

A Cavern of Black Ice: A Sword of Shadows Novel

By J. V. Jones

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HIGH ADVENTURE ON THE SWORD EDGE OF DESTINY
A Cavern of Black Ice is the first book in J.V. Jones's Sword of Shadow series

As a newborn Ash March was abandoned--left for dead at the foot of a frozen mountain. Found and raised by the Penthero Iss, the mighty Surlord of Spire Vanis, she has always known she is different. Terrible dreams plague her and sometimes in the darkness she hears dread voices from another world. Iss watches her as she grows to womanhood, eager to discover what powers his ward might possess. As his interest quickens, he sends his living blade, Marafice Eye, to guard her night and day.

Raif Sevrance, a young man of Clan Blackhail, also knows he is different, with uncanny abilities that distance him from the clan. But when he and his brother survive an ambush that plunges the entire Northern Territories into war, he yet seeks justice for his own . . . even if means he must forsake clan and kin.

Ash and Raif must learn to master their powers and accept their joint fate if they are to defeat an ancient prophecy and prevent the release of the pure evil known as the End Lords.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
A Cavern of Black Ice opens J.V. Jones's Sword of Shadows trilogy. (Her first novel was *The Baker's Boy*.) The story is set in a land divided among small warring clans of hunters and more sophisticated southern cities whose lords covet the clan territories.

Young clansman Raif has a touch of "old blood" magic that guides his arrows to the heart. Bad times come when a hunting party that includes his father and clan chief is wiped out by a supernaturally aided attack, and Raif's open suspicion of the brutal new leader eventually drives him into exile. Meanwhile, Iss, overlord of Spire Vanis city, keeps a chained-up sorcerer whose powers he channels by revolting means, and has unexplained but shuddersome plans for his "foster daughter" Ash--herself an unwilling focus of dread forces. Raif and Ash find themselves fleeing together through wintry, hostile clanlands, pursued by Iss's vilest henchmen, seeking the dubious goal of the Cavern of Black Ice.

What lifts this tale far above routine quest fantasy is Jones's deft characterization, relentless intensity, and unsparing depiction of pain and slow-healing injury. She has a flair for memorably horrid images. Here a sorcerer gloats over one of his nastier tricks: "A man could not fight when his corneas were snapped from his eyes like badges from a chest."

This hefty volume is over 800 pages long, but the narrative grips hard once it's gained momentum, and the pages turn increasingly fast. Strong meat. Next comes book two, *A Fortress of Grey Ice*. *--David Langford, Amazon.co.uk*

From Publishers Weekly
The first volume of Jones's (The Barbed Coil, etc.) new trilogy is set in a sub-arctic land so vividly realized that it contributes notably to the book's suspense and emotional impactAeven as it almost overpowers its characters. Ashd March, the adopted daughter of a nobleman; Raif and Dray Sevrance, two accomplished archers; and Angus Lok, a once formidable warrior, are becoming increasingly aware, through alarming signsAa camp of murdered men, a recurring nightmare of ice and blood, an ominous call to armsAof a magical evil coming their way. The destinies of these four, particularly of Ash and Raif, become progressively entwined, even entangled, as the novel lumbers toward its inconclusive ending. Throughout, Jones skillfully mixes bits borrowed from history, folklore, religion (her shamans are particularly well done) and other fantasy works, but her attention to these details and her determination to introduce every element of her trilogy at once slow the pacing and sometimes create more confusion than clarity. Nonetheless, Jones has a real gift for evocative description, and the novel will satisfy most saga lovers. Agent, Russ Galen.
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From Library Journal
A fugitive from his clan and an orphan driven by inner voices join forces to prevent the return of ancient powers whose coming presages the end of the world. The author of The Book of Words trilogy (Master and Fool, LJ 10/15/96) begins a new fantasy epic set in a harsh world of warring clans and ruthless sorcerers. Jones's skillful storytelling creates an atmosphere of rising tension and dark foreboding that sets the stage for future sequels. A solid choice for fantasy collections.
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Megan Rivera:

The knowledge that you get from A Cavern of Black Ice: A Sword of Shadows Novel may be the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but A Cavern of Black Ice: A Sword of Shadows Novel giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this kind of A Cavern of Black Ice: A Sword of Shadows Novel instantly.

Leigh Brown:

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Stan Smith:

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Cynthia Necaise:

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