



Competitions

Sharon Green

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In order to prove themselves to be the Chosen Five of the ancient Prophecies, Lorand, Rion, Tamrissa, Jovvi, and Vallant compete in a series of deadly contests designed to reveal the full scope of their magical powers.

Competitions Details

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Author : Sharon Green

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Sarah Mac says

I give up. I'm done with this series.

The potential was vast...but the execution was shit. The five -- yes, FIVE -- repeating POVs was an excruciating linguistic device that nearly sapped my will to continue. But I thought (hoped...prayed...) that such sluggishness was only to get the ball rolling in the first installment. *Surely*, I thought, *the author will actually move things along in the next book.*

Nope.

The pace. It is fucking GLACIAL. And I can't take it anymore, because not only is the unending repetition annoying as hell, but FIVE MORE CHARACTERS, aka the Evul Blending o' DOOM, are introduced to slow the progression even more.

Even worse -- there's absolutely no personality in the writing itself, nothing that says "Hey, I wrote this schlock & lol'd about it, so you should too!" Just recently I read Bertie Small's *Lara* & was highly entertained despite the mediocre prose, redonk plot, & purple sex, but the *Blending* books have none of that charm. The text flops across the page with an inept pseudo-historical tone -- an UTTER FAIL, because it's no better than run-of-the-mill fanfic. Repeated words. Generic descriptions. Self-absorbed internal monologues. Verbally ironing the smallest concepts. Unexplained, vague, nebulous powers. Sue/Stu characters beyond compare. Hot 20-somethings having boring sex. Contrived family/friend traumas that intrude on the (already) bullshit personal issues. Glacial -- I repeat yet again, GLACIAL -- pace that stretches days into entire novels. NO, goddammit. If I wanted that shit I'd read FF.net.

Fuck it. This series is *not* worth the time.

Two stars, but only because I still like Rion. Everyone else -- all nine of the leftover Blending fatheads -- can pound sand & GTFO.

Kim says

This is book 2 in the series, and as they say, "the plot thickens". Much more intrigue is developing, which makes me want to read the rest of the series. The 5 main characters are becoming much closer, and working together. Now there is another 5, which will be a major form of conflict. The author leaves a lot of unknowns, that you hope will become clearer as the story progresses. Less repetition of events, than there was in the first book. Looking forward to the third one.

V. Briceland says

In *Convergence*, the first book of *The Blending* series, protagonists representing the elements of Air, Water, Fire, Earth, and Spirit narrated every tiny plot event from each of their own perspectives. Between the natural sluggishness of this artificial device, and the oceans of tea the protagonists insist upon sipping as they discuss and rediscuss every turn of event, the advance and retreat of glaciers looks positively zippy in comparison. In this second volume, *Competitions*, Green rotates in another five character perspectives—the Evil Blending whom our protagonists must overcome.

So readers can tell these ten narrators apart, here's a scorecard. The five members of the Evil Blending are sexually promiscuous, mocking of their superiors and outright rude and condescending to their inferiors, murderous, paranoid, eager to cheat their way to the top, are quick to anger, and slow to forgive. They experience great delight in the misfortunes of others, spend great amounts of time bemoaning how the world is against them, and plot endlessly to overthrow those in power.

On the other hand, our five flawless heroes and heroines are sexually promiscuous, mocking of their superiors and outright rude and condescending to their inferiors, murderous, paranoid, eager to cheat their way to the top, are quick to anger, and slow to forgive. They experience great delight in the misfortunes of others, spend great amounts of time bemoaning how the world is against them, and plot endlessly to . . . hey, wait a minute. . . !

Whatever. Bad genre fiction doesn't get any more compulsively readable than *The Blending*. Like a name-brand potato chip, you can't have just one.

Catsalive says

I couldn't possibly say it any better than **V. Briceland** already has.

Rated 8/10 at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/7...>

cover blurb:

The perfect Blending of the primary basics of the known universe—Earth, Air, Fire, Spirit and Water—will create unimaginable power. Power enough to hold off the dread Evil Ones for yet another quarter-century... Power enough to rule the world...

They are the five greatest talents on a beleaguered world of magical adepts—and its only hope for salvation. But first Lorand, Rion, Tamrissa, Jowi and Vallant must prove themselves to be the Chosen Five of the ancient Prophecies. Which means they must first compete in a series of deadly contests designed to reveal the full scope of their powers . . . and place them at the center of a corrupt nobility's lethal schemes.

And there are those who wish them to fail. But defeat is unthinkable . . . because failure is doom.

