



# The Blood That Cries in the Ground

*Gregory Bellarmine*

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"The Greatest Myth Ever Dispelled"

Italy. A tough master of novices, Father Dante encounters the bold young priest Antonio who challenges his identity and accuses him of being the Saint Nicholas. But despite the Father faking his death, a determined Antonio discovers a rather alive Dante arrayed in kilt and armor.

In return for Antonio's silence—and to protect the town from attracting all manner of darkness—Dante agrees to tell his life story. Without explanation, Dante orders Antonio to meet him at night in the abandoned Cathedral, the site of a former battle that the Church has kept secret for a generation.

Until today.

The Criskindl. Ice Steeds. The Unborn. Saint.

From the Dark Ages' when Poet-Sorcerers ruled kings, to the Holy Land when a new civilization was rising, to Revolutionary France where love is lost and gained, Father Dante pursues the one responsible for both his master and his mother's deaths:

Black Peter, his brother.

## The Blood That Cries in the Ground Details

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Author : Gregory Bellarmine

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## **From Reader Review The Blood That Cries in the Ground for online ebook**

### **Kristin says**

I'd like to thank the author and Promotional Book Tours for allowing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Overall, I found the book to be a bit hard to read. It took me awhile to realize there were rather large jumps in time between the chapters. I wish that had been better elucidated...just a quick date at the beginning of each chapter would have been fine for me. It also would have helped place some of the people, places and things in the chapters a little better.

I don't think the whole concept of the Unborn was very well explained in it, although, maybe I was still trying to figure out "when" I was historically in the book, that I missed the explanation entirely. Towards the end of the book, I was just starting to get the idea, and that's way too long for me.

Nicholas was an intriguing character, just when you think you have him pegged, he does something completely out of character. Some situations truly threw me for a loop when I was reading them, but at some point, I could see the whole mythology of Nicholas coming together. Antonio was just plain boring. He was only truly needed for the plot to move. He was like Lestat's interviewer, in Interview with the Vampire.

Necessary for plot movement, but absolutely two-dimensional.

However, don't get me wrong. The book was an enjoyable read. It was extremely well-written, and the author was incredibly descriptive. The plot moved along at a nice pace, it never really lagged. I would definitely read it again at some point, now that I know what's going on.

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### **Debra Martin says**

When Father Dante dies, the young monk Antonio feels something is amiss. When he sees a shadow, he's convinced that Father Dante is still alive. He refuses to give up and when he catches up with the supposedly dead Dante, he's in for more than he bargained for. Antonio suspects that Dante is the famed St. Nicholas. In exchange for his silence, Dante/Nicholas agrees to tell his life story.

This is a dark retelling of St. Nicholas' life and begins at the beginning - when sorcerers ruled Kings in the Dark Ages. The story flows through history and engages the reader throughout. There were some parts of the book that were too elusive and cloaked in mystery and I was lost as to what the author was trying to convey. I reread some parts and still didn't get the references. Sometimes an author can be too subtle in the details and relationships and this was a criticism I had for this book. It is an excellent historical fantasy, but when I wanted the writing to be perfectly clear, it wasn't. Despite this, the author does a fantastic job of fleshing out the character of Nicholas.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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### **JoJo Sutis says**

3 COPIES UP FOR GRABS HERE: [http://jojosutiscorner.wordpress.com/...](http://jojosutiscorner.wordpress.com/)  
HURRY! Giveaway Ends 1/25/14

This book was unlike anything I had ever read and it was awesome!  
Such a thrilling tale full of twists and turns, adventure and danger.  
It kept me on the edge of my seat, even as Dante reveals his story to Antonio, I too, was completely captivated.  
The mystery and darkness and wonder surrounding this narrative character had me enthralled and I could not stop reading!  
This story sucks you in and doesn't let go! I loved it!  
I need the other books in the series now!

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### **JC says**

This book was really hard for me to get into. I must say that a book's cover has a huge influence on me (I know it shouldn't) and the cover on this just looks like a bunch of random computer game characters. Anyways, the actual story itself is alright, but a historical fantasy piece just wasn't going to do it for me. I found my interest in and out as the book went along as there were things that I didn't totally understand and so lost focus. If you like a good history novel or fantasy book, then check this book out.

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### **Michael Healy says**

I received this book through Goodreads first reads.

While I cannot speak as to its accuracy to the lore regarding St. Nicholas I found this dark tale quiet enthralling. A solid recommendation to anyone who might want to see a darker take on the man distanced from all the Christmas stuff that has been tied to him.

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### **Librarian Judith says**

The Blood that Cries from the Ground is an intensely detailed book--a look at St. Nicholas you've never seen. As the main character himself says-- he's not jolly-- and resents what society has twisted his character to be. This then is Nicholas' effort to tell the "true story" of his life.

It begins with a young novice in the early 1900s, and his curiosity about Father Damien. Who is this strange man who can ignore the elements and raise the dead? Set in the framework of this young man's questions-- Father Damien (Nicholas himself) tells us of his life.

