



Firebird

L.K. Rigel

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Firebird

L.K. Rigel

Firebird L.K. Rigel

The King of Garrick wants to kill her.

The King of Allel wants to love her.

And shapeshifters stole her baby's soul!

In a world where natural-born offspring are essential to the ruling dynasties, Mallory of Settlement 20 was blessed with fertility by the goddess Asherah and destined to become a pampered and protected chalice..

Born to poverty and hunger, Mal now lives in Red City. She's trained to detach from the world so she can serve humanity, but her firebird totem lands her in a power struggle between the city-states of Allel and Garrick. Soon Mal's feelings for one king threaten everything she's worked for, shatter her fundamental beliefs, and reveal her true destiny.

Firebird Details

Date : Published March 14th 2011

ISBN :

Author : L.K. Rigel

Format : Kindle Edition 494 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Romance

 [Download Firebird ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Firebird ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Firebird L.K. Rigel

From Reader Review Firebird for online ebook

Erika says

3.75/5

My previously published review on Part 1- Blue Amber (4/5): <http://100starsorless.blogspot.com/20...>

My thoughts on Part 2 – Chalice and Part 3 – Dragon & Phoenix

I've been looking forward to Bleeder ever since I picked up my copy of Space Junque some time last fall. That being said, I had a lot of expectations going into this. L.K. Rigel has succeeded for the most part in fulfilling those expectations.

Once again, the world building is magnificent. Every time I pick up a new one of these books a whole new slice of the world is expanded upon and I just become more and more fascinated by it. It's like looking at the world through a straw in Space Junque, through a key hole in Spiderwork, a window in Blue Amber, and now a door. I'm always amazed at just how complex and interesting the people and places can get.

The characters are fantastic. Mallory's growth and development and the way L.K. Rigel has made me feel about her is so wonderful. It's very refreshing to have a character not just where I feel sorry for her or want to get what she wants, but one that to the very end I just feel pride in. Garrick and Edward are both real hotties and loved having that evil vs good thing going on here. Although Garrick is maybe a little bit too evil and I was hoping just a little that this Garrick wouldn't be. But he did keep the story really interesting. And I couldn't quite figure out if Edward's plans for his city were good or bad but that kept the story really interesting as well.

As for the Gods Asherah and Samael, and the empanii, I'm just not sure. I kind of didn't like Asherah in this one. She just seemed jealous and needy. Especially when she went on her rants about Samael. I didn't like how she refused to tell Mallory what was going on with her either. I liked Father Jesse, Samael's priest probably the most out of all the authority figures in the story, probably because there is so much mystery surrounding who he is, but that was a little confusing since I was so on Asherah's side up until Bleeder! The empanii story was really interesting. I just kept thinking "what are they up to?" the entire time which made me want to keep reading even more.

My biggest problem of all though was I found so much of the timeline just so confusing! I'm not sure why I had such a big problem with this but I did. My concern probably lay with the quarantine. This just isn't really explained very well. I couldn't tell when the women were pregnant and which man they were with in some parts of the story. Then the addition of the empanii interacting with the characters just made this even more confusing than it was. If it wasn't for this part, Bleeder would be getting a much higher rating from me.

Overall, this was such a wonderful, empowering story to read. I felt like the women really were in control of their own destinies, the characters were charming and fascinating to watch, and the story itself was filled to the brim with so much to ponder – something I always look forward to when choosing a book.

Rating: 3/5

Overall rating for all three parts: 3.75/5

Laura says

Yes! After having my interest piqued with Space Junque and Spiderwork, this book finally delivers on the promises those two novellas make. I was almost immediately sucked into this book, and where I found the two prequel novellas enjoyable but lacking a bit of depth, this book was just right. Rigel made me care about what happened to Mallory and Edmund, and I found myself biting my nails and rushing through to the end to find out what would happen to them. Up until the very end I was worried about how it would all play out. The questions raised in this book aren't new, but Rigel handled them in a way that was interesting.

This book was both frustrating and wonderful. Frustrating in that certain topics central to the story are somewhat uncomfortable to think about, such as fertility as a commodity to be bought and sold. Mallory is a chalice, a fertile female who will essentially be "rented" to different countries to produce heirs. She doesn't really have a choice in the matter - if a girl turns out to be fertile, she is sent to the Red City to be prepared for the life of a chalice just as Mallory was. It was wonderful though because the world felt so real and was peopled with such interesting characters. I can't remember the last time I was so absorbed in something I was reading because I just didn't know what would happen next; this book constantly had me wondering what twist or turn was around the corner.

