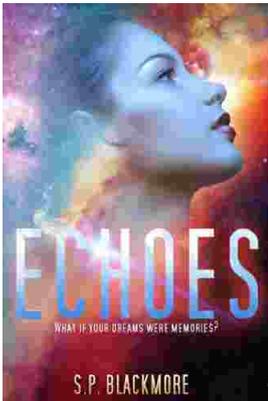


Echoes



Echoes

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4/5 From 534 Reviews

S.P. Blackmore

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 3.5 / 5.0 - A good read. By J Bryden Lloyd
Book Review: Echoes by S P Blackmore Reviewed by J Bryden Lloyd
Writing Style - 3.5/5.0 (Good) I have to say that the writing feels comfortable and settled, but the flow feels tense. It's as if the ideas and the key events were very loosely linked and the author is racing between them. The dialogue is good and well built, but very occasionally it gets a little lost in the narrative. Nevertheless, the effect is good, the book readable and the interwoven plots, although a little confusing at the outset, are cleverly pulled together. Character Development - 3.5/5.0 (Good) The four main characters are all very different, though one does feel very much like a fringe character when you first get to meet him. The Queen and the two agents develop in very different ways, and while I did get a reasonable sense of the male agent, I didn't really connect with the female agent character, despite my efforts to do so. As for the Queen, well, it seemed there was very little for almost two thirds of the story, then suddenly she developed very quickly, into a far more useable character. Overall, the characters are strong and work well for their purposes, and they are likeable enough to pull the reader along. Descriptive - 3.5/5.0 (Good) The descriptive elements do seem to come in fits and starts. When they are there, they are excellent, when they are allowed to be drowned in narrative, they all but vanish into redundancy. In fairness, the dialogue is put to excellent use in support of the descriptive, and this is very much needed as the story begins to unfold. A lot of the location work is superb. The visuals are carefully created and well drawn, giving the reader as much as they want to absorb. Language Grammar - 3.0/5.0 (Okay) In general, the word selections and overall use of vocabulary is excellent. I did feel the whole work needed a final proofing sweep, as there were very minor punctuation and editing issues strewn around. Not loads of them, but enough to be noticeable. Plot - 4.0/5.0 (Very Good) - MINOR SPOILERS An awkward opening quickly gives way to a seemingly simple story about protecting an on-the-run-royal... but no, it's nothing like that simple. What we end up with is two agents trying to investigate their own past, and finding clues along the way that lead them to believe they could have been around for centuries; kept alive by modern technology which rebuilds them at an almost cellular level. The only downside to this being the mind retaining all the past memories. For the female agent, this means reliving nightmares at key moments in her present 'life'; but for both agents, this means perhaps discovering many pasts they have shared. The premise is excellent, and reasonably well executed, though it seemed to me that the inevitable conclusion