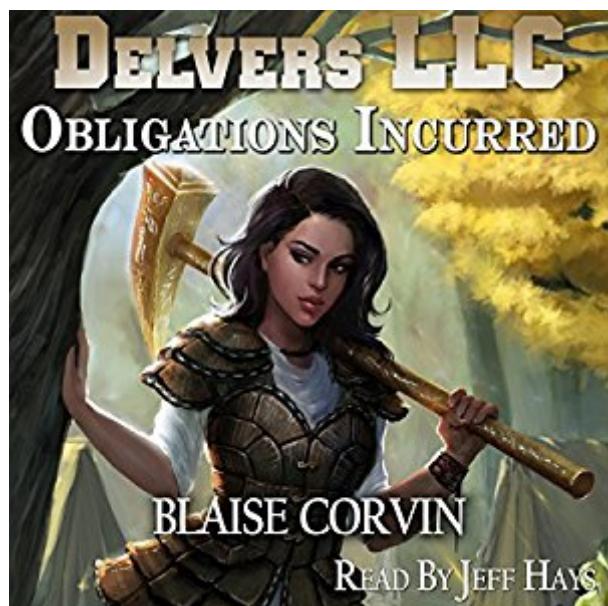


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Obligations Incurred: Delvers LLC, Book 2



Synopsis

Henry and Jason somehow survived being kidnapped to Ludus, a monster-filled, sword and sorcery world. They managed to make friends, pay their rent, and they even founded their own adventuring business, Delvers LLC. Unfortunately, by overcoming the odds and creating a reputation for themselves in such short time, monarchs and nobles have taken notice of the two men from Earth. Foreign, deadly struggles may be unavoidable for Delvers LLC. Henry and Jason are about to discover something even more dangerous than murderous monsters on Ludus: politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The sequel takes up right where the last one left off and is just as good, but overall feels a bit too short as very little actually happens. We get launched into a huge undertaking, but the book ends very abruptly as the main characters take the first steps towards their destination.

Just finished Delvers LLC books 1 and 2 by Blaise Corvin. 8/10 Great readsBeginning the books I was a little underwhelmed by the slower and extremely confusing first few chapters. The immediate onset of plot is a tool that needs precision and often fails as a hook. Beyond the first few chapters however (upon reaching the first town) the plot sped up nicely and the story was both gripping and smooth. The pacing was just enough to keep you reading, while not lacking in details. At the same time many of the descriptions balance the knives edge of vagueness to let the reader fill in the small details and really immerse themselves in the environment. The characters are where this book

begins to really shine. The two MC's are typical enough that we already fell as if we know them allowing us to focus on their interactions. While interacting with each other they can feel a little ham-fisted at times (usually for forced plot purposes) the interactions with the supporting cast is second to none. The range of cast, and the vibrancy with their personalities truly fleshes out the overall dynamic and gives oceans of depth to the emotions being played. I'm particularly surprised with the female characters being having such detailed growth, which is difficult, neigh impossible, for most male authors. I also particularly enjoy the change, of having a female-centric society, even if the story is written from the male fantasy standpoint (perhaps specifically because of the male fantasy viewpoint. Sue me, I like the concept.) The plot as a whole is fun filled and adventurous, paced in that anime sweet spot of giving us enough time to truly appreciate the small victories; but always alluding to the larger threat. Over time you come to feel as the characters are your own family and cheer their success's and weep for their struggles; always urging them onward to defeat the looming antagonist. I rate this book 8/10, a must read for those in the genre, and a highly recommended read for all fantasy nerds like me.

Obligations Incurred is a nice little entry into the Delvers LLC series with a few minor flaws which deserve to be talked about. Pretty much the same characterization, action, world-buildng, and general sense of fun from the first book continues onward. It's basically two college-aged men trapped in Azeroth along with their awesome elf (which is a racial slur it turns out) and human girlfriends. This time, much of the action is devoted to a mammoth battle scene which takes up a quarter of the book between our heroes and an EVIL party of adventurers which I think will delight those who like to see fantasy super-hero-esque fights. The relationships of the main characters grow a bit and I actually wish Blaise Corvin had focused more on the engagement of the characters as well as nuptials. I find the concept of them building noble hoses on worlds with a three-to-one female-to-male ratio interesting and would be intrigued by seeing what they manage to develop. For example, I personally am curious what sort of other woman would be picked for the household given Henry and Jason have no say in the matter. We also get some good insight into Dolos building a war against his fellow gods, all of whom actually seem to be worse than the arrogant Lawful Evil manchild--if you can believe that. The characterization of the leads regarding their commitment phobia to their love interests is cute for as long as it lasts as well as their problems relating to the values the rest of the universe follows. I also appreciated the greater emphasis on the two women in the group as they are arguably more interesting than the leads and work extremely well as co-stars. Keeja goes from being a somewhat gamebreaking (literally) character to a protagonist in her own

right as well. The anti-heroes (literally) in the opposing adventuring party are well-developed for their brief screen-time and you get the sense that being "dungeon delvers" slowly drives the majority of Terrans insane in this world. The Governor, for example, is a bombastic presence which would fit in many an RPG as a dwarf queen but is really just someone who has learned to live in a world where you can't talk softly even if you have a big stick. The fact the anti-heroes almost manage to kill the party repeatedly but have their own crippling personality flaws makes them very rounded villains. There is a small problem in the book with the character of Thirsty who is a black drag queen (not transexual) homosexual. This is not the fact he is any one of these things. No, it's the fact Thirsty is annoying. He doesn't really bring much to the group other than annoying the two surprisingly homophobic female leads or encouraging a protectiveness from the male leads. If he was a spellcaster or brought some new insight to the world, it'd be different but he doesn't have much dialogue in the story nor seems to possess any special abilities. As such, he qualifies as what TV tropes.org calls "The Load." Even so, I'm very eager to continue the next book and Dolos knows I love the characters. I also want to give extra credit to the artist for the beautiful cover of the book. It manages to evoke a WOW-esque beauty but much better than the actual art for that game. I'm reminded of Jennifer Connolly and that's never a bad thing. 9/10

BC's Delvers 2 is a fantastic book that I strongly recommend anybody interested in fantasy or LitRPG read! Sequels can always be iffy but Delvers 2 is a solid improvement and I enjoyed it more than I did the first book in the series. I've seen a number of negative reviews regarding a gay character in the book, so let me clarify on one very important point: that character made this book. This particular character is absolutely hilarious and my most favored moments were the scenes with this character. The original introduction can be construed as BC pushing the LGBTQ agenda, but as I thought about it it really made sense to provide the level of detailed explanations that he did as the MCs are trying to explain a wholly different culture to the Ludites. Loved the book, thanks for the fun!

I recently submitted a critical review of the first Delvers, now I wish I could take it back. Obligations Incurred is a fabulous improvement. I highly recommend the Delvers LLC series to all fantasy readers, yes, and even those who are not yet hooked Will enjoy. Unlike so many of this relatively new gamer stuff, one doesn't have to be a gamer to understand it and really get into it. If you like adventure, this is it, no matter that it resembles a game board. I wish I'd bought the entire series to begin with, this from another published novelist. Can't wait to dive into Adventure Capital.

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