One small thing - at the beginning, I kept confusing Celia and Claire because their names look so similar and both are associated with Allel, so I had to go back and re-read sections to make sense of what was going on.

Kim says

It's been a long time since I've read a book I literally couldn't put down. I read the first two Apocalypso stories by L.K. Rigel, and thought they were very inventive. I appreciated that I was finally reading something different, and good. The stories were short, and I remember thinking that there were places that could use some expansion, and maybe just a little more development.

Then Firebird came along. 800+ e-pages of pure, fantastical enjoyment. I was pulled into Mallory's story from the first pages of the book, and just couldn't let go until I read the very last sentence. The characters were intriguing and had depth. Rigel built on the history of the world she introduced in her first two books. The plot was enjoyable, and the subject matter riveting. I was very sad to see the end of the story.

I'm hoping that she is going to write another book in to continue the series. She hints at things for the future world in Firebird that I can't wait to read about!

Emme says

My word! I loved this book. I had no idea what I was getting into when I "borrowed" Space Junque and Spiderwork. I certainly wasn't prepared for Bleeder, the third installment in LK Rigel's Postapocapunk (love that name!/Apocalypso series.

Ok, if you follow my reviews, you know I don't spend any time retelling the story, but try to get right to my likes and dislikes about a work.

Let me start with what I didn't like...

I didn't like that Bleeder did not immediately follow the action of Spiderwork (Apocalypto #2). But that's not saying much, because I was disappointed when Spiderwork didn't immediately follow the action of Space Junque. This is a petty quibble, I know. See, I'm very invested in apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic storytelling. In my dreams (and nightmares), I frequently find myself having to deal with The End-- and I feel stories of this sort are somehow preparing me to face those challenges when the times comes, by throwing every imaginable scenario at me so I can learn what to do (and not do). Yeah, I should probably lay off the burritos just before bedtime!

Ok, so my first dislike is rather petty. Are there other issues? Only other petty ones. There were many times in this story where I was a bit lost-- my olden brain can't always keep with so many characters and factions in such a (mostly) fast-moving tale. I can say, though, that by the end, I was able to keep up-- but a family tree and a glossary of terms in the end would have been most helpful.

Oh, there's just one more small thing. Ok, maybe it's really a big thing. For the longest time in this story, I was not pro-Mal(lory)! I couldn't be! I just couldn't. Mal could not help the circumstances of her birth nor her upbringing. But I still found myself judging her. Take her blithe acceptance of her role as a bleeder and a chalice, once she was in the Red City. Well, that's not a 21st Century feminist perspective (which is a really amusing objection from me since I don't really consider *myself* a 21st Century feminist...hehehe). But that Mal, and her journey, grew on me. And while I wistfully longed that she would have gotten a greater sense of agency earlier in the story, I am satisfied with how she, and her story turned out.

So, what did I like about this story?

Just about everything else! I particularly love that the research of Nikola Tesla prominently figures into the futuristic developments in Bleeder and the two previous novellas. I thought that the story of Char's sister, Skye would ever remain a mystery to us. We get an idea of what happened to Skye and the Tesla project-- though I still want to know more details about Skye's life underground and what that life might tell us about Tesla's work and the goddess Asherah's doings. Hopefully, we'll be filled in on those aspects in the future (sequels,???)

Ah, the romance! There was a sweet, sweet romance building in Bleeder, in spite of the prohibitions of the Chalice-life that Bleeders (menstruating, potential-childbearers) lead in this story. I love the world-building in terms of establishing the Chalice "hubs", as well as the princely class. The Chalicees are highly sexualized, and have hardly any sentimental, romantic ideas (about men or babies... is that where our own age is leading us where sex, love and motherhood are concerned?). The commodification of female wombs and sexuality-- there's enough there to fuel book club debates for many weeks to come! So, with all that going on, how does this become a love story? You've got to read it to find out-- and it isn't as simple as you would think.

The stratification of the peoples. Now that's another topic that generates a lot of thought. At the beginning of Bleeder I was disappointed that the survivors of 21st century had reassembled under such medieval ideas. They left behind the warring environmental and religious terrorists of their apocalypse and settled for kingdoms and fiefdoms? *shaking my head* Huh? Even the most benevolent royals (Edmund and Harold, for instance) are paternalistic in their rule, and are as subject to the rules of the society as monarchs from ages past. I guess I had high hopes that if there was a World War III dustup that we'd come out more egalitarian in the process(though I think that having power over technology, as two of the cities do in this story, means POWER in a post-apocalyptic world). The author doesn't fill in all the dots from the apocalypse of Space Junque to Mal's age, so we don't know exactly why things have turned out this way-- but we know the meddling of goddess Asherah and the Chalice Sisters has a great deal to do with it.

Other delectable, debatable subjects in this story? How about the existence of the soul-- and spirit. What

makes us "human," and what part does having a soul play in defining our humanity (or inhumanity, in some cases). What are angels? Who and/or what is god or God? Or even gods, as the case may be.

The villain. You have to have a villain, right? I'm always attracted to the bad boys-- even when they are most dastardly! Garrick did not disappoint (well, until the very end...). Up to a point, he seemed a bit more complex than most villains in the paranormal romance/urban fantasy genre. I don't want to give too much away, but "crazy" isn't usually enough of an explanation for me.

Ok, this review is almost as long as the novella Space Junque, that got this all started. Quickly, the various characters really appealed to me-- the "hubbies," the Counselors and KP's, the Pala Clan, the Empani (how creepy are they, eh?) The settings were vivid and it was a little reassuring that some of the places of our time (perhaps in name or landmarks, only) have survived.

Enough already! I could rave rave rave on about this book. One caveat, though-- read Space Junque and Spiderwork before this one-- though those books throw a lot of world-building at you in a short time. You'll appreciate the brilliance of Bleeder all the more for having started from the beginning of... The End.

Marlene says

Mal, who lives in a rather primitive and dangerous settlement of Garrick, knows long hours of work and endless hunger. When an emissary from Red City arrives and Mal is determined to be a Bleeder, Mal's life changes, for she is to be taken to Red City and trained to become a Chalice, a woman who will carry children for royalty. On the way to Red City, the emissary and her contingent stop at Allel, to determine if another girl is, also, a Breeder. While there, Mal meets Prince Emund of Allel and Prince Garrick of Garrick, both handsome and destined to play a role in her life.

Ms. Rigel creates a unique and vivid world filled with political intrigue, fantasy, and action, coupled with a great love story. Mal, who trades a life of poverty for one of luxury, is trapped in a gilded cage, although she doesn't realize it at first. Forced to bare children for the highest bidder, her life is one of ceremonies and duty, but she, slowly, discovers a need for something more than the duty to which she was brainwashed. Edmund is a truly great hero, for he is strong, sympathetic, protective, and loving. I became totally caught up in Edmund and Mal's plight and found myself on the edge of my seat awaiting the outcome.

All in all, Bleeder is a wonderful read, and I highly recommend it, for its imaginative world-building and superb love story.

Beverly says

Creative, Imaginative, clever and well written! Well worth a read - be sure to check it out!!!

My thoughts:

What to say about this story...it's like nothing I have ever read before. Mallory starts her life as an orphan and becomes a bleeder, then a chalice. This is a whole new spin to surrogate mother. The chalices are trained in

many things from history and religion to self defense and kama sutra. They are trained to control their emotions as well as their bodies, so in tune that they can change their body temperature to control fertilization as well as gender! I can't imagine it.

The characters are extraordinary. Their personalities are well planned and the descriptions are vivid and colorful. I found myself cringing when Durga or Jordana came around and smiling every time Edmund came on the scene. The tattoos that people all had - for various reasons - were a great addition. I found that I truly connected with the idea behind the meanings and their placement (laughed out loud at the talon tat that Mal got!).

The story is so well written that it was easy to get lost in the lives of the characters. The variations in the classes is interesting and well done. There are so many kinds of people in so many forms of service. The author is truly both creative and a talented writer.

The world building is fantastic. The author appears to have matched each place with the people who live there. Garrick - unkind, corrupt, and power hungry as a person. Garrick the country is polluted, unclean, and inhabited by people who never have enough (not even enough food). Allel is green and clean, accepting of all who live there regardless of social station and ruled by Edmund who is kind, generous, selfless, and dedicated. The Red City is home to the chalices, bleeders, and sisters. It has the best of everything, but expects everything in return and is power hungry in its own way.

The hinted at battle between the goddess Asherah and the god Samael was an intriguing element to the story, as was the whole Princess Mallory legend. There is betrayal and loyalty, evil and love, as well as mystery and romance. This story has a little bit of everything.

My favorite thing is that there is so much human nature in the story. You watch as the characters determine who to trust and what is right, as opposed to what is expected by law or duty.

Crissy says

BEST BOOK OF THE SERIES!

Stephanie says

Wow!

First I'm gonna say this . . . I am very much a "judge a book by its cover" person. I know it's wrong, I know I should change it . . . but I can't. When I see a beautiful cover it makes me think what the story behind will tell.

The cover to this book is just beautiful! In fact I am loving the "firebird" and thinking that would be an awesome next tattoo.

