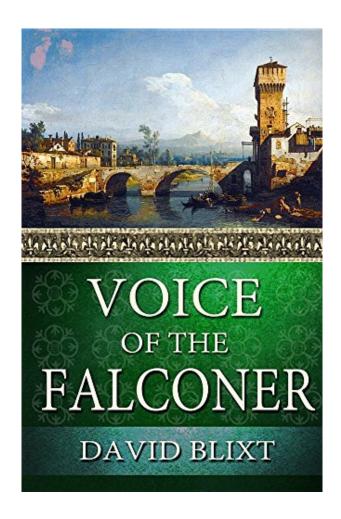
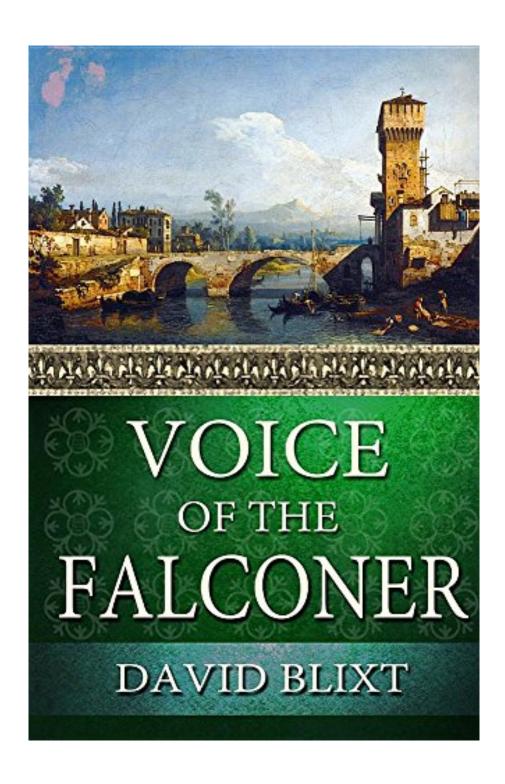
VOICE OF THE FALCONER (STAR-CROSS'D) BY DAVID BLIXT



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Review

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Italy, 1325. Eight years after the tumultuous events of THE MASTER OF VERONA, Pietro Alaghieri is living in exile in Ravenna, enduring the loss of his famous father while secretly raising Cesco, bastard heir to Verona's prince, Cangrande della Scala. But when word of Cangrande's death reaches him, Pietro must race back to Verona to prevent Cesco's rivals from usurping his rightful place. But young Cesco is determined not to be anyone's pawn. Willful and brilliant, he defies even the stars. And far behind the scenes is a mastermind pulling the strings, one who stands to lose - or gain - the most.

Born from Shakespeare's Italian plays, this novel explores the danger, deceit, and deviltry of early Renaissance Italy, and the terrible choices one must make just to stay alive.

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Published on: 2015-12-08
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.15" w x 5.51" l, 1.42 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 514 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

The sequel to Master of Verona finally arrives in a entertaining Romeo and Juliet re-boot (in this case, "the very early years")

By Scott Kennedy

I had to wait 4 and a half years to finally get my hands on this sequel to one of 2007's best books (The Master of Verona), and the results didn't disappoint.

This book, and its predecessor, undertake the task of presenting the feuding families of Romeo and Juliet in their historical context, namely, Verona under the rule of the legendary Cangrande della Scala. The previous book set up the political savvy of Cangrande and the basis for the fued between the Montagues and the Capulets. Blixt does a fine job of creating the historical environment of Verona at that time, and adds Dante's son and daughter as additional main characters in their own right. The book is also peppered with Shakespearean allusions throughout, from Petruchio of Taming of the Shrew to Shylock from Merchant of Venice.

But the star, and central achievement of this book, is the way it brings alive the character of Mercutio, in this book named Cesco, as a thirteen year old boy. Whenever Mercutio's on the page in this book, it soars with the vitality of that remarkable character and is a true joy to read. We also meet Tybalt as a frustrated teen in love with Lady Capulet (herself but a child), Romeo as a toddler, and Juliet as a newborn. I'm so happy someone of Blixt's skill has taken it upon himself to provide a sort of "Romeo and Juliet" re-boot and let us encounter these characters from their beginnings.

I had a one minor issue with the book, namely that the descriptions of physical character action was often so little as to be nonexistent, leading to many pages of pure dialogue. Countrary to this, descriptions of fights or dynamic chases was superb and enthralling, and Blixt's expertise as a fight choreographer really shows in ease with which he renders such moments vividly.

If you're looking for a fresh and entertaining historical fiction read in 2012, I'd recommend this highly.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

VOICE OF THE FALCONER, by David Blixt

By Amazon Customer

So how could you top MASTER OF VERONA, in terms of historical splendor, mystery, fast-moving pace and typically, a masterpiece? Well honestly, David Blixt did it again! I absolutely loved MASTER OF VERONA (my review here)- and as soon as I finished reading it, I immediately began VOICE OF THE FALCONER.

In this equally satisfying novel, Verona is at its prime. The story takes place a few years after Master of Verona, and it follows the life of Cesco, Cangrande's illegitimate son, with Pietro as his guardian. The mystery, intrigue and suspense are de rigueur throughout, but it's once it appears that Cangrande is dead that it gets particularly good. Pietro must get Cesco to be pronounced rightful heir...obstacles, obstacles and more...There is danger everywhere- and to boot- not everyone knows of Cesco's existence!

Great plot, lots of excitement, rich historical detail and a setting that is to die for (pun intended). A great story told by a brilliant author. VOICE OF THE FALCONER throws you into a capitulating series of events that keeps the suspense and momentum going, throughout. It's just one of those thriller type mysteries that just keeps on getting better page after page- and additionally it's rich in history and impeccably written. Most entertaining!

Read this- you absolutely MUST!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Write on!

By Lady Alexandra

I read "Master of Verona", the first book in the "Star Cross'd" series because it just popped up as a recommendation on my Kindle--and became immediately hooked. Luckily, "Voice of the Falconer" was immediately available, and is, if anything, even better than "MoV" because it builds on the exciting story and further develops the characters. Even if you do not like Shakespeare's most famous lovers (as I don't), this is a complete stand-alone saga that anyone can enjoy without being an expert on Shakespeare. I could not put this book down! The way David Blixt interweaves The Bard's more (and less) familiar characters, historical figures, and the characters of his own rich imagination is fascinating. He is truly a master of historical fiction, and I am so glad I discovered his wonderful universe, full of intrigue, humor, tragedy, hope, and everything else that makes for great literature.

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