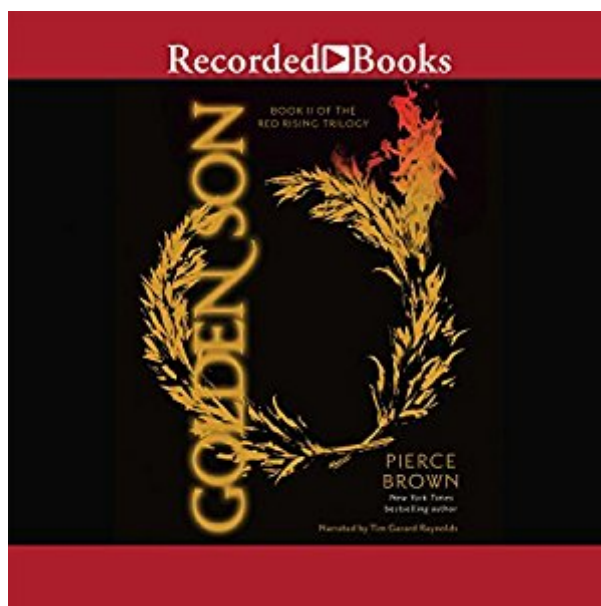


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Golden Son: Book II Of The Red Rising Trilogy



Synopsis

With shades of *The Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game*, and *Game of Thrones*, debut author Pierce Brown's genre-defying epic *Red Rising* hit the ground running and wasted no time becoming a sensation. *Golden Son* continues the stunning saga of Darrow, a rebel forged by tragedy, battling to lead his oppressed people to freedom from the overlords of a brutal elitist future built on lies. Now fully embedded among the Gold ruling class, Darrow continues his work to bring down Society from within. A life-or-death tale of vengeance with an unforgettable hero at its heart, *Golden Son* guarantees Pierce Brown's continuing status as one of fiction's most exciting new voices.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Golden Son continues the story of Darrow, a deep-undercover agent of the low-caste Reds, who is uniquely positioned among the high-caste Golds, and is trying to sow discord in an effort to restructure the society that keeps his people as slaves. It's the second book in the *Red Rising* trilogy, and is as exciting as the first. The series strikes at the fundamental core of our American independence - free will. Many stories have been told of dystopic societies that paint a worrisome future for us if we "continue down the path we're on." Most of them have oppressive regimes that all feel they are doing what is necessary to keep the peace. Look to *Star Wars* and *The Hunger Games*, to name just a few. These stories take our fundamental desire for free will and suppress it in a structure that appeals to the reader on a visceral level. Brown does a remarkable job of playing with the reader's emotions, to the point where one takes personal offense at the content of the story.

This draws the reader in and attaches themselves to the fate of the characters, willing the characters to make the right choices and make the same decisions the reader would make. You're all but cheering along with the victories, and weeping with the tragedies. The world Brown has built is rich and expansive. Not just the planetary scale of characters, but the depth with which the society has been carefully constructed to serve the story and reflect history. There's enough for everyone to relate to from a historical perspective, and yet it's easy to become lost in the overwhelming "now" of the narrative. *Golden Son* is as amazing as *Red Rising*; the story is relentless and engaging, if not a bit predictable. Just a bit, though. There are patterns that must be followed of course, but you'll still enjoy the ride the entire time.

Overview: Begins ~1-2 years following the events in *Red Rising*. Darrow continues trying to establish his presence in society and gain notoriety/power. But the Son's of Ares and Cassius's brood are stirring in the background... how long can the pressure build before the pot explodes?+ Continues the overarching themes and ideas from the first book. Generally speaking, if you like the first one you should like this one. The book has enough negatives that it should be 3 stars... but it reads sooo good that I can't do it.+/- Slightly more political than the first book.- The main issue in the book is the time-lapse. It is handled extremely poorly. It almost seems like I missed a 1.5 novel. Darrow has established relationships with other people, gained new friends, and somehow ended his relationship with Mustang by the time we catch back up with him. Not to mention he has undergone a ton of training and other trials---- some of which are not even brought up until the end of the book.- By the end of the book characters have started become repetitive. We see the same character cycle with at least 3 characters in a row.- This book has missing plot elements- minor plot spoiler (I try to be vague): [There is a point in the book where the protagonists are trying to martial forces because they don't have enough. But it backfires and they lose a bunch instead. But then they are able to carry out the plan with less forces...even though they couldn't before. 3-1=5. Apparently.

While it starts off with an engaging encounter turning everything achieved in *Red Rising*™ on its head, immediately after, the narrative fell into that long-winded flat tone I found at the beginning of *Red Rising*.™ The story is interesting but the writing style is not so compelling for me. Pierce can have such a meaningful and succinct turn of phrase that really resonates... and then waffle for pages on mundane happenings. It's really frustrating to sing his praises when I find times I'm so bored I'd rather wait for my dog to fart for entertainment. So, after

131 pages, I had to put the book down and walk away. Reading three other novels before returning for a second wind. And then it is all so interesting and so political... but that went hand in hand with wavering engagement. With many long difficult character names (and there are lots of them) and such macabre machinations I only got another 100 pages before I needed another rest. Slow pacing and a dry narrative are killing me! The story is great. Complex characters. Political chess playing manoeuvres. Power plays. It has all the ingredients I usually love in a novel but it just didn't sell me. I found my interest waning a number of times, bogged down with too much detail, too much padding to the main story line in a barren narrative tone. And then, like a switch had been flipped, I was back into it again. It was as if only half of the book really grabbed me and the other half put me to sleep. Talk about polarising. I took just under a month to read *Golden Son* and managed to read another eleven novels in between. I'm hoping it was just a second-book-syndrome thing. Because I liked *Red Rising* and can imagine the finale to be explosive. Especially after the hype this series has received. I don't think I'm all that emotionally invested in the characters, they are all about war and revenge and playing a long game to end oppression. That leaves little room for softness and building trust and love outside the harsh landscape - I guess that's why I kept putting the book down because it was so hard to digest knowing that they all turn on each other. My favourite scene was that of Darrow with his mother. It was the first emotional connection I'd gotten to the series - even in comparison to the death of Eo. Here's hoping it gets better... I really want to love this series.

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