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Von Barbara Hambly

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Von Barbara Hambly : Dragonsbane (Winterlands) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dragonsbane (Winterlands):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Powerful and Thought Provoking TaleVon Ein KundeLooking only at an outline of the plot, Dragonsbane could easily be mistaken for a yet another tale in the "high fantasy" tradition. It contains most of the standard elements that make such stories popular: heroic quests and battles, contests of magic, and the like. Those elements are executed well, and

alone could make for a somewhat entertaining story. However, the tale is anything but high fantasy. The heroes of the story are presented as human beings, with human faults and human needs, and nothing is as simple as the legendary ballads would suggest. As much as anything else, the book deals with difficult choices, past and present, that define who the characters are and who they will become. In particular, I found that I could truly empathize with Jenny, a woman torn between her love for her family and her love of learning. "To be a mage, you must be a mage" to the exclusion of all else, she was taught, and every moment spent on other interests meant that much less power, that much less knowledge that she would never attain. Her struggle (and failure) to truly satisfy both of those desires is one of the central issues of the book. Because of this and many similarly deep examples, *Dragonsbane* is a book that I have read again and again. Its conclusion brings a tear to my eye every time. Unlike most fantasy these days, *Dragonsbane* contains characters that are truly well drawn and compelling in their humanity. Those who read fantasy only for adventure and who have no taste for any "good literature" may well be disappointed by a book that focuses more on people than on swords and sorcery. However, for more mature readers who want more from a story than a few fights and lightning bolts, *Dragonsbane* is one of the very best books in the genre.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good book, but... Von Nathan *Dragonsbane*. The bane of Dragons in the land is Lord John Aversin, the only living man who's slain one. This is all well and good, except the book isn't about him. This book is written entirely from the mage Jenny Waynest's POV. Don't get me wrong, this isn't a first person novel, but we never get a viewpoint other than Jenny's. In some ways this is good. It allows for excellent character development within Jenny herself, which we get. Unfortunately, this style of writing also leaves most of the other characters pretty mono-dimensional. Halfway through the book, we know how John is going to react to this crisis, we know that Gareth wants to help out but is convinced he is too cowardly. We know Trey is sweet and sincere. And to this novel's detriment, none of these characters really evolve over the course of the novel. In many other ways, though, this is a very good book. I've read a couple of Hambly's newer books, and it seems to me that instead of getting better, her writing style has diminished over the years. In her newer works, the action is unclear and indistinct, and the passages are often extraneous and boring. Not so in *Dragonsbane*. I never felt lost as to who was doing what, even when the dragon was flying around in combat with a giant monster and spells were flying all over the place. And it doesn't spend time describing every excruciating detail of our heroes moving south. Although at first it seems a little jumpy, it is really much to the novel's benefit that the author keeps the book on the action, and doesn't feel it necessary to write a thousand page book. As to the plot and pacing, the entire book was extremely well paced, flying right along, but the reader isn't quite sure where exactly the plot is heading until most of the way through the book. Now on to the real stars of the book -- the dragons. God's Grandmother! Finally here are some believable dragons with believable motives. This book finally explains why dragons are drawn to gold. And the physics of the dragon itself are more clearly defined and better than any dragons which I have read before. There were, however, a couple of little irkers. First, the constant talking about the spectacles. Okay, we get the idea that the characters are wearing glasses already! Sheesh. And also, how many times was "The key to magic is magic; to be a mage you must be a mage" repeated in this novel? Talk about overkill. Still, overall it was a very fun read with some awesome action scenes. I'd recommend picking this one up.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Barbara at her best Von Ein Kunde *Dragonsbane* is easily Hambly's best book to date (26 November 1997). She woos us into her universe, which admittedly is not difficult since there are few new artifacts to engage our attention, but she also manages to woo us into the interior spaces of her characters where we are allowed to see the kinds of choices that people make every day and every lifetime. The book is full of choices -- Jenny Waynest gives up mastery of magic in order to have a relationship with her lover and her sons -- and those choices are constantly called into question, both by the characters themselves and by the situations into which the characters are drawn. Jenny knows that her life could have been very different had she chosen to pursue her magic despite its severe demands; only the dragon is able to confront her when he sees clearly into her heart and mind and asks: "Do you cling to all the little joys because you are afraid of the great ones?" *Dragonsbane* falters as most Hambly books do: the author is so enamoured of language that the well-drawn tapestry of scene and mood sometimes looks more like the over-busy, tassled throw rugs my Aunt Geneva used to embroider, applique, and give away to all the grandkids. Sometimes, a simple image does the trick. But the great strength of the book is that it is not overwhelmed by the artifacts of the genre. The story is clearly about people, not about magic, and Hambly is able to use the artifacts to seduce us into a story where dragons love gold for its singing of their names. *Dragonsbane* is the most accomplished, most polished, and most poignant of Hambly's work.

Kurzbeschreibung An idealistic young prince convinces an aging warrior and a struggling witch to help him kill the dragon that is terrorizing his kingdom