

Fireblood

Elly Blake

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Fireblood, the sequel to Elly Blake's *Frostblood*, picks up with protagonist Ruby Otrera amid all the highest ranking frostbloods one could find. Being a fireblood herself, a person gifted with the power to create and control fire, she isn't exactly met with kindness. Many of the members of the Frostblood court despise her, partly because she killed the previous king and is much too close to the current king for their liking but also because she is the only fireblood in the entire kingdom; most view her as an annoyance or even a threat to their empire. Ruby herself wants nothing but peace and to stop the creature that's possessing innocent civilians (as well as having possessed the previous king) and killing others – the minax. Ruby tries her hardest to ignore the dirty looks she gets from some of the frost bloods in order to bring peace, but when she's offered an opportunity to go to the home land of firebloods and a chance to defeat the minax she's quick to seize it.

Ruby automatically feels at home surrounded by firebloods. She's taken to the palace where the queen has summoned her to; the queen believes she could be useful to take down the frostbloods, but Ruby would never help with that – she loves the frostblood king. Despite loving being surrounded by firebloods, all Ruby wants to do is destroy the minax (which she must do in secret in order to not raise alarm) and get back to Arcus (the fireblood king).

I loved reading the first book from this series, but I liked this one even better. Ruby's character and sense of identity was something she really struggled with and it was intriguing to watch it develop. As a minority, it's easy to relate to the identity crisis Ruby went through and comforting to watch her grow into the beautiful young woman she is. She had some tough decisions to make but the author did a really good job of tying the plot together and making it flow without any plot holes in it. I enjoyed reading this book and I recommend it for children ages 11 and up.

Recommended titles:

Frostblood, Elly Blake

City of Bones, Cassandra Clare

Iron Cast, Destiny Soria