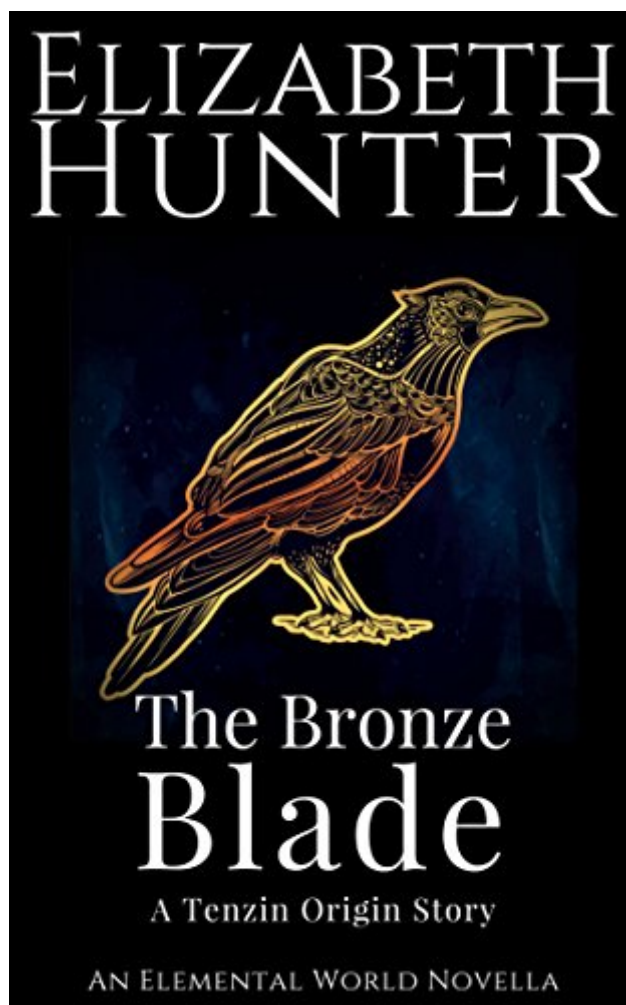


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The Bronze Blade: A Tenzin Origin Story (Elemental World Book 4)



Synopsis

Power, passion, and politics collide in an Elemental World that is ruled by the ancients. "You may call me Tenzin, if you like." A girl. A mother. A slave. A monster. A survivor. Descended into madness. Forged in fire and darkness, she became one of the fiercest warriors the immortal world had ever known. But in the beginning, there was a girl. THE BRONZE BLADE is a novella of approximately 100 pages. WARNING: The Bronze Blade contains scenes of graphic violence and abuse, and is recommended for adult readers only. Elemental Mysteries: A HIDDEN FIRE THIS SAME EARTH THE FORCE OF WIND A FALL OF WATER Elemental World: BUILDING FROM ASHES BLOOD AND SAND THE SCARLET DEEPA STONE-KISSED SEA Elemental World novellas: Waterlocked The Bronze Blade A Very Proper Monster (In Beneath a Waning Moon) Elemental Legacy: SHADOWS & GOLD IMITATION & ALCHEMY OMENS & ARTIFACTS

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Customer Reviews

The Bronze Blade by Elizabeth Hunter(Series: An Elemental World Novella)Source:

PurchaseRating: 5/5 starsEvery time I sit down to read a new offering by Elizabeth Hunter I tell myself:~You will not be overwhelmed by the awesome this time!~ and ~You will NOT be left speechless yet again!~ And every damn time including this one, I am overwhelmed by the awesome and left speechless and with my husband telling me ~That~™s what you get for thinking.~ The Bronze Blade is proof positive the Elizabeth Hunter doesn~™t just bring the awesome, she unleashes it on us all. Understand this dear reader; my expectations for this book were extremely and bordering on unreasonably high. This is the story I have been waiting for since the moment I fell in love with Tenzin in the first Elemental Mysteries book, A Hidden Fire. There is just something about her that grabbed my attention, my affection and, my respect (YES, all of this for a FICTIONAL character!) and wouldn~™t let go. Tenzin is fierce, loyal, daunting, loving (believe it or not), extremely intelligent, mouthy, cunning and flat-out scary. Her very presence in every Elemental Mysteries read has been a portent for danger, mayhem and, one more than one occasion, a massacre. She is lethal and dangerous but never, ever without cause and honor. She is ancient and strong and to understand how this cold and very calculating woman became this way has remained a mystery until now. The Bronze Blade is not an easy read nor is it a light and fluffy story meant to warm your heart. The Bronze Blade is Tenzin~™s battle to become who she is; that is, her journey to becoming Tenzin. Her origin is initially very normal and very common and a part of a very, very ancient time. In many respects, Tenzin was never meant to lead an extraordinary life but then one day, the vampires came. Believe me when I tell you, Tenzin and her personality as we know it in the Elemental Mysteries world is something that was forged in death, despair, destruction, violence and anger. Her choices were taken from her, her body violated in so many foul and disgusting ways and her mind was nearly lost right up until the moment she chose to live and become something more. That moment and those that follow are bloody and horrifying as well as being completely justified and satisfying. Tenzin~™s story explains absolutely everything that we know (and LOVE!) about her. Do not mistake The Bronze Blade for a simple backstory/origin story simply because it is a novella. The Bronze Blade is the building of a warrior and every question I have ever had about Tenzin is answered. Hunter strips this fierce warrior down to her bare bones and then creates a most haunting and terrifying tale that ends with me being overwhelmed by the awesome and left completely effing speechless. The Bottom Line: Hunter has long said that Tenzin~™s story would not be an easy story to read nor to write. To a degree I understood that and now that I have read Tenzin~™s story, I completely understand. The Bronze Blade is almost pure darkness

and in many respects the revealing of pure evil. Tenzin, a character I adore and will forever love is forged from that darkness and evil yet she comes out gloriously on the other side “truly, a phoenix rising. As a mere a reader, I now know what it is to have this story in my head and I cannot imagine having had it rattling around in my brain for as long as it has been in Hunter’s head. To get this out and on to paper must have been a tremendous relief and I am very grateful to finally get to know, understand and read about how Tenzin came to be. Long live the Bird Girl!!!

