



Serpent's Quest

Book One of the [Lycan Blood](#) series.

Janrae Frank

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About The Book: Red Wolf was the strongest of the Nine Great Chiefdoms of the lycan clans, which had long suffered under the yoke of the blood-drinking sa'necari necromancers. Thirty years ago, the realm of the sa'necari, Waejontor, was conquered by the amazon nation, Shaurone. The Sharani brought the lycan people three decades of peace and freedom that is now threatened by the sudden rise to power of a young Waejontori Queen.

Clan Redhand, the family that rules Red Wolf, is plunged into danger when a sa'necari bounty hunter and mercenary named Malthus Estrobian arrives in their valley, posing as a human refugee from the battles beyond their borders. Unknown to them, Malthus is the "Butchering Serpent", the genocidal mastermind behind the hidden laboratories where hundreds of lycans perished in vicious experiments. He infiltrates Red Wolf with two goals in mind: find out what happened to his brother, Troyes, who disappeared in the valley several years ago; and destroy the Redhand family in order to subjugate Red Wolf for his queen.

The only person standing between Malthus and his objectives is a young guardsman with a concealed heritage: Kynyr Maguire. Trained by the greatest armsmaster the lycans have ever known, and educated well beyond the norm for his kind, Kynyr must find a way to defeat the dark arts of the Butchering Serpent or see his people destroyed, including the woman he loves.



About The Author (from janraefrank.com): I wrote my first novel at eighteen, *The Moonstone of Reyanon*. I carried a pen and a pad of paper around with me for years while working on it. The entire time I was terrified of people finding out what I was doing, lest they make fun of me. If someone asked, I told them, I'm working on a secret project. Eventually, having completed it, I put it aside for other writing attempts. I still did not feel it was right yet and desperately wished for a mentor, someone I could safely allow to see it. I went to college at the local junior college and worked off and on. I lived with Mama and Papa and spent a lot of time doing the driving and shopping for them as well as several other elderly relatives. One day I saw this ad for an

exclusive New York women's college and I impulsively sent the novel along with my application to the admissions office. I got a call from both the Dean of Admissions and the President of the College, asking me to come. There I found my mentor, Paul Kane, who was poet-in-residence. I learned more from him than I have during the rest of my life. Paul went on to earn a Guggenheim fellowship in 1998. We're still in touch.

A year later I sold my first story, *The Ruined Tower*, to Jessica Amanda Salmonson. Moonstone sold to Donning/Starblaze, a small publisher with a good reputation. Then came *Amazons!* edited also by Jessica. Five stories about Chimquar the Lionhawk appeared in print in less than two years. Then personal matters intervened and I moved from fiction into editorial, journalism and freelancing. Now I have a collection of the Chimquar stories out from Wildside Press and my life has come full circle again. It feels good.

What Others Say About *Serpent's Quest*:

"Janrae Frank is more than a writer, she is a world-builder. *Serpent's Quest* defies the limitations of genre because it is bigger than any one label can contain. It's an epic adventure, filled with unbridled horrors and sweeping romance, but more than that, *Serpent's Quest* is populated by characters who are visceral and alive. *Serpent's Quest* captivates you not only because of its larger than life drama, but because you become invested in the world as a living and breathing place."

– Bob Freeman, author of the *Cairnwood Manor* series

"The prose is tight, the characters utterly believable, and the plot is so fast and slick it threatens to run you over like a steamtrain. An incredible piece of storytelling."

– Gareth Owens, author of *Fun With Rainbows*

"Janrae Frank's books are always something I grab the moment I have the chance. They are wonderful reads, well written, dense and richly evocative. She makes the reader see the worlds and characters which she has created and want always to see more of them as well. Her work is brilliant, hard-hitting, and the sort of thing I for one tend to be reading still at 2am since I can't put it down until I know how things are going to turn out."

– Lyn McConchie, author of *Beast Master's Ark*

Three time winner of the *Sir Julius Vogel Award* for Best Science Fiction Novel



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