



Black Ships

By Jo Graham

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"Haunting and bittersweet, lush and vivid, this extraordinary story has lived with me since I first read it." --Naomi Novik, author of *His Majesty's Dragon*

The world is ending. One by one the mighty cities are falling, to earthquakes, to flood, to raiders on both land and sea.

In a time of war and doubt, Gull is an oracle. Daughter of a slave taken from fallen Troy, chosen at the age of seven to be the voice of the Lady of the Dead, it is her destiny to counsel kings.

When nine black ships appear, captained by an exiled Trojan prince, Gull must decide between the life she has been destined for and the most perilous adventure -- to join the remnant of her mother's people in their desperate flight. From the doomed bastions of the City of Pirates to the temples of Byblos, from the intrigues of the Egyptian court to the haunted caves beneath Mount Vesuvius, only Gull can guide Prince Aeneas on his quest, and only she can dare the gates of the Underworld itself to lead him to his destiny.

In the last shadowed days of the Age of Bronze, one woman dreams of the world beginning anew. This is her story.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Graham's exquisite and bleak debut views the events of *The Aeneid* through the oracle Gull, a disciple of the Lady of the Dead. Taken to the Lady's temple after being lamed in a chariot accident, Gull quickly displays her power to see the future. Her first vision—black ships fleeing a burning city—lets her recognize Aeneas when he arrives after the fall of Wilusa (the Hittite name for Troy), hoping to save those sold into slavery. Gull joins Aeneas, and they take the few remaining people of Wilusa on a glorious journey to find their scattered brethren and a site where they can found a new city. Historians will admire Graham's deft blending of Virgil's epic story and historical fact, most notably the creation of Egyptian princess Basetamon to take the place of magnificently anachronistic Dido. Graham's spare style focuses on action, but fraught meaning and smoldering emotional resonance overlay her deceptively simple words. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author

Jo Graham works in Washington, DC, where she is the executive director of a partisan nonprofit. *Black Ships* is her debut novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry Major:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question because just their can do that will. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on guardería until university need this *Black Ships* to read.

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