

KIRKUS REVIEWS

TITLE INFORMATION

THE LAST LUMENIAN

S.G. Blaise

Lilac Grove Entertainment (327 pp.)

\$17.99 paperback, \$9.99 e-book

ISBN: 978-1-73476-050-7

August 18, 2020

BOOK REVIEW

A rebellious princess discovers magical abilities that help her take on a powerful enemy in this debut fantasy.

As the king's daughter, 17-year-old Ma'hana Lilla of the planet Uhna is expected to obey. But Lilla strongly disagrees with her father's policies, which keep refugees imprisoned in squalid camps even though Uhna is immensely wealthy thanks to mastering technology that's combined with elemental magic. Lilla joins the rebellion, but events become complicated when Callum a'ruun, a general with the Teryn Praelium, arrives with a delegation. They're seeking assistance from the 19 worlds of the Pax Septum Coalition, which Uhna leads. Although the Archgoddess of the Eternal Light and Order prevailed last time in the era wars, the Archgod of Chaos and Destruction is again gathering an army of corrupt fiends and servants. Besides politics, Lilla struggles with panic disorder, grief over her mother's early death, and alarm over the control her new, young stepmother wields over the king. Callum is both irritating and attractive, complicating Lilla's relationship with Arrov, a pilot who's joined the rebellion. But all these local and personal difficulties pale beside the undeniable call of Lilla's true nature, her untapped magical abilities, and her essential role in combating the Archgod. In her novel, Blaise deftly blends Lilla's approachable, young present-tense voice with sophisticated worldbuilding, seen even in minor details. For example, guards still wear cutlasses because Uhna was founded by pirates, and Lilla's island home is reflected in her favorite expletive: "Buckets of fishguts!" The plot's many disparate ingredients—romance, war, politics, magic, technology, family tensions, theology, psychology—meld in a deliciously hearty bouillabaisse, helped by intelligent exposition, surprising revelations, believable conflicts, and strong character development. Everything builds to an exciting, dramatic, and satisfying conclusion.

A terrifically entertaining, complex, and original fantasy.

(glossary)

EXCERPTING POLICIES

Please review Kirkus Media's excerpting policies before publishing any portion of this review online or in print for any use. To learn about proper attribution and to ensure your use is in compliance with our guidelines, we invite you to visit <http://www.kirkusreviews.com/indieexcerpts>.