I knew Tenzin’s back story would be heartbreaking and it was but it was also powerful and gritty and even cringe worthy. An author that can make you feel all those things in just 5 chapters, plus an epilogue, is an amazing author. But, this book also accomplishes something else, as brutal and gruesome as Tenzin’s story is, it makes me love and respect her even more, not because of her astounding bravery as a fighter, but for bravery she shows by letting herself care for others again, to be a friend, confidant and show love. That is truly brave.

This is the story I think we have all been wondering about, how Tenzin came to be. As her long time companion takes her last breaths, Tenzin tells her a story of a young girl. This is a story of survival. How she survived the kidnapping, the turning, the abuse from her sire’s children, the ensuing madness and the revenge. All of this she endured for many many years. She finally rests in a mountain cave to become a legend. This is a heart wrenching telling of Tenzin’s early life. It’s a wonder she survived at all with her mind intact. It kind of explains why she is the way she is. My only gripe, is that it was very short, because as we know, Tenzin is very old. The whole time I was reading this, I was feeling for her and wondering when she was going to take her retribution. I can’t say I enjoyed this story, because it’s not a tale to be enjoyed. It is a story to be read to try and understand Tenzin and her ways. It is very well written, and I would whole-heartedly recommend this book. You won’t be disappointed.

Ever since Elizabeth Hunter started her Elemental World Series, I’ve been fascinated with Tenzin, the 5,000 year old wind vampire who was Giovanni’s partner when he was a mercenary. She becomes a close friend and ally of Beatrice, even lending a hand in her eventual turning. Tenzin is incredibly powerful, surprisingly vicious, yet centered, sure of herself and the creature she has been for thousands of years. "The Bronze Blade" is her story. The novella starts with Tenzin telling the story of how she was turned into a vampire to Nima, her lifelong human companion who is now dying. Tenzin is reluctant, as it is not a pretty story and she is "no longer that girl". Nima begs

Tenzin to tell her the story, so she can "take some of that darkness away with me when I go." Tenzin starts from the very beginning, with her last memories as a human in her village in the Northern steppes of Asia. She was a young wife and mother who had recently lost her husband. When checking on their goats one night, she is captured by frightening, supernatural "raiders" who can fly. The last thing she remembers is the beautiful face of her creator, Jun (Zhang, for anyone that's read the Elemental Mysteries books). She awakes as a vampire, not knowing what has happened to her or what she is now. She is only aware of the overwhelming sensory overload that comes from being a newborn vampire, and the unrelenting thirst for blood. The girl's captors (she does not remember her human name) are Jun's sons, who call themselves the Sida. These are brutal vampires, extremely bloodthirsty, who care little for the human lives they take and even less for the women they viciously use. Saraal (as she is called by the Sida camp) was turned so she could be a "wife" to Kuluun, one of Jun's sons, an equal to him as he had in his human life. What Jun and Saraal didn't know was that Kuluun's concept of equality is extremely twisted when it comes to his women. Sadly, Saraal has no training and no real knowledge of the powers she now possesses, so there is not much she can do to stop it. Reading these chapters of Saraal's first years as a vampire are truly heartbreaking, and Hunter does not shy away from describing the violent imagery and brutality exhibited by the Sida vampires. This story is brutal. Saraal goes through years of pain, beatings and rape before she starts to get an inkling of what she has now become -- and how she can become stronger than her captors. Saraal is kept sane (or maybe insane) by a little wind vampire named Aday, whom only she can see and speak to. (Everyone else simply sees her as "talking to herself" - more on that in a bit). Aday is playful, caring, and is always by Saraal's side, even when she is being abused. With Aday's encouragement and prodding, Saraal begins to drink human blood, and her strength increases to the point that she is able to kill the first of what would be all of Jun's sons. Hunter never explicitly states if Aday is real, and the last chapters give an impression that Aday is Saraal herself, or what manifested after Jun's sons finally "killed" Saraal. Did her mind split into two separate identities to keep itself from breaking down completely throughout the years of brutality forced upon her? While Saraal was the one who silently accepted this life as her fate, Aday gave her the strength to ultimately become the vampire she is now. The story ends with her finally coming face to face with her sire, the legendary Jun. It's funny but great how consistent Hunter is with the story, as Tenzin had already described her father's reaction in "The Force of Wind" : "What did Zhang do when they were all dead?" "He laughed. Then he told me I was his finest creation, his fiercest warrior, and sent me out into the world with half his wealth." - The Force of Wind That's pretty much exactly what happens. Not much of a surprise, but kudos to Hunter for maintaining

consistency. It drives me crazy when authors change things that have already been established in other books, or play fast and loose with the facts of their story, or simply don't follow up on the loose ends. Hunter is extremely good at tying all the pieces of history together in each book of the series. It's nice to read the novellas and see characters or concepts from the previous books coming full circle. It makes the mythology of the Elemental World much more rich, vivid, and easy to get lost into. Overall, a great novella, beautifully written, and it was great to finally see Tenzin's story and how she became the great warrior she is now. Great read for fans of the Elemental World series. Sadly, none of the other characters from the books make any cameos, but it doesn't matter. This is Tenzin's story, not everyone else's. "My life has been as fate dictated, and now I am master of it." Great book, can't wait to see what else Elizabeth Hunter has in store for this series.

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