This story picks up a little later down the line from where Space Junque and Spiderwork left off. The pages turn to reveal new twists and turns. Leaving the reader sometimes wondering what the heck just happened. Never fear, everything seems to have a reason/purpose . . . even if you don't see it right away. Mallory shows you in great detail her life events right up to the end. Step into her shoes and get to know her friends and

family, and the story that tells their tale.

This series was a wonderful surprise for me, and one I'm so glad I picked up to read. Do yourself a favor and pick up a copy for yourself, you won't be disappointed.

Reena Jacobs says

I don't rate books very often, but I have to say, this was a wonderful read... very thought provoking while touching on tough subjects. 4.5 - 5 out of 5 stars. Expect my review May 9, 2011 on my blog:
<http://reenajacobs.com/blog/2011/05/n...>

Cathy says

This "postapocopunk romance" is the last of the apocopunk trilogy. This was by far my favorite - after I got into it.

It actually starts about 100 years after the action in the first two books. It was a little disconcerting at first to have all new characters (a very few survived) to get to know.

We learned more about the Red City, city of the chalices (bleeders) who are tasked with helping to repopulate the world after environmental disaster. The politics of the Concord between city-states are heating up at the same time Red City may be losing its hold on the world.

Teams of Inquiry continue to be sent out from Red City to check on various cities. But it is apparent that they can be deceived. The "good" city, Allel, is deep into recovery of pre-disaster technology and hiding it from the world until the time is right for revelation.

But, most importantly, we meet Mallory, so-called settlement trash who is a bleeder. More bleeders are being discovered out in the world and the human race continues. But Mal is accepted into Red City where she will become the consort of kings until her contracted six births are accomplished.

Her first contract is disastrous. She gives birth to the first required female child but learns some things about herself. She may not be settlement trash after all. And her king/consort may be planning some horrible things.

No more since I don't want to include any spoilers but I will say that the story has a most satisfying conclusion. I quite enjoyed it.

Like book two there was a little too much emphasis on the acquisition of souls but not nearly as much as book two. In some ways it was a little essential to this story. Highly recommended but read books one and two first. They are fast reads.

Stacey says

Unlike the first two novellas in this series, which leaned much more towards SF/F than Romance, *Bleeder* is unapologetically a Happily Ever After (or Happy For Now) romantic fiction. Still, I think it would be a mistake to classify it completely as either Paranormal Romance, or Urban Fantasy, and in truth, I probably never would have read this except for the strong science fiction and fantasy influences that were present in *Space Junque* and *Spiderwork*.

All of this makes *Bleeder* both wonderfully and frustratingly unexpected.

Wonderfully: I am not a particular fan of the romance genre, for many reasons, primarily because beyond my teens (when I read mostly gentle classics,) I've read so few romances that were worth my time, being jammed full of brainless twits making bad decisions, having clichéd misunderstandings, in ridiculous situations, and still getting the guy (or girl) in the end. *Bleeder* had no brainless twits, although it did sport the requisite underdeveloped villain-as-catalyst. In fact, the story relied on very few of the typical romance ploys to move the story along, instead it developed an actual story – the remaking and recovery of a destroyed and nearly barren world – told from a limited viewpoint. As such, it works very well to drive a satisfying romance.

Frustratingly: There are such Big Ideas in this story. You have the concept of womb slavery, an idea that Margaret Atwood treated with such disrespect in *The Handmaid's Tale*. You have caste systems, and environmentalism. Oh gods! you have emergent religions! progressive and regressive politics! Eugenics! But each of these ideas are seen as if through the window of a speeding train. It was these ideas that really got me excited about the story, and ultimately so, so frustrated at the tease.

That's not to say I didn't enjoy the story. In fact, I enjoyed the hell out of it. The writing is excellent, and the lack of clichéd expressions in a romance novel, refreshing. Storyline loose-ends from the previous novellas were definitely addressed, deftly woven into the story. Definitely recommended.

Tishia (Paperback Opinion) says

Bleeder is the 3rd book in the Apocalypto series. It's a deep, complex story about a girl named Mallory (Mal) who is a chalice. In this world, there are very few fertile women. If you are lucky enough to have your period, then you are considered a Bleeder and must live in Red City. Here, the girls are well cared for – these are the women that will keep the world population from dying out. Once they reach a certain age, they become a chalice and they are basically sold to the highest bidder to have sex with until they become pregnant. The men who bid on the chalices are princes who are wanting to produce heirs.

It is an honor to these women to become a chalice. It is their duty to keep the human race going. To them, having sex with a prince is just a business transaction. They are trained to not have emotions. They are not supposed to fall in love with a prince. Of course, a person can't fully turn off their feelings, no matter how hard they try.

