



Adventurers Wanted, Book 5: The Axe of Sundering

M.L. Forman

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Whalen Vankin is a great and honorable wizard, and he has only ever personally trained two other wizards. One is Alexander Taylor, a young man who has earned a reputation as a brave adventurer, a warrior, and a man of honor. The other is Jabez, Vankin's nephew—a man whose choices have led him down a different, darker path.

Dark magic has covered Westland, and evil is stirring. Whalen and Alex must journey together into the heart of danger, confronting a sea serpent, and facing down more than one dragon. Alex must find the legendary Axe of Sundering—the one weapon that offers a chance to defeat Jabez—and protect the land from the dark wizard's plans. But finding it will be an adventure of its own as the only pathway to the Axe leads through the underground tunnels and secret passages of the Castle of Conmar.

But Jabez has a final weapon at his disposal: the powerful Orion stones, which could spell the end to Whalen and Alex both.

Adventurers Wanted, Book 5: The Axe of Sundering Details

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From Reader Review Adventurers Wanted, Book 5: The Axe of Sundering for online ebook

Dorine White says

Welcome back to the land of Adventures Wanted! In this fifth book, we find Alex and Whalen about to set off on a quest to stop Whalen's evil great-great-great-etc-nephew. Together Alex and Whalen, the two greatest wizards in the land, must disguise themselves and travel to the land where Jabez, the evil nephew, is plotting to overthrow Westland.

His death will be difficult, because he has tied his life force to any person he has ever helped, so Alex must find The Axe of Sundering, to cut through the ties and then end Jabez's life. Of course, the Axe is hidden and guarded by a dragon. The Brotherhood is also on the rise, and Alex and Whalen must watch their every move or the greater good might be in jeopardy.

My Thoughts-

So Good! I've been waiting for this book to come out. The author suffered an illness, and luckily got better. The Adventures Wanted world is FABULOUS! If you missed book one, Alex, then a sixteenish year-old, answered a sign in a shop window that said, Adventures Wanted. Think of all your favorite World of Warcraft or Dungeon and Dragon dreams come true. Plus, while he is gone in adventure land, barely any time passes in his home world.

This time he is with his teacher, Whalen, and together they travel with a caravan around Westland, so that they can sneak up on Jabez. As a reader, you are able to watch as Alex's character becomes even more powerful and smart. He is also kind, which makes him a great wizard. He discovers a clue about a dragon with no name who will save the land. Hmm, a tasty tidbit he tries to unravel for most of the book. As he travels, he meets wondrous creatures, including Sea Elves and Dark Shadows. He uses his talents to deal with each accordingly. He continues to grow into his destiny with fabulous fight scenes and skill challenges.

This story just flows, moving from beginning of quest, through trials, to a spectacular ending, and then bam! and extra ending you didn't see coming. I love this series. 5 stars!

Nobody says

*whimpers
I need this...

Laura says

3.5 stars I was very lucky to get an advanced copy of this final chapter in the Adventurer's Wanted series. Because I have been waiting so long, I had very high expectations. (Probably not fair to the author!) While this wasn't my favorite in the series, it was a solid conclusion. It even left the possibility of more books in this world--they just wrapped up this series by defeating the evil they have been chasing. (Really

since wizards and dragons can live for a VERY long time, it would be quite easy to write more just set a few decades later)

I really enjoyed that everything doesn't come easily to Alex in this book! He had to work hard, face failure, and lose to really grow as a character! The final resolution was over a little too quick for my liking, but otherwise a good book!

Heidi says

After a wait of several years, I'm thrilled to have finally had the chance to read the last book in the Adventurers Wanted series. I'm also sad that the series has ended. It's always sad to say goodbye to favorite characters. In this last book of the series, Alex, a young wizard, adventurer, and dragon lord, sets off with his mentor, Whalen Vankin, to address the evil actions of Vankin's former apprentice and great-nephew, Jabez. At the same time, they are trying to figure out what the evil organization known as the Brotherhood is working toward.

But to have a chance to defeat Jabez or the Brotherhood, they must travel incognito and at a slow pace. Neither of these things come easy to Alex, especially once he learns that Jabez has a dragon enslaved and is starting warfare throughout the land of Jarro. And the greater uncertainty is that the only way to defeat Jabez is with the Axe of Sundering, which Jabez has in his possession. Not only do Alex and Whalen have to try to sneak up on Jabez, no easy task with Whalen's natural connection to his former apprentice, but they have to get their hands on the Axe before they confront him.

Alex has survived many challenges over his years as an adventurer, but he's never faced the kind of evil that the Brotherhood represents, having built itself over 2,000 years. But failure means the enslavement of the entire known lands, something that Alex can't abide. This is a nice, exciting ending to a thoroughly enjoyable series.

Lynette ~ Escaping Reality – One Book at a Time ~ says

Psyched! I'm really looking forward to reading this book! Will it be the end of the series? I can't recall hearing anything...

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

Check out more reviews @ Perspective of a Writer...

Alex now has the opportunity to help his mentor and the world's greatest wizard, Whalen Vankin as he faces his evil nephew whom he trained before Jabez took this dark path away from the ways of a true wizard. The secret to defeating Jabez before he takes over Westland is the legendary Axe of Sundering which has been secreted away. Alex must find it and face the powerful Orion Stone if he and Whalen have a chance of protecting the land.

This is a very solid better than middle grade, middle grade series and the latest book in the series captures the

same magic as the books before it! I loved the cover and the title... they left you intrigued the entire book as you wondered how the Axe of Sundering would work. My only complaint was that a murky brown was used instead of a pop of color behind the axe so that we could see better that Alex was also on the cover. Even if Alex was just dressed more in a green it would make him show up better.

The story was just like the cover... almost perfect but with a few slow points where enough re-writing wasn't done to smooth away the info dumping or the slow weariness of travel. Ultimately Alex and Whalen are traveling to where Jabez is holed up in the castle Conmar... since he can sense their magic they must take it slow and steady to not draw attention to themselves. I really enjoyed the larger moments that were developed along the trail. There were some connective events that lead between the larger plot points that I thought lacked the charm of previous books.

This lack of charm has to do with there being NONE of the friends that Alex normally has with him and hence a lot LESS interaction with others. This isn't bad per se... its just really different! Instead of starting with people he's comfortable with Alex meets a couple new friends along the way. There are only two but I liked both characters and thought their first meetings were fun. A LOT of pages was spent with Whalen and this time there was a focus on how to treat an elder... someone who is MUCH wiser than Alex but whom he didn't always see eye to eye with. I enjoyed how he handled those differences. The sea elves were a particular favorