

Frostblood

Elly Blake

Reviewed by: Sireen Mohammed, 14

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Frostblood is a gripping novel; once I began reading, there was no way I could stop until I was finished. Ruby Otrera, protagonist of Elly Blake's *Frostblood*, is a driven young woman willing to do whatever she needs to in order to avenge her mother. The novel begins with young Ruby attempting to secretly harness her fire powers in a land where firebloods are fugitives. Ruby's mother quickly puts an end to the practice, but it is too late; Ruby has been discovered. Ruby and her mother try to stand their ground, but to no avail; Ruby's mother is killed by the Frost king's soldiers and Ruby is put in prison.

Months fly by as Ruby tries to survive in the Frost king's prison. Her powers progressively weaken, and she feels herself losing hope, that is, until she is broken out. Ruby is slow to trust the frostbloods who break her out of jail; any experiences she has had with frostbloods have all been bad. Her rescuers claim to need her help with taking the Frost king down, and although there is nothing she wants more, she still does not know whether to believe them. Through weeks of training, healing, and learning with the monks she was brought to, she begins to trust the people who rescued her, one especially: Arcus. Arcus and Brother Thistle, the head of the monks, in return begin to trust Ruby as well.

They let Ruby in on their plan to take the Frost king down, and all seems to be well between everyone. The plan is set, and everyone knows what they need to do but the plan is thrown out the window when they are raided by the Fire king's soldiers. Ruby is the only one who escapes from the alley, but she ends up getting captured and taken to the king. Ruby is forced to improvise her way into taking the king down with the help of new friends who share the same goal. *Frostblood* is a very well written book with a gripping plot; I also love Ruby's character and Arcus's character development. I would highly recommend this book for young adults. I recommend checking this book out from your local library or even buying this book as a gift. This book would be a good read for children ages 11 and up.

Recommended Titles:

City of Bones, Cassandra Clare

Divergent, Veronica Roth

Chain of Gold, Cassandra Clare