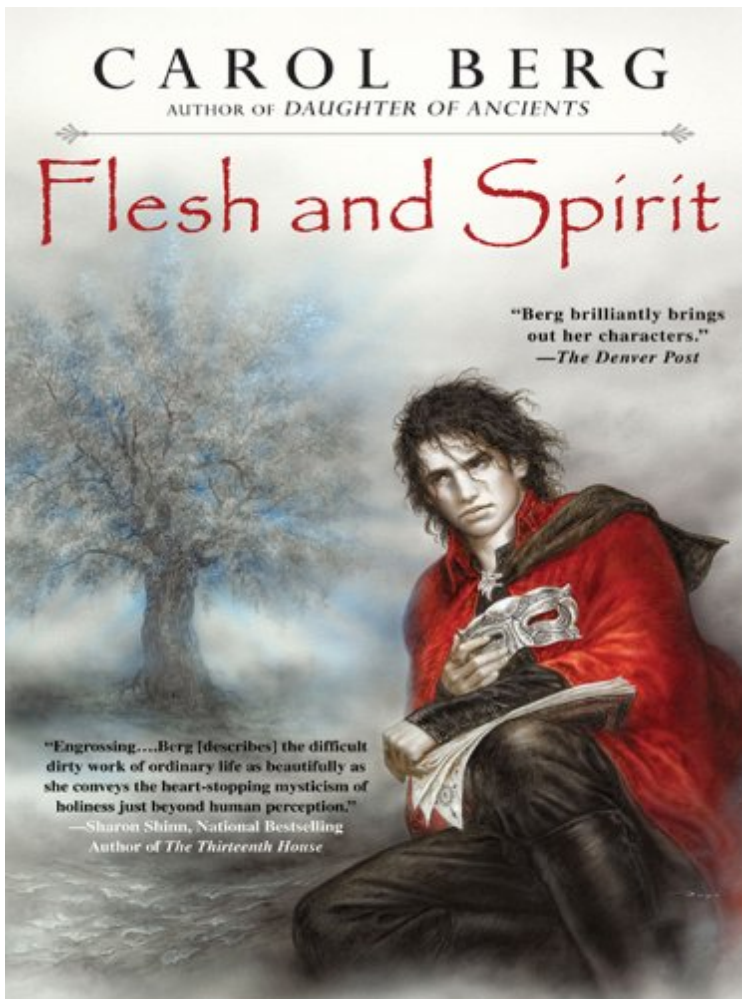


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Flesh and Spirit



Par Carol Berg
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Par Carol Berg : Flesh and Spirit before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flesh and Spirit:

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Description : Description du produitThe rebellious son of a long line of pureblood cartographers and diviners, Valen has spent most of his life trying to escape what society -- and his family -- have ordained for him. His own mother has predicted that he will meet his doom in water, blood, and ice. Her divination seems fulfilled when a comrade abandons Valen in a rainy wilderness half-dead, addicted to an enchantment that converts pain to pleasure, and possessing only a stolen book of maps. Offered sanctuary in a nearby monastery, Valen discovers that his book -- rumored to lead men into the realm of angels -- gains him entry into a world of secret societies, doomsayers, monks, princes, and madmen, all seeking to unlock the mystery of a coming dark age. To his dismay, Valen must face what he fled so long ago, for the key to Navronne's doom is buried in half-forgotten myth and the secrets of his own past...

Prsentation de l'diteurThe rebellious Valen has spent his life trying to escape his family legacy. But his fate is sealed when he winds up half-dead, addicted to an enchantment-which leads him into a world he could never possibly imagine...From Publishers WeeklyAt the start of this chilling fantasy from Berg (Daughter of Ancients), the first of a pair set in the land of Navronne, her rebellious hero, 27-year-old Valen, has been

hiding from his pureblood family of sorcerers for 12 years. Valen, who's also struggling with a kind of drug addiction called "doulon sickness," possesses his grandfather's magical book, *Maps of the Known World* ("Legend said it could lead men to the realm of angels"). The book is Valen's passport to sanctuary with the learned monks of Gillarine Abbey, who believe he can unlock its magic. After his family discovers him, Valen becomes resolved to learn the book's power. At stake is not only the protection of an innocent boy sheltered at the abbey from greedy princes vying for control of their dead father's kingdom but also the entire world's salvation. Like much fantasy marketed as "adult" today, this well-written novel is suitable for readers as young as middle-schoolers, though some preteens may find it a bit too dark and slow for their tastes.

(May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Booklist The first book of a duology introduces Valen of Navronne, the pure-blood scion of a long line of diviners and magical cartographers, who hates his heritage. He ran away as a youth, lived as a rogue, and wound up, badly wounded and owning nothing but a magical atlas, at a monastery. Offered sanctuary, he finds his maps, rumored to chart the way to the realm of angels, plunging him into intrigue instead of the retreat, however temporary, that he wanted. Navronne is beginning to unravel, starting with a battle for the succession between heirs of the late king. Omens and divinations are foreboding, and even the monastery contains several factions, each trying to use Valen and his maps. Berg touches a shop-worn situation with originality and limns Navronne and the characters well--Valen is unquestionably memorable--in what is definitely a dark fantasy as much concerned with Valen's internal struggle as with his conflicts with others.

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