I had to keep reminding myself that the world is completely different at this point in time. Their way of life is just bizarre to me. For example, these chalices don't have any contact with the children they have – and they don't want to. They are raised to believe it is wrong to have a relationship with the children they produce. They are like machines – they do the deed, produce a child, and move on to the next bidder.

I thought that the first 1/3 or so of the book was a bit slow. It starts off with Mal at age 13, the age where she starts getting her period. She lives on a settlement, and is very filthy and poor. Her whole world changes when she is taken to Red City. There, it is like living in luxury. A romance doesn't blossom until much later in the book. As I've said before, I'm a romance addict. When Mal meets Prince Edmund for the first time, she automatically feels a connection. Later, when she has sex with him, it lacks passion. Besides trying to conceive a baby, they rarely spend any time together. It really was a nice love story in this book, I just wanted more from them.

I found myself confused a lot during this book. There was just a lot of confusing phrases, rules, etc... I also thought there were too many characters to keep straight. The writing was wonderful though, and the author

was very imaginative at building this world that is so unlike our own.

Sarah (Workaday Reads) says

Set several generations after the other books in the series, it focuses on Mallory. She`s a chalice from a small settlement in Garrick who captures the attention of both Garrick, the King of Garrick and Edmund, the King of Allel. Her struggles are amplified when a rumour starts that she is the lost descendent of the last Imperial Emperor. Will Mal survive to discover the truth of her past?

After the short novellas comprising the series so far, this full length book is a surprise. It is a chance to delve into a complex, detailed story that really sticks with you.

Mal is a simple girl from a primitive settlement. When she is discovered to be a "bleeder", her whole world changes. Suddenly she is one of the treasured chalices, and must learn a whole new way of living. Her transformation is very realistic and believable. Her thoughts ring true as a simple girl caught in a new, unknown world.

I loved the references to parts of the previous books. Tesla technology (from book 1) is quite important in Allel, and to the plot. Durga and chalice world (from book 2) forms the core of this book. This makes reading the series in order very important.

Like the other books, there are a very steamy erotic scenes. Being a longer book with more detail, there are a few more of these scenes than in the previous books.

Overall, this was a great book in the series, one that signaled a change from novella to full-length novel with great success.

Julie says

Bleeder is unlike any story I have ever read. It is a story of a post apocalyptic world where only a select few females have been given the gift of fertility. They are given the highest rank in the world and lavished with anything they desire. There is only one draw back. They are not allowed to fall in love. They must produce their offspring and move on to the next contract. This system works for a while but inevitably the roles of these women become more than at least one of them can bear.

I loved this story. I loved all the information we learn in this book. It answered some questions I had from the first two books but I hope there are more installments because I still have more!

This book makes you put aside your own belief system. It takes a look at the world from a completely different perspective.

Kristen says

GENRE: Fantasy Romance
THEME: Magic

RECEIVED: Received for Review from Author

BLOG: <http://seeingnight.blogspot.com/>

REVIEW:

I really enjoy a book that gets me riled up and in a good way. Bleeder is definitely a book that liked to kick my emotions in gear with hating characters and situation, but loving others in the process. I talked to a good friend of mine about this book and we had an hour discussion in what we would do in the situation that Mallory the main character is put in. This truly shows the impact that Rigel's story had on me.

Mallory is a young girl who has been chosen for a rare and important position in her world. She is a Chalice, a female who is fertile and might one day provide an heir to a king in one of the main cities. But Mal's life gets a bit more difficult when rumors of her past change her pampered life and she is chosen for a whole new destiny.

Bleeder discusses a topic of women used as a way for high society men to get heirs. There were quite a few explicit scenes that I wasn't prepared for, but it made me understand the life of a Chalice. Their life is challenging, competitive, and extremely heartbreaking if you fall in love. I really pulled for Mallory to be happy she's the definition of survivor and really has so many obstacles that are preventing her from being who she is.

The King of Allel is a key character in Mal's life, he's someone who makes her stronger and knows how special she is. I really was fond of him as a character and as a male who really didn't abuse with his power as some could in his position. Mal and the King had really great scenes together and some hot scenes that made me need to fan myself.

The King of Garrick, is what I would call a chauvinistic bully and an intriguing villainous character. He too is a key character for Mal and not in a friendly way. He was the main character who really made me dislike him and sometimes situations that Mal put herself in with him, made me angry with her.

Overall at times I was a little overwhelmed at times with how much information was given and trying to keep track of what was going on. But I felt that Rigel created a unique world and characters that really made me pull for Mal to have a happy ending. I recommend this to science fiction fantasy fans and those who enjoy some romance mixed in.