled by religious fervor. Again, the ancient descriptions of modern lands is fascinating and well drafted.

But I Still Feel a Bit Let Down

I found that this installment did not engage me in the same manner as the first two. First and foremost I must point out that this review is for the audiobook format as narrated by Richard Ferrone. While he was a decent narrator, his reading of this style of novel left much to be desired. He simply did not do this text justice and I found the written version of the first two to be FAR superior to the audio. I believe that had I read this installment that I would have been far more satisfied.

Additionally, my expectations from the first two books left me disappointed with the third. There is always an epic battle or two in which the Mongol warriors face long odds. This novel was no different in that there were some epic battles. The problem was the description of the battles was inferior to the others. Genghis and his warriors faced some incredibly long odds yet I felt a bit confused as to how he accomplished his feats. It may be the focus on developing the secondary characters took away from the overall plot.

Can this one stand alone No. This is the culmination of the Genghis Trilogy. You must read them all in order.

Final Thoughts

After loving the first two, I found this one to be underwhelming and disappointing completion to story of Genghis Khan. The remaining books in the series continue the story of the Mongol clans but at this point I am unsure if I will continue reading. That said, I do recommend the first three books in the series. The life of Genghis Khan is an amazing story and one you should know.

Sex - 1.5

There are some minor discussion regarding sex. There is one mildly graphic scene of sexual abuse of power but it is brief.

Language

Mild Obscenities - 4 F-words - 0 Religion Exclamations - 0

The use of adult language is incredibly low and suitable for all ages.

Violence - 4

War and violence is constant throughout. If you have read the first two you will know that hundreds of thousands of people will die throughout the novel.