Deirdre says

Is definitely a bridging novel and somewhat lacklustre. The five main characters have to work on survival

both magically and physically, the dice are loaded against them with the society they live in and things keep getting harder. Somewhat repetitive and you can see where the characters could have learned something by talking to each other but the biggest problem they all have is who to trust when they're all pitted against each other. If this was a standalone I probably wouldn't keep it but I'll wait until after reading the sequence before deciding about whether or not to keep them.

Marta says

Book 2 of the Blending series does not have enough luxurious, refreshing visits to (private) bath houses. There is plenty of tea-drinking, but Sharon Green is pretty withholding of information about the tea. We know that people are offering people tea, people are drinking it, or refusing it. The tea is drugged...But what KIND of tea?!?

Sort of frustrating. And yet, we did find out that some people put sugar in their tea. Some people (tamrissa) will, on occasion, inadvertently put TOO MUCH sugar in their tea. But of cream, or lemon wedges...we still know nothing.

The suspense is killing me, and I will definitely continue reading the series.

Englrockz says

The constant retelling to from all five plus POVs is getting a bit wearing. I am liking the characters more than I did initially, although I still think the romance is heavy handed.

Alice says

Second in The Blending series continues the slow build up from the first. The first time I read these I flew through and couldn't read fast enough. My enthusiasm has dimmed a little on the re-read, but I still give this series high scores. I remember the action picking up in book three, which I am looking forward to.

Turdlemery says

This was book two and it dealt more with how these 5 people has to work with each other now and learn to trust each other to have each others back while trying to stay one step ahead of the game. Although they know that they're suppose to fight with all they have, they chose to fool everyone by using just enough to get by. So you learn not to underestimate the peasants just because you're nobility. This just shows that you can't judge a person until you know them and how they are.

Heather says

I liked this series when I read it as a teenager, but it wasn't awe-inspiring even then. That probably tells you something. At that point in my life, the sex (omg it makes ther magik stronger lololol!) held my interest enough to read the whole series. These days, I probably wouldn't waste my time and would look for something else with more substance.

Nathan Burgoine says

The second in Sharon Green's "Blending" series, this returns us to the world where everyone has a spark of magic in them, to various degrees. Here, Tamrissa (a fire wizardess) tells the story of her four companions (earth, water, air, and spirit), and she, as they fight through the first of the competitions to potentially become rulers of the kingdom...

Done well, and with interesting characters, this is an interesting world and a fun read.

James says

Full review here:

<http://jamesgenrebooks.blogspot.com/2...>

Honestly, most of the big payouts are a book or two away, so most of this is setting the stage and filling in the background on what our as of yet Unnamed Empire has been doing for the past 300 years. Still fun. Looking forward to finishing this journey soon.

emily says

when i was fifteen, i thought this series was the shit. the writing wasn't great, but hey, the sexy parts were good, so it didn't matter that the plot was like swiss cheese sliced superthin, right? looking back, the fact that the sexy parts *are* the best parts of these books is pretty telling. the premises of the plot and characters aren't bad, and there are some parts that are actually interesting, but overall the series is repetitive and predictable, and probably not worth the time it'd take to get through all five.

zjakkeliem says

Nice book, not too complicated, sympathetic characters. Again a bit repetitive at times, and it would be nice if some of the characters would just talk to each other and work out their problems, but enjoyable despite of that.

Viridian5 says

In Sharon Green's *Competitions*, Lorand, Rion, Tamrissa, Jowi, and Vallant are striving to prove themselves to be the Chosen Five of the Prophecies, but it's not easy when their testers are doing everything possible, with no trick being too low or potentially lethal, to prevent them from it. The nobility have their own plans for who will be the Chosen Five, and that group will be made up of a manageable nobles, not powerful and independent-minded mostly commoners. The five have to survive and conquer the challenges while trying to figure out how good they can dare show themselves to be to continue to live. All the while, people from their pasts are messing with them as well.

As with the first book, the writing and dialogue can occasionally come off as somewhat immature, and almost all the nobles have a very adolescent mindset. It can still get a bit annoying having to follow the somewhat similar tests the five talents separately go through. Naran continues to be a cardboard cut-out that behaves in ways I can't imagine a woman of her career behaving. Vallant Ro is still a jackass with a massive yet easily wounded sense of entitlement and pride that I want to protect Tamrissa from because if *anyone* should be spared from that kind of crap from a man who's supposedly in love with her, it's her.

But I was still interested in the characters and how'd they get out of their problems. Another group of five are introduced, and for the most part I was interested in what they were up to as well, though one of them turns out to be far more evil than his whole previous close third person narration previously suggested. Whatever, I whipped through *Competitions* and went straight on to the next book.
