

## The Blazing Star Book PDF Download



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## What people Say:

### Simona Bartolotta

\*I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

ME: \*shocked gasp\* \*headwall\* \*some more headwall\* \*why universe just why\*

First of all, let me specify that

. And let me also say that I thought I was going to write a long, ridiculously detailed review, but it's late, I'm tired and, after all, there's really no need

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â€¢ There were two things about this book that immediately caught my attention. The first one was that the

is a

### Riley

I really wanted to finish this book but I just couldn't. I've been reading it for almost 2 weeks now and have barely made it to page 40. It is just so slow and I can't force myself to finish anymore

## The Bookavid

In THE BLAZING STAR, Portia touches a scarab and accidentally time-travels to ancient Egypt.

Black girl on the cover!

THE BLAZING STAR is a hard one. It takes an immense amount of time until the premise kicks in. The first 60ish pages are spent introducing characters and bantering and simply filler.

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When protagonist Portia is finally transported to Egypt, Josey packs a punch and shows what she's capable of. THE BLAZING STAR is written beautifully, with lush imagery and such an ease that it's a pleasure to fly through the story.

I just love love love Josey's rendition of ancient Egypt. I had the images right before my eyes and felt like a lot of research went into creating this. Culturally sensitive and lovely, I just love how Josey doesn't play into stereotypes and strives for authenticity instead. All my love for seeing writers strive for that.

Because of the slow beginning in the high school there's a lot of time to be spent with Portia and the side characters, but the characters I grew to love the most are actually -all- Egyptians.

I think it's obvious that this is an extremely diverse book starring a Black protagonist (I mean look at the gorgeous cover), but I'm still going to spell it out. This book mostly takes place in Ancient Egypt and of course everyone is Black. Extremely diverse and extremely great.

## Kriss

A few things attracted to me to this book when I saw it go up on Net Galley (yes, I received a free copy, and no, it did not influence my review).

First of all, we have a woman-of-color heroine, and a black one to boot. In fact, this book is basically all non-white characters save maybe two or three minor ones in the beginning and I praise that heavily! I seldom run into YA books in the fantasy genre especially with so much diversity and with

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First of all, we have a woman-of-color heroine, and a black one to boot. In fact, this book is basically all non-white characters save maybe two or three minor ones in the beginning and I praise that heavily! I seldom run into YA books in the fantasy genre especially with so much diversity and with the leading point-of-view character being a person of color. Second of all, its plot-line is all about time-traveling back to ancient Egypt (I am, to be blunt, somewhat madly in love with ancient history) and mixes in the fantasy element with magic. Overall, this seemed like it would have a good set up and I was very eagerly hoping it would be something I could love and praise.

So, what did I think of this book? To be direct, this was actually a very good book, and for a debut I'm impressed, and with that ending (it definitely feels like a cliffhanger with a lot left to explore) I'm praying this gets a sequel or two! I loved the setting and characters; Portia was very well written and is relatable. I liked the world building, though I think at times the author relies on the reader having previous knowledge of ancient Egypt since not everything was spelled out. It took me a second to grasp some of the terms. I've read a few books set in ancient times that got really complex really quick once priestesses and magic and royal affairs were introduced, but as a YA this book had a balance between simple enough for the intended audience to enjoy but complex enough to keep readers interested. Overall, I think the plot was interesting and well developed.

As for the language, the author had a nice balance going; she showed that Portia, Alex, and Selene were modern girls, but still wrote things eloquently enough that readers can feel the ancient setting and get a feel for the tone of the story without being dragged down by overtly complex or wordy phrasing. There were even times when the way the author wrote sounded very poetic and beautiful.

I also want to mention that this book has a small dash of romance (which I hope very much develops more in the next book that I assume will exist because I have to know how the rest of the story unfolds) and while it's not a book that seems to focus on romance so much as it does Portia and her role as The Star, I think it was a sweet little addition that made me smile.

I only have two small points of complaint: one is that I felt like we should have gotten some more time to explore Portia and Alex's relationship. The author sets up a good scenario for Portia and Alex to really bear their feelings, the ones they've always kept hidden from each other, and to have a big emotional reconciliation or epiphany. Though I think it was necessary to not put too much focus on this because the book needed time to adequately involve the girls in this world and get the major plot of "evil people are trying to start wars and take the throne so by the goddess's will we must stop it" in motion. If there is a sequel, I'm sure we'll see more interaction between these two since it seems like a situation that is wrought with emotion and character development. My other complaint is that, at times, I had a little trouble following some things. There were instances where names seemed to get lost in the mix or I feel like I'd missed an explanation or something. I think the faster pacing might have been partially responsible or perhaps

there just wasn't much exposition. But regardless, these aren't really inherent flaws I can point out as wrong or bad so much as they were just things that rose up that weren't satisfactory for me personally.

Even though this is set in ancient Egypt, the overall tone and themes are tame, making this an appropriate read for someone younger. There's no subject matter that would be disturbing or offensive outside of the swear words used (which weren't very severe or frequent). I didn't note anything that I'd consider problematic in its context, themes, or plot devices. Seal of approval in that department!

Overall, a very nice read. It was pretty quick, but nonetheless an interesting read that's well written and enjoyable. I can't seem to find any information that would suggest there is a sequel, but I am hopeful, and the way the book sets up so much but only resolves a few of the problems makes me think that there has to be more, and if so, I look forward to it! If not, I'll still likely keep an eye on Imani Josey and anticipate more from her writing career in the future.

## **Sandra (LadyGrey Reads)**

This book had potential to me. It held a lot of things that are exactly to my taste, such as ancient civilizations, magic and time travel.

Aaaand then there were things that I didn't like and unfortunately they outweighed the good things.

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I found so much of this story to be incredibly predictable. I felt like I knew exactly who was a good and a bad guy from the start, as well as who was going to live or die and who was going to fall in and out of love. And all of those predictions came true!

Yeah, this might have to do with me being 25, but I just can't stand books with a lot of teenage drama/angst/whatever. Come to think of it I couldn't really stand those when I was a teenager either, so maybe it's just a thing I've never enjoyed. But if you don't mind books that fall in this category you shouldn't have a problem with this one.

I know I received this as an arc, which might mean it's not the finished version and there might be

mistakes, but seriously; this many mistakes? I almost wished I had this in print just so I could mark all the faults - and I don't even like marking out all of the faults to my students! I just... it is just very annoying to have both grammar mistakes, misspelled words, sentences where the words have been mixed up as well as words, sentences and even whole paragraphs repeated when you're trying to enjoy the story. And to have at least one of these things happen on every page...

I can see potential for this story, but I don't think I'll continue reading a possible sequel. Sorry.