

Wolf Brother: Book 1 (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness)

By Michelle Paver

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Wolf Brother: Book 1 (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness) By Michelle Paver

Thousands of years ago the land is one dark forest. Its people are hunter-gatherers. They know every tree and herb and they know how to survive in a time of enchantment and powerful magic. Until an ambitious and malevolent force conjures a demon: a demon so evil that it can be contained only in the body of a ferocious bear that will slay everything it sees, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it - 12 year old Torak, who has seen his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, Torak's father tells his son of the burden that is his. He must lead the bear to the mountain of the World Spirit and beg that spirit's help to overcome it. Torak is an unwilling hero. He is scared and trusts no one. His only companion is a wolf cub only three moons old, whom he seems to understand better than any human. Theirs is a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life. Launched at the height of the Harry Potter phenomenon, the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness is the ultimate magical adventure. Read by Ian McKellen.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-9 - Set 6000 years ago, this fast-paced adventure delves into a world of spirits and mysticism not often seen in children's literature. Torak, 12, witnesses his father's brutal attack by a giant, demon-possessed bear and promises to find his way to the Mountain of the World Spirit. Before dying, his father instructs him to avoid other men and tells him that his guide will find him. Sure enough, Torak is soon adopted by a wolf cub, also recently orphaned, with whom he is able to communicate. The bear continues to terrorize the forest, but Torak is able to avoid it with Wolf's help. They are captured by the Wolf clan, who believes that Torak is the Listener, and will rid the forest of the bear when he fulfills a prophecy by delivering three lost artifacts to the mountain. He must solve an obscure riddle to find the artifacts and traverse dangerous lands, all the while evading the evil bear. Paver's depth of research into the spiritual world of primitive peoples makes this impressive British import, slated to be the first in a six-book series, intriguing and believable. - *Karen T.*

Bilton, Somerset County Library, Bridgewater, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. A giant bear possessed by a demon fatally wounds Torak's father, who makes his son swear that he will find the Mountain of the World Spirit, many "daywalks" from where they have been hunting in the forest. The spirit, his father says, offers the only hope to defeat the bear, which will become invincible if not stopped. So begins Torak's desperate quest, undertaken in the company of an orphaned wolf cub, Torak's guide. After members of the Raven Clan capture the boy and wolf, Torak learns that he is the Listener, prophesied to crush the Shadow, the overriding evil that is trying to take over the land. There's one minor discrepancy that kids are likely to spot (if there's a second printing, it will be corrected), but that won't spoil the excitement in the first book in the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series. This is fantasy adventure on a grand scale, with a wealth of wilderness lore and convincing characterizations. *Sally Estes*

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Review

Wolf Brother combines elements of fantasy, prehistoric fiction and facts, to make a brilliant book. This the first in a series of six (and one of the best, too). I would recommend it to any one who likes wolves (essential!), magic and stone age people! THE GUARDIAN The story is a rich tale full strong with the themes of survival, magic and folklore. Michelle Paver manages to install the same dreams in the reader's head that she once had herself - the dream to run with wolves in a prehistoric forest. FANTASY BOOK REVIEW Wolf Brother, the first of six books in Chronicles of Ancient Darkness, is a terrific read, and I was instantly grabbed by the throat and whooshed along by the power of the writing. HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY Rich in detail which brings the past to life and makes the forest background vivid to all readers LOVEREADING4KIDS I liked the book because it is a thrilling, packed with a ton of action, and is an adventure you don't usually find in books. Wolf Brother never lets you stop reading, and it keeps a ton of suspense. TEEN INK subscriber review Wolf Brother is a book where time passes quickly as the reader is absorbed into a colourful world. And before you know it the book has ended and you find you just have to grab the next book in the series and continue reading. THE DESK OF KAREN LEE FIELD REVIEW The achievement of the year has to be Ian McKellen's narration of the three instalments of Michelle Paver's CHRONICLES OF ANCIENT DARKNESS, WOLF BROTHER, SPIRIT WALKER and SOUL EATER. Having been given rewardingly rich material in Paver's inspired evocation of a Stone Age culture of nature gods and hunting wisdoms, he is equally good as Gandalfian tribal gurus, the intrepid Torak of the Wolf

Clan, the stoic archer heroine Renn of the Ravens and the intelligent wolfcub Wolf. -- Christina Hardyment
THE TIMES 'narrated with thrilling immediacy by Ian McKellen.' 3 July 2010 -- Christina Hardyment THE
TIMES

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Murray:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called Wolf Brother: Book 1 (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

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William Jones:

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Jonathan Baker:

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