



BOOK REVIEW

Book Title	Beggar's Rebellion
Author	Levi Jacobs
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Stars	

I read this book as part of SPFB05. It is one of the 10 finalists.

Oh how I love this book. I couldn't put it down but at the same time I made sure I didn't rush through it because I wanted to savour it. It is the equivalent of eating a wonderful pizza with a great Montepulciano in an Italian restaurant on a warm summer night. Yes, it is *that* good!

In my blog I've written about the need for engaging characters to engage the audience and this book (along with two others mentioned here on the site) was the cause of the post. This book is an object lesson in engaging characters – it has so many of them. Levi Jacobs generates them with such ease. You could describe his main two protagonists, Tai and Ella, as traditionally heroic but that underplays the depth of their characters – they are far more complex than that. There are numerous other characters, some of them quite minor, that are equally as vivid. So much so that when death arrives it strikes the heart strings. At the same time, there are equally vivid antagonists, again often in quite minor roles. Yet they generate such hatred and loathing.

The threats Tai and Ella face are what makes the story really hum. The pace never lets up but it never becomes contrived. Always, without exception, those threats come from other characters and the pressures the world around them precipitates.

This is down to effective world building. Yet, as I point out in my blog, a major part of the success here is derived from a central premise – the magic. I've seen this type of magic before but the premise supporting it is highly original and clever. And speaks to the way in which it impacts on the characters too. It is so very clever!

I could rave about this book for its technical merits but instead I'll say that it is such an exciting and original read. I recommend it with every fibre of my being – which, admittedly is comprised mainly of pizza.