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Golden Son: Book II Of The Red Rising Trilogy



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR, BUZZFEED, AND BOOKLIST • With shades of *The Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game*, and *Game of Thrones*, debut author Pierce Brown's genre-defying epic *Red Rising* hit the ground running and wasted no time becoming a sensation. *Golden Son* continues the stunning saga of Darrow, a rebel forged by tragedy, battling to lead his oppressed people to freedom. As a Red, Darrow grew up working the mines deep beneath the surface of Mars, enduring backbreaking labor while dreaming of the better future he was building for his descendants. But the Society he faithfully served was built on lies. Darrow's kind have been betrayed and denied by their elitist masters, the Golds—and their only path to liberation is revolution. And so Darrow sacrifices himself in the name of the greater good for which Eo, his true love and inspiration, laid down her own life. He becomes a Gold, infiltrating their privileged realm so that he can destroy it from within. A lamb among wolves in a cruel world, Darrow finds friendship, respect, and even love—but also the wrath of powerful rivals. To wage and win the war that will change humankind's destiny, Darrow must confront the treachery arrayed against him, overcome his all-too-human desire for retribution—and strive not for violent revolt but a hopeful rebirth. Though the road ahead is fraught with danger and deceit, Darrow must choose to follow Eo's principles of love and justice to free his people. He must live for more. Praise for *Golden Son* • "Gripping . . . Both author and lead character have cranked up the emotional stakes. . . . With *Golden Son*, Brown avoids the sophomore slump, charging the novel with the kind of dystopia-toppling action you'd expect in a trilogy ender, not a middle volume. On virtually every level, this is a sequel that hates sequels—a perfect fit for a hero who already defies the tropes. [Grade:] A • "Entertainment Weekly • "Stirring . . . Comparisons to *The Hunger Games* and *Game of Thrones* series are inevitable, for this tale has elements of both. • "Kirkus Reviews • "Brown writes layered, flawed characters . . . but plot is his most breathtaking strength. . . . Every action seems to flow into the next. • "NPR • "It's a far superior sequel, in fact: one of the rare breed of reads that improves upon its predecessor in every conceivable category. . . . In a word, *Golden Son* is stunning. Never mind how little we've seen of 2015: Among science fiction fans, it should be a shoo-in for book of the year. • "Tor.com • "Pierce Brown is a prodigy. As great as the first book of the *Red Rising* Trilogy is, *Golden Son* is even better. A wild ride full of suspense, intrigue, and serious ass-kicking bravado, it's expertly written and emotionally engaging, with top-notch universe-building that begs for further exploration. I want more! • "Christopher Golden, New York Times bestselling author of *Snowblind* • "The stakes are even higher than they were in *Red Rising*, and the twists and turns

of the story are every bit as exciting. The jaw-dropper of an ending will leave readers hungry for the conclusion to Brown's wholly original, completely thrilling saga. • "Booklist (starred review) • "Dramatic . . . the rare middle book that loses almost no momentum as it sets up the final installment. • "Publishers Weekly

From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pierce Brown's *GOLDEN SON* is the second installment in his "Red Rising Trilogy," a series of novels set in a dystopian future where a genetically-engineered elite is ruling the universe. Brown's premise is that future humanity has been divided into color-coded castes, with the super-strong, super-beautiful "Golds" at the top of the hierarchy. Beneath them, the other Colors fill a variety of pre-ordained roles (including police, doctors, entertainers, scholars, and laborers), all in the service of the all-powerful Golds. In the first installment of the series, *RED RISING*, 18-year-old Darrow, a common Red laborer from the mines of Mars, is recruited by a secret revolutionary group called the Sons of Ares to go undercover as a Gold in an attempt to destroy the Society from the inside. Darrow is physically and genetically altered by a "Carver" so that he can pass for a Gold, and he is accepted at one of their prestigious schools to begin training to become one of the elite Peerless Scared - the hope is that once he rises to the top of his class, he can be instrumental in tearing the system down. As *GOLDEN SON* begins, two years have passed since the events of *RED RISING*. Darrow, now 20, has been accepted by ArchGovernor Augustus and is set to begin further training

in the art of War at the Academy. He has heard nothing from the Sons of Ares, and is unsure of his role in the revolution - and even if the revolution still exists. The first few chapters of GOLDEN SON are very much like the second half of RED RISING - lots of wargames as Darrow continues his "studies" and attempts to one-up his ruthless competition. But once the novel really gets going, it evolves into an intense, devilishly-plotted political thriller that sheds a harsh light on the nature of humanity.

I read Red Rising in a matter of a few days and it was the same with Golden Son (which I picked up *immediately* after Red Rising). A lot of the things I liked about Red Rising were present in Golden Son, as well. The raw emotion we saw in the first 20% or so of book one were here, too, although it was a little more spaced out and there wasn't quite as much of it. But every time I was becoming a little less invested in the story, there'd be one of those moments where Darrow (the POV character, if you haven't read book one) would remember why he was doing what he was doing, what he was fighting for, something about his past, etc., and I'd be pulled right back in. I think characterization is a little uneven here, but that's the nature of any first-person POV book. Darrow is complex and intelligent and doesn't ever forget where he came from. However, he has conflicting emotions and he is most definitely NOT infallible. And he's walking a tight line -- he needs the support of his high-status (Gold) patron, but his own feelings tend towards "democratic" (to use the spelling from the book). There are some revelations about certain characters in the book that almost make me want to go back and read Red Rising again with this additional knowledge, to see if there were subtle clues in their behavior that pointed towards future events. One thing this book has going for it is that the villains who play main roles in the story are not one-dimensional. And you don't always know they're villains, until it's too late. Trust is a big issue here -- Darrow wants to trust people but sometimes chooses the wrong allies, sometimes shuts out people he shouldn't.

Right. SO . . . after finishing Golden Son did I: A. Shriek incomprehensibly. Over and over (and over) again. B. Sit in a semi-comatose state staring at NOTHING for an indefinite period of time. C. Explain (in detail) to my poor mother (whom I was visiting) EXACTLY what my problem was, despite her having never read either book from this series, and thus being unable to understand what I was ranting about. (That was a rhetorical question. Obviously, I did them ALL.) Pierce Brown, (handsome) devil that he is, lured us in a false sense of security in Red Rising. He taught us that, yes, Bad Things would happen---LOTS of Bad Things would happen---but by the end, we'd have found our feet. We'd know that there was more coming---and HOORAY for that---but the individual installment

would be resolved.

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