This is not a quick read nor a book that you can just skim through. The author touches on many historical eras and, if you don't read carefully, it's easy to get lost. However, the characters are compelling--Nicholas himself is an intriguing, multi-faceted man. And, the book is well worth digging into.

The book does tend to jump from time to time and that can make it a little confusing at times (I found myself having to go back and reread a bit to find out when and where we were). I also wish the author had better explained the concept of the Unborn --it might have made it easier to understand Nicholas as a person. I'm not a big fan of rereading, but this is one book I definitely plan to reread, because there is so much richness in it that I'm sure I've missed some wonderful parts.

The Blood that Cries from the Ground is a very ambitious dark tale of revenge and I noticed in the back of the book that there are more volumes to come... I'm looking forward to reading those.

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### **Patti says**

Interesting story. Thank you for the give away!

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### **Valerie says**

Disclaimer: I received this book in exchange for an honest review. Review is 100% my honest thoughts and feelings!

The plot to this book was really good. The story line was awesome. St. Nicholas on a whole new level! Its deep, dark, and mysterious with lots of twists and turns. The battles in the book were epic. This book had the supernatural along with a feel of medieval to it. This was the first book I read from the author and the first book in this type of genre and I was very pleased!

At the beginning, I was a bit confused with following the characters and it was a bit of a rough start but after I got through that it was smooth sailing.

The characters in this book are well written. The characters flow evenly and stay true to their selves. They have depth and are portrayed amazingly with description. You actually feel your right there engaging with them in everything that they do. I also love the characters names and how they have a medieval ancient times feel to the name.

This book and plot was very unique. I was surprised and mesmerized the whole way through with the twist and turns and the mystery. The battles held me captive and I was turning pages to finish this.

The book, once I got over the little hump I had in the beginning, flowed amazingly well all the way to the very conclusion of the book. I was very satisfied reading this book and would definitely recommend it to others to read. It was nice reading this book especially around this time of the year and season.

I'm giving this book 4.5/5 stars and that's only cause of the little bump in the road I had reading in the beginning.

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### **Taylor GG says**

I tried really hard to finish this novel. But the grammer and the wording literally made me cringe every other scentence. It was an interesting idea but I just couldn't finish it.

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## **Lyle Appleyard says**

I received a copy of this book through a Goodreads Giveaway contest.

I have been studying the the life and legend of Saint Nicholas for a long time. It goes with my fascination of the evolution of Chistmas. The author had taken some liberties and come up with a fictional version of the life of Saint Nicholas. He has changed him from a pious bishop to an immortal pagan. His relationship with Black Peter was now adversative. This became the main conflict in the story.

There were a few jumps in the story that I found hard to follow. The jump from one era to next was not smooth in my opinion and made it a little hard to follow. This was more of action driven story and so I felt the characters were not developed as well as they could have been. I did not feel as much empathy for the main character as I wanted to.

The author is plnning some more books based on this character. I hope that he can develop the character a bit more. He does not have to be likeable, but we must feel his struggle.

This was a fun little read. I would recommend it.

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## **Stephen says**

I received this book from a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

This book tried to be so many things. The author blended history, folklore, religion, and fantasy into one broad adventure and tried to make it fit into 218 pages.

The author's knowledge of legends and myths and history were impressive. Unfortunately it was too much for one story. I wanted to love this, but in many places I just felt lost. The story didn't feel cohesive nor did it have a smooth flow. Truly the best part happens in the last three chapters, and even that was rather unsatisfying.

The basic draw of the book is the tie to St. Nicholas as a main character. I think many Christians will feel offended or betrayed by the characterization of Nick as a pagan ruffian who is possessed by some other dimensional being.

To sum up, the author is talented and intelligent, but the story needs more polish. There is too much that just doesn't quite come together. Not terrible, but not really all that good.

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## **Julia Belfast says**

+I loved, loved, loved this novel. If you're like me you're rather weary of the usual Christmas fare of commercialism, a sanitized infant Jesus as if totally separated from the salvation message, etc. Blech. Then we get Saint Nicholas the Sorcerer. Wow.

Finally a new twist on the Christmas story if not the entire season.

I realize that many Christians these days won't touch fantasy books because of the "magic" elements. In this case you would be wrong to miss it. As much as this is easy to read, it's an as yet to be acknowledged Christian classic people.

What you get is a historically accurate (I checked the facts) journey of one man from pagan to a true Christian in a story that is gritty and real without ever falling into cheese but stays on a steady course of cool locations, fascinating characters (like St Patrick's mother) and chilling action sequences. The Ice Steeds were awesome. Catherine, Nicholas' wife, was a fearless woman about whom I wanted to read much more.

Not one of the characters are black and white but heavily nuanced with sharp dialogue. And the story's ideas are bold. I took a fancy to Black Peter's overarching role as Nicholas' long-lost Dark Mage brother who is bent on destroying religion across history and time in the misguided hope of leading humanity to true enlightenment through a new and glorious secular age - which we're living now.

This is a unique blend of holiday season, fantasy and Christianity. The end of the book says there will be more books in the series. Mr Bellarmine, bring them on please!!

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