



Blood of the Reich

William Dietrich

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At the height of WWII, a quartet of daring American adventurers pits their cunning against a cadre of Nazi S.S. agents seeking to acquire a powerful weapon for the Fuhrer's arsenal; today, as the Nazi specter begins to rear its head once again, the descendants of those long-ago adventurers must unlock the secrets of their forebears' mission in order to save the world from Hitler's resurgent Reich. Now, modern science and ancient Tibetan mythology surround a daring zoologist and a beautiful aviatrix who are all that stand between the Nazis and world domination in *New York Times* bestselling author William Dietrich's *Blood of the Reich*, a knockout stand-alone novel perfect for fans of Ken Follett, Frederick Forsyth, and Brad Thor.

Blood of the Reich Details

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From Reader Review Blood of the Reich for online ebook

Robert says

This is a good book that has a sort of Indiana Jones feel to it. The story flashes back and forth from the past to the present and I have to say the author does this very well. I have read some books that use this method and some of them can really cause a reader to pause to figure out who is where and what is what. Dietrich is able to use this method to carry the story of the past and present very well. Some of the little secrets of the past stay hidden until a relevance can be found for them in the present story. And just like Indiana Jones you will encounter some of those evil Nazi bastards in this story. So if it looks interesting give it a shot. Who knows you just might like it.

Lisa Eskra says

I wanted to like this book. The premise sounded really interesting. Unfortunately, the execution is horrible on almost every level.

Where do I begin...I'll start with the good. Chapters end on a very strong note, and the dialog is decent. I love Sam as a character; he serves as a great foil to Jake. In some places the descriptive passages are breathtakingly awesome. And the history is immersive.

But that's all it has going for it. It feels like this novel is being rushed to press before it's ready. The plot is far-fetched, the characterization is poor, and the editing seems nonexistent. Not a good combination.

For the most part the writing is mediocre. Sloppy editing plagues the book. Descriptive passages are frequently bogged down by the excessive use of passive voice. "Lending the only color was a bowl of fruit." There's too much rehashing of events that happened just a few chapters prior. And the similes...on one random page (216) I counted five, four of which occurred in the same paragraph and two of which occurred in the same sentence. Who up the publishing food chain let these amateur mistakes slide? It reads like a first draft.

As far as plot goes, the novel has a slow start -- especially on the Nazi side of things. Prior to chapter 10, the storytelling of 1938 is stale and quite boring. The Nazi storyline skirts the fantasy/sci-fi realm too much for my tastes in a historical fiction. Too many coincidences or convenient outs, both past and present, which had me rolling my eyes so much I feared they might get stuck like that. As the book approaches its climax, it turns into a farce.

The plot didn't interest me as much as I'd hoped. There's a serious story going on with the Nazis and a flippant present-day melodrama, two things that in my opinion don't work together. Don't go into this expecting an Indiana Jones-type thrill ride. It just never happens.

The present-day thread is the weakest part of the novel. It comes off as a really poor after-school TV movie. It feels like it was added as an afterthought to pad the book's length (or to appeal to a YA demographic). Suspension of disbelief? Yeah, throw that right out the window. And to top it all off, it was predictable. This coming from a reader who isn't good at metagaming.

Which leads me to my main problem in the book. With so much going on in both time periods, Dietrich doesn't devote much effort to character development. Don't get me wrong, I liked the characterization of the women in the book early on until I realized they're all essentially the same characters. Nor did Raeder or Hood have much development beyond their prior collaboration in Tibet. Both zoologists, both crack-shots, both have the same voice...only one's a Nazi and the other's a rich American playboy. And Jake, was he supposed to have a believable personality? The addition of point-of-view characters in the last third of the book worsens the problem.

In conclusion -- very far-fetched and not really all that interesting a book. To me, anyways. Fans of historical fiction might think otherwise. Dietrich weaves history into the text effortlessly, as I'm sure he did in his other novels. Sadly, he really missed the mark with this one.

Warren says

A decent escapist read. Not quite history, not quite sci-fi but comparable to a Dan Brown read. Borrowed it from the e-library, so definitely worth the money!

Allison says

Rominy Pickett is an office worker with an ordinary, unexciting life. That is, until, a mysterious man saves her from an explosion. The man, an investigative reporter named Jake Barrow (or so he claims), knows more about Rominy's past than she does, and leads her on an insane adventure. There's also a secondary story about a nazi expedition to Tibet, led by SS officer Kurt Raeder. Rominy's great-grandfather Benjamin Hood- a museum curator and explorer- is hot on their trail. I LOVED the 1938 scenes! They felt like an homage to Indiana Jones without being a ripoff. I wish there were more books about Ben's adventures. :(

There was one thing I'm not clear on, though. What exactly happened to Ben? He apparently died, but *how*? He was alive the last time we see him. Was he vaporized or something? I just feel like there was something I missed. Rominy was kind of annoying, and I had a hard time liking her. Her character felt ripped from a chick flick. But near the end of the book I started liking her more. She also has a habit of pointing out the ridiculousness of every ridiculous situation they're in. I like it when big, dumb thrillers are self-aware.

As far as villains go, Raeder was nothing groundbreaking. He's your typical despicable, power-hungry nazi. But he's also one of those bad guys you just love to hate. I think (view spoiler) was a much more interesting antagonist. But the reveal wasn't as shocking as it could have been because of all the nazi crap he'd been spouting. I'm not sure how accurate all the scientific technobabble was, as I'm not a scientist. But it sounded convincing enough to me. The evil plot wasn't particularly original (nazi group wants to take over the world, start a Fourth Reich, etc.), but the writing kept me invested and turning the pages. The climax was well-written, and (view spoiler) was particularly satisfying. And just when you think it's all over, Dietrich has one more twist to throw at you.

Even as far as thrillers go, Blood of the Reich is far from original. But it kept me reading, and I was always eager to see what happened next. That being said, I feel like there were parts of the story that weren't developed very well. Much as I liked the 1938 B-plot, it could have been developed more.

Grace Liddle says

Read as audiobook. Not a bad little pot boiler. I'd put it between a 3 and a 4 if possible. I'll read another by this author as honestly it was a bit of an adventure tale. Beach reading? Escapism? Sure thing, and that's just fine too. Like ice cream for dinner.

Julie says

Based on the intriguing premise of a Nazi expedition to Tibet, this book had many elements that could have made it great, but as a whole, it didn't deliver. Kurt Raeder is sent to Tibet by Himmler to uncover a long lost power, and in America, Benjamin Hood is recruited to stop Raeder and his team from success. Intertwined in this decent historical drama is the current day plot of Rominy Pickett, who is conveniently rescued from a car bomb by a mysterious stranger who explains her ties to the quest that occurred generations before. This "hero" Jake is too well informed and prepared to not be suspicious and Rominy is too trusting and complacent for her to be a strong protagonist. Their dialogue is corny and the author uses their witty banter to explain sub-atomic physics, spirituality and other complex issues. This modern-day adventure seemed too contrived in relation to the captivating historical component. The one-dimensional characters of both plots tended to make poor decisions that were frustrating. The conclusion could be open for a sequel, but if not, it ended too abruptly. I commend the fast pace and the pre-WWII Nazi aspect, but when the past and present plots come together at the end, it did not feel cohesive. If one can look past the flaws, this book will appeal to fans of the genre, but I wish it had been better developed to offer a more profound experience.

I received a complimentary copy of this book via the Amazon Vine program.

Jonathan Tomes says

I recently reviewed *Invitation to Valhalla* which I enjoyed very much and motivated me to read the sequel, *Blood of the Reich* by Mike Whicker. No it isn't a vampire novel, but it is just as enthralling. It continues the story of Ericka, a German spy who is sent to the United States to spy on a plant that produces landing ships for the invasion of Europe. The first book ends with her on the run when her spying is exposed. This book picks up with her on the run but still determined to get critical information to Germany that will let them know that the invasion is not going to land at Calais. She enlists the help of a reporter for a Cincinnati newspaper, where she goes because a German sympathizer can help her complete her mission. Any more would give away the compelling plot. A real page-turner that I could hardly put down. With my background in military intelligence and law enforcement, I can attest to the accuracy of the settings and techniques both of the protagonist and those hunting her. These two books, taken together, are clearly in my top ten percent of WWII military fiction.

Robs says

Not as good as the Ethan Gage series, but enjoyable action adventure mixed with history.

Bibliothekerin says

Interesting premise and I liked the exotic locale, but the book as a whole just wasn't that well written. I wanted to like the book because it deals with theoretical physics (at a very basic level, obviously--this is fiction, after all) but it needed serious editing throughout, while some sections needed fleshing out. Dietrich spent w-a-a-y too many pages describing parts of the CERN collider (yawn) then stunted on character development. He ditches Hood early on which is too bad; I would have liked to learn more about his final days. Same with Beth. And how about Rominy's real parents?? Or even her adoptive parents who conveniently now live in Mexico and reportedly have no contact with their only child?

Raeder pops up at the end appearing as a grotesque comic book-like villain. And what's the story with crooked G-man Hale? I have *several* questions about him.

Dietrich spent more time with Jake's character, but his (Jake's) personality change still seemed too abrupt. The main premise of the book--the blood connection--should be the one thing crystal clear by the end, but it's not. Did I miss something? Was my ebook edition missing pages?? Maybe I need to read the book one more time, but I have no motivation to; the book is a mess. There is plenty of blood and gore at the end but no clarification about the identity of Gramps. We're told it's Hood, but at the 9th inning Dietrich throws a curveball and tells us that Raeder raped Keyuri Lin one last time (UGH) and claims paternity. Then there is the blood of Barbarossa... As if it's still viable! Or truly his! And what is its connection to Hood's blood? Gah.

This book was clearly rushed to publication--and I do mean RUSHED. someone at HarperCollins was definitely asleep at the wheel. Though I wouldn't want to be the one to shepherd this book through publication; it is all over the place and would be a nightmare to polish.

Alan Smith says

As a lover of Dietrich's "Ethan Gage" novels, I was really keen to see what he could do in a different genre - that of the occult thriller. And certainly there's all the ingredients here for a fantastic work. A tight, exciting story, interesting characters, fast-moving plotline, a gob-smacking terminal twist and, in general, excellent lucid storytelling.

So why only three stars?

Well, the thing is - good as this is, there was nothing here I haven't seen before. Sure it was a great story, and kept me gripped on my bus commutes to work, but so could fifty other stories of this kind.

The old formula of a feisty girl, not sure if she's in love or not with her fellow seeker after fortune(an inquisitive macho journalist,) the uptight Nazi hit man, serene Buddhist monks, the secret potentially world-destroying occult technology from out of the past... sometimes one gets the impression it was a case of throw all the best-seller ingredients into a pot and stir over a slow flame. All we needed was a ninja and a vampire to complete the roll call.

I'm sure this will be a huge best seller and perhaps that was Deitrich's only aim - and fair enough. But as for me, while I intend to be reading a lot more of this author in the near future, I'll be picking up the Ethan Gage stories rather than his thrillers.

Albert says

dissapointed

Steve says

This was a good book for 300 pages. Then the author ran out of ideas.

Larry says

The characters were cartoon caricatures, the writing was atrocious. One example: "...walking into the technology like sperm penetrating the gigantic egg of this vast, bulky machine." I won't spoil it for anyone who wants to read the book, but clunky, silly figures of speech like this abound. The plot is one of the over-the-top pseudo-scientific genus, which can be fun reading. This one could have been, had the author bothered to staff it with somewhat realistic actors.

I guess one could say that I really didn't care for this one.

Emmett says

I was attracted to the book because of its alternate historical interpretation, so no surprises there that I was more interested in the past than 'present day' sequence of events. Even to the extent of skipping chunks to reach the next block of events.

Found this rather disappointing, apart from the fascinating account of Nazi 'research' which was expertly woven into fiction. I couldn't become accustomed to Dietrich's portrayal which was varied a bit from the impression I gathered from biographies. He might be intimidating at times but I found the general sense of assertiveness the author tried to infuse strange; in my books Himmler isn't that threatening, not overtly, in any case.

The plot struck me as a bit of a stretch. The inclusion of the Collider, though integral to the plot, left me in disbelief. The whirlwind of locations left me a bit bewildered; wanderings, then a secret Shangri-La and now of all places, the Hadron Collider? I probably missed the whole point, not to mention the glaring parallels between the machinery the reader was introduced to in Tibet and the modern invention we have here.

Sud666 says

This was my first Dietrich book and if this book was par for the course then it will be my last. It started off well, but then the story seemed to me formulaic. When I read a thriller I often find it helps to empathize or

like certain characters. This was not the case here-the primary protagonist was someone that not only did I not root for but I began to dislike intensely. She just is not smart. At all. I don't know if Dietrich has ever written novels with relationships in them, but he would be advised to leave them out and tell a story about WW2. Perhaps my dislike of the main character is what threw me off. Also the intimate moments of the book seemed very forced-almost like a gratuitous sex scene in a horror movie. All in all by the end of the book I was just waiting for it to be over. Sorry this one wasn't awful-there are some interesting things going on, but the lead "heroine" just completely ruined it for me. Could not identify or empathize with her and by extrapolation her plight.
