



The Way of the Wilderking

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In book three of the acclaimed Wilderking Trilogy, civilizer Aidan returns home from three years in Feechiefen Swamp to discover that a party known as the Aidanites has arisen among his fellow Corenwalders. They believe the “Wilderking Chant” makes reference to Aidan, and that he is destined to overthrow Corenwald's tyrant King Darrow. Aidan has no intention of leading any such rebellion. But when the Corenwald kingdom continues to weaken, and the enemy Pyrthens threaten to invade, it's clear the Aidanites are the only army his people have left. What soon transpires among civilizers, feechiefolk, Corenwalders, and Pyrthens alike, no reader could predict. When all is said and done, who will be the Wilderking?

The Way of the Wilderking Details

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Author : Jonathan Rogers

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From Reader Review The Way of the Wilderking for online ebook

Kelly Barker says

“False love I could handle. Flattery, using people, even being used-I understood all of that. That made sense to me. But unconditional love was the last thing I wanted, from Father or anybody else. Because to receive unconditional love is to know somebody loves you more than you deserved to be loved.”

Seth says

A decent trilogy, but not as good as the Wingfeather Saga.

Luann says

A very satisfying conclusion to an excellent trilogy! These books are pure wisdom wrapped in a rollicking adventure. Perfect for all ages. This last one was really more of 4.5, but only because it wasn't quite as good as the first two in the trilogy. I don't think it's fair to dock stars just because the book doesn't quite measure up to the author's other wonderful books, books I would have given 10 stars if I could have.

Aubrey Hinchman says

Yeah, this is the last one of the series, and I accidentally read this first, so I kinda didn't get it.....

Trace says

I can't even begin to describe the impact this allegorical trilogy has had on my son and I... it has brought us through nearly every emotion... there were times we were laughing so hard that tears were falling down our faces. There were times we were quite angry. And there were times when we were so distraught (like near the ending of this last book in the trilogy) that we both started sobbing.

The characters have wormed their way into our hearts, in a way that not many literary characters ever do.

It is a trilogy that, for me, compares very much with the Chronicles of Narnia and I know that the memories my son and I have gathered through this reading will stay with us for quite some time... We need to purchase this series for our library so that we can reread it in a couple of years.

Highly recommended! And if you do read it aloud - try to do so "in character" - especially for the Feechie characters.... it'll be an absolute riot during many parts of this trilogy.... its a book that begs to be read aloud.. :)

Jen says

A very nice end to the trilogy, I think; it gets into some dicey concepts of what loyalty really is, how people change and you have to figure out what loving them means when they're totally not the friend you originally had, and this has a really solid scene dealing with the nature of unconditional love. Unlike the second book, I really didn't see a lot of the twists coming in this one, which was nice. I did feel that some of the character reappearances were a bit forced, and it's definitely a kids' book in that the story ends before people grow up and make other kinds of mistakes, but I did like it. A very quick read, and I would recommend it as an adventure for kids; it's well written without being sappy, and there are some really great layers of teaching going on without being ridiculously didactic about geology, geography, history, faith, relationships, and inclusion.

Lily Mei says

This was my favorite book of the three. Dobro is still my favorite character. He is funny. He always stands by Aidan. He is wild, hyper and brave. Except when it comes to Sinking Canyons. After this I'd like to read The Charlatan's Boy.

My daddy read this series out loud to me.

Leslee says

I like children's books ... they are easy to read ... let you use your imagination ... and sometimes they hit you where you really need to be hit ... right now I am finishing the "Wilderking Trilogy" by Jonathan Rogers ... i just read the best part out of all three books ... a little background ... Maynard is kinda the lost son of the family. He betrays the family and this ends up leading to the death of his father. Maynard is talking to his brother (the main character) and he says:

His [Father's] love haunted me you know. All the way across the ocean it haunted me. False love I could handle. Flattery, using people, even being used--I understood all that. That made sense to me. But unconditional love was the last thing I wanted, from Father or anybody else. Because to receive unconditional love is to know somebody loves you more than you deserve to be loved. A love that intense can't help but make you see your own selfishness. So I spent my life trying to prove I deserved more than I was getting. Thats when I went to Pyrth (the enemy country in the books). I had something they wanted, and I thought they would honor me for that. But the Pyrthens didn't love me. They broke me. They made me a slave, not a general. Then, when it was too late, I realized I needed unconditional love more than I needed anything in the world.

Heather says

Fun retelling of the story of how David becomes king while remaining loyal to the current king, without his

multiple wives. Set in a past American South.

