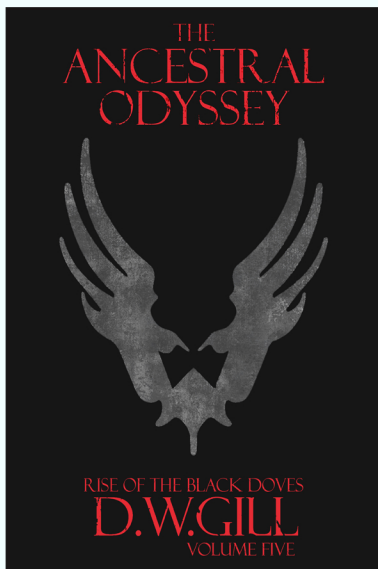




Readers' Favorite®

Book Reviews and Award Contest



Title: The Ancestral Odyssey
Subtitle: Rise of the Black Doves (Volume 5)
Author: Duncan William Gill
Genre: Fiction - Fantasy - Epic - Horror
Reviewer: Jamie Michele
Date: 31/07/2024
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Appearance: 5/5
Plot: 5/5
Development: 5/5
Formatting: 5/5
Marketability: 5/5
Overall Opinion: 5/5



Book Review Mini-Critique

The Ancestral Odyssey: Rise of the Black Doves by Duncan William Gill is book five in the titular epic fantasy series. Books one through four advance as follows: Norkron City is devastated by an invasion, leaving its people scattered and fearful. Through the chaos, Isabelle, a selfless Star Caller, and Lethaniel, emerge as the last hope for victory. Lethaniel and his squad travel through Ledera to uncover the attackers and restore control, while Isabelle seeks aid from The Readers as Krondathia faces threats from the advancing Dovidian Covenant towards Xiondel City. Thao defends Korthak Bridge, Mathias and Braygon search for the war's instigator, and Isabelle is put up against her past. Meanwhile, seven Star Callers rise to defend Starillia against threats and ancient evils alike. Now, The Star Callers leave New Xiondel City, with Alessa pushing through Krondathian lands while brushing up against the aberrant. Deacon and Nielata work to restore order in Xiondel, requiring primeval aid. Denzel and Jun hunt for proof against Professor Atheriax, and The Firehands repair the Hexagon before investigating the Silo.

"They've a fight coming, a fight that will test them both, ... a war, not between men, but between men and God..." The Ancestral Odyssey: Rise of the Black Doves is a continuation from book four, and Duncan William Gill leaps in with incredible rising action and foreshadowing. We know the troubles are not isolated and are part of a larger, more dangerous scenario, and the forthcoming battles push the plot forward. Gill's book is among the most skilled I've come across in not just world-building, but in full-scale geographical and environmental details. The standouts to me are Klaw's northern swamps, the Illnio Stretch, and the Kludack Plateau which all contribute to an absolutely palpable, textured sense of the terrain. This carries over into the labyrinth of wet, living organic tissue in The Silo and it is spectacularly gross and brilliant. I swear I may never touch a wall in the dark again. I think that Gill ranks among the best blended fantasy-science fiction storytellers of the moment, and that is not an opinion I have given an author in years as an editorial reviewer. All things said, The Ancestral Odyssey is a masterpiece of a saga and Gill is a writer worth following. Very highly recommended.