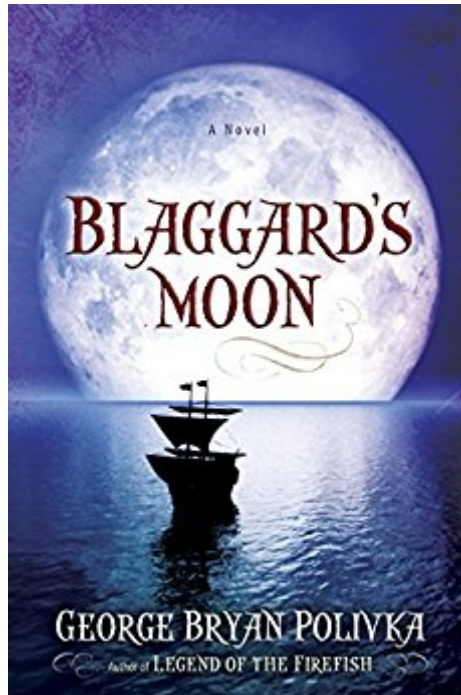


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Blaggard's Moon



Synopsis

From the author of the highly praised Trophy Chase Saga comes this exciting swashbuckling tale of a pirate sentenced to die for the crime of mutiny. As he awaits his fate, this pirate (none other than the delightful Smith Delaney from the Trophy Chase Saga) ponders his life and the events that have brought him to this fate. In the process of remembering, and in grappling with mercy and justice as they have been played out in his life, a tale is spun, a tale of true hearts wronged, noble love gone awry, dark deeds done for the sake of gold, and sacrifices made for love. In the end, our pirate will come face to face with himself, with his own death, and with a God who promises grace where none is deserved. Readers of Christian fantasy will once again be swept away by Bryan Polivka's compelling storytelling abilities. As Publisher's Weekly said of the author's first book, "Readers will be flipping pages eagerly."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pirate Smith Delaney finds himself atop a tall post in the midst of a tropical lagoon waiting for a particularly gruesome death to arrive in the form of savage mer-monkeys. Attempting to keep his

thoughts from the flesh-hungry piranha in the waters around him, and the imminent arrival of the Onka Din Botlay -- rippers of bone - Delaney casts his thoughts to and fro in hopes of finding a solution to his desperate predicament. Rather than discovering a clever means of escape, he is alternately drawn into examining his life to date and recalling a particularly engaging tale spun by a fellow pirate - Ham Drumbone - detailing the lives of several world-shaking figures in the kingdom of Nearing Vast. Delaney's own life plays a small yet significant role in the histories of these persons, and the two trains of thought eventually converge upon the present. Set in a fictional world somewhat reminiscent of the Elizabethan age, George Bryan Polivka's *Blaggard's Moon* is a prequel written after the conclusion of his *Trophy Chase Trilogy*. I found the premise of a Christian pirate novel irresistible, and the results immensely entertaining. It takes a certain amount of skill to convey authentic pirate language while refraining from outright blasphemy and cursing, yet Polivka pulls it off. Both his narration and dialogue are lively - vivid, captivating and just plain fun. Indeed, Polivka's work clearly places him amongst the top writers in Christian fantasy today.

The Story. *Blaggard's Moon* is a unique book because it is actually three stories. In the opening, pirate Smith Delaney, who readers of the *Trophy Chase Trilogy* will know, is sitting on a post with piranha swimming below. Through his musings, the reader learns that he's been abandoned there as punishment for some unknown deed. Throughout most of the book, Delaney is remembering his life, particularly his decision to become a pirate. But in the remembering, he recalls a period of time when the storyteller on board, Ham Drumbone, related to his pirate shipmates the tale of Jenta Stillmithers and the Hell's Gatemen. The majority of the book is Jenta's story--one of hope and sacrifice and redemption and love and fear and grief and conviction. Yes, there are battles, though not related in the blow-by-blow style most common today. Still, there are sword fights and gun battles and ship-to-ship assaults. There is blood on the deck and in the water. There are bodies on the pier and skeletons on the ocean floor. This is definitely a pirates' story. But at the center is Jenta. **Strengths.** This is a book I'm excited about. The packaging is terrific--Harvest House did a wonderful job with the cover, the paper, the interior art. The writing is terrific. Perhaps because of the non-linear structure of the story, it has a somewhat literary feel. Certainly there is a wonderful rhythm to the writing, and the descriptions are vivid and evocative. The characters win the day, though. In my opinion, Mr. Polivka is masterful in developing believable, authentic characters. It is their authenticity that make them memorable and engaging, in my opinion. While the characters make the reader care, the story keeps the reader turning pages.

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