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Blood Of The Earth: Soulwood, Book 1



Synopsis

Set in the same world as the New York Times best-selling Jane Yellowrock novels, an all-new series starring Nell Ingram, who wields powers as old as the earth. When Nell Ingram met skinwalker Jane Yellowrock, she was almost alone in the world, exiled by both choice and fear from the cult she was raised in, defending herself with the magic she drew from her deep connection to the forest that surrounds her. Now, Jane has referred Nell to PsyLED, a Homeland Security agency policing paranormals, and agent Rick LaFleur has shown up at Nell's doorstep. His appearance forces her out of her isolated life into an investigation that leads to the vampire Blood Master of Nashville. Nell has a team - and a mission. But to find the Master's kidnapped vassal, Nell and the PsyLED team will be forced to go deep into the heart of the very cult Nell fears, infiltrating the cult and a humans-only terrorist group before time runs out....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read, and loved, all of the books in the Jane Yellowrock series, so was very excited about the release of this new series set in the same universe. I was not disappointed. Nell's character is complex, flawed, but believable, despite her supernatural abilities. Unlike many urban fantasy heroines, Nell is not some kick-ass fighter, but a cult survivor who does what she has to, learning and growing along the way. The storyline moved along nicely, especially considering the amount of backstory information the author provided in this first-in-series book. There was enough action, tension and the beginnings of a possible romance to satisfy my gnat-on-crack attention span and

get me emotionally invested in Nell's story. I am eagerly looking forward to the next book in the series, *Curse on the Land*, to be released later this year. Definitely worth your time and money!

This is an exceptionally entertaining book and offers lots of possibilities for a new Faith Hunter series. Even though the story takes place in the familiar world of Jane Yellowrock, there is much that is new here to engage readers. The plot is exciting and frequently surprising, the main character is interesting and nuanced, the subsidiary characters offer a lot of potential, and there is considerable scope for emotional engagement. I do miss the humor of the Yellowrock series, but given the nature of the lead character, its absence is understandable, and if humorousness is one of the ways her character develops, that will be very welcome. Hunter is really a terrific writer, and I look forward to more stories in Nell's universe.

This new series from Faith Hunter is awesome - and a spinoff from her *Skinwalker* series, so some of the characters are familiar. The main character, Nell, is a strong woman with great affinity for the earth, has issues with the leaders of the misogynistic cult she was raised in, and gets tangled up in helping solve kidnappings involving non- and part-human investigations. A great read that I hated to have end - I'm already looking forward to the next book.

Wow, wow, wow! How this author continually comes up with new an exciting characters, situations, landscapes, etc.!!!!Imagination run wild! So entertaining.Due to my poor eye sight I listen with my old Kindle text to speech. I've almost worn it out! I've already listened to the book twice an the second time I noticed even more things that tie the book together. SWEET!

And almost cancelled this pre-order. Nell was an okay character when we met her in the Jane Yellowrock story but she didn't appeal to me. There was a mystery to her but I didn't like her enough to want to delve into the layers to find out what was hiding. Rick also hasn't been one of my beloved characters for awhile. I should have had faith in the author. I like her writing and how her mind twists and turns. Nell shows growth in the story and the story is multi-dimensional. Rick even became more likable. I am glad that I bought it. I will re-read it and enjoy it again. I am now looking forward to another Nell story.

This excellent new series, *Blood of the Earth*, is part of the Jane Yellowrock world. When Jane came blasting into Nell Ingram's domain in the short story, *Off the Grid*, she set

Nell's life on a new course by referring her to Rick LaFleur and PsyLED. Nell has some special magical talent that even she does not fully understand. She has lived very alone, after her much older husband passed, and in fear of the religious cult she grew up in. Nell reluctantly joins up with Rick's team composed of an unusual group with their own special talents. Nell's special abilities tie her emotionally and physically to her land and the earth. It speaks to her as almost a living entity. She has the unusual powers to control the flora and fauna around her which of course is very useful to PsyLED. Nell is accustomed to being quite alone having broken from her large and complicated family while maintaining a hostile relationship with the past and current church leaders. With the invasion of Rick and his team, Nell has a big learning curve to understand not only her own powers, but how to work with other supernatural and magically talented folks. Nell's upbringing was so subjugated that she has to constantly fight against the instinct that men will always try to dominate her. Nell has a lot of emotional issues with the way she was brought up which, in several ways, is the antithesis of the way she is living now. She stays on her land despite the problems with God's Cloud of Glory Church for two major reasons: her supernatural connection to Soulwood and in hopes of providing a place of sanctuary for her sisters should they leave the cult. Nell reminds me of the term organic intellectual. She is mostly self-taught from books and has a fine mind that continually surprises and intrigues her new PsyLED associates. Her personal combination of supernatural powers and well thought out reasoning makes Nell a formidable force to be reckoned with even among seemingly more powerful supernaturals such as the vampires and weres. Now, I am going to say something about Rick and the less than pleasing Paka, who broke up his relationship with Jane. Readers are angry with him and so may find forgiveness difficult, but it's important to understand that he is not happy with Paka as Nell notices:

"But oddly, I did not see love as I understood it. It wasn't a happy love. It was addled. I have to say that boy is a mess and though he is very good at his job leading the PsyLED team, Rick's personal life is in ruins. There are lots of arguments to be made for most of this being his own dang fault. He was a player who made some poor choices in the past, consequently, he is suffering for it so although Rick has a mate, he is far from happy: "He didn't love Paka. But he was tied to her. Magic, I thought. Believe me when I say my feelings for Rick's behavior in the Jane Yellowrock books are both strident and intense. Here we get a look at the man he might have been before he was bitten by a wereleopard and all the joy was bled out of him. And Nell does

something to Rick that will have a lot of people standing up cheering and doing the wave. So give ol'f'c Ricky Bo a chance because Nell's story is quite well done and deserves to be heard. And there is much satisfaction in Karma doing her thing to Rick La Fleur. For all his faults, he appears to be a good team leader caring about Nell and her feelings. Nell has much to learn about herself as well as the larger world. For too long she has been held captive by a very isolated, restricted life, but now she is stepping way out of her comfort zone and realizing the potential to live her best life unfettered by perceived enemies and helped by new friends. Her magical connection to the Soulwood land is quite intriguing and serves, in part, as a reminder that we are all more deeply connected to this earth than we often realize. I am so pleased that Nell is a part of the Jane Yellowrock world. We will all be better for having met her. ARC provided by Author and Penguin Random House

I rarely feel moved to give a book 5 stars, but this book definitely deserves it! This is the kind of book you stay up and read in its delicious entirety because you can't bear to wait till the next day for the resolution. Loved it! And I'm pre-ordering the next Nell today.

As a fan of Faith Hunter's Jane Yellowrock, I've been eagerly awaiting Blood of the Earth, and I was not disappointed! Traveling with Nell, as she learns about herself, her past, her family, her magic, and her future is a ride I thoroughly enjoyed. The meeting of new characters (Occam, and Tandy!!), and old (oh Ricky-Bo) is fantastic, and seamless. I have so little time for pleasure reading right now, so I'm extremely stingy with it, and this was worth every second. I can't wait for November, and Curse on the Land!

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