Magma says

the conclusion to this trilogy is amazing! there were quite a few revelations that I certainly didn't see coming. I absolutely loved this series!

Jennifer VanderPloeg says

Though written for children/youth, I enjoyed this series just as much as my children! My two oldest loved it (11, 9) and were unhappy with the ending because they didn't want it to end. They want more!

There were so many great quotes and thoughts for me in there as well. "Live the life that unfolds before you" and "live goodness more than you fear evil" are two that we talked about. I was also challenged by Errol, who prayed for an hour or more each morning and was able to sleep through the crisis, knowing he was in the hands of the Living God.

The whole series had so many things that made my kids laugh and laugh.

Alison says

Beautifully written. Read it to my children ages 5-11 and our whole family loved the whole trilogy.

Lara Lleverino says

My favorite quote, "The future is a dark path, Aiden. It's even dark for me most of the time and I'm a prophet. But the living God always gives you the light to get to the next turning. Stay in the path, Aiden. There's light enough. When you get to the second turning, the third, the twentieth, they'll be lit too."

Hannah says

This review covers the whole trilogy.

Aidan Errolson was one of my best friends growing up. Another was Dobro Turtlebane. I grew up on these phenomenal stories, and I hope lots of other kids do too! The clean humor and interesting plot line make this story one that will teach values about true friendship. I can't say enough good things about these stories!!!

Sara says

((No Spoilers))

In The Wilderking trilogy, Rogers takes the story of King David and tells it anew. Without changing the spirit of David's miraculous story, Rogers re-contextualizes it. He changes the location to something that looks a lot like Southern Georgia. He changes the time to something that resembles the Middle Ages. He changes the story of the Israelites to something that echoes the story of Colonial America. And, he changes the cast of characters to include an almost mythical race of people who live entirely in the swamps. Without being slapstick, without feeling forced, and without diminishing the way that God works His will in the human story, Rogers tells an entirely new story that feels deliciously familiar. Also, he tells it in such a way that he helps his readers to imagine the Bible as being relevant for all ages and in all places. The storytelling is nothing short of inspired. To boot, Rogers has a Ph. D. in seventeenth century literature from Vanderbilt University, which is kenspeckle in the beauty of his writing.

In the this book, *The Way of the Wilderking*, Rogers integrates the first two stories into one new reality. While a new, stronger, and more confident Aidan emerges from the swamp, the shepherd boy is still in him as well. More importantly, his friendship with the King's son is still precious to him. And no matter how unhinged the King has become, Aidan and his family remain loyal subjects. The entire third book can be understood as a tension between two goods. Two rights. Two bests. Discerning how to strike the balance, while the king sinks into an unrelenting dark and dangerous depression requires everything Aidan and his friends are capable of commanding.

“Father is a man of faith. That’s why he can sleep on a night like this. He prayed for an hour or more this morning, just like every morning, while you were still snoring. He prayed for you by name, in fact, Marvin. I heard him. Father’s been praying all day. And now he’s resting in the mercy of the living God.” – *The Way of the Wilderking*

It is really tricky to talk about the third book without spoiling it. Suffice to say, it ends extremely well. In fact, my kids and I read the last third of it in one day, because we had to know how it ended. And everything that happened was a surprise while none of it was a surprise. Somehow, Rogers was able to take the forgone outcomes that we know so well and present them in unexpected and deeply satisfying ways.

One of the great tensions in the third book is the triangular relationship between King Darrow, Prince Steren, and Aidan. I think that many of us who have studied the story of David have been struck with great sadness over the death of Jonathan. Saul’s unwillingness to live in the grace he had been given ruined not just his own life, but that of his son’s as well. Perhaps Rogers shares my regret over Jonathan’s demise. The way in which he writes the character of Prince Steren gives us something noble and exciting to love. The way that Steren loves both his father and his friend is beautiful. In this story, we know that Steren cannot survive to the end because we know that Jonathan did not. But instead of being a mere casualty of his father’s wickedness, he is a hero. In some ways, this is almost harder. In Steren, we see what King Darrow robbed his people of; a king who would have been worthy indeed if his father’s sins had not cut him down.

I think the genius of the Wilderking books is that they allows us to bring our knowledge of the Bible into a different setting. Instead of miraculous events which took place thousands of years ago in a foreign desert, they feel much more familiar. They feel like they could have been a part of our American story. This story is not a true allegory. Not everything represents something. It is, however, an exciting and relatable reimagining of one of God’s greatest stories. This reimagining, which is informed by the Bible, but grown out of Rogers own creativity, enhances a delightful boy adventure story. This excellent story is elevated by the biblical truths it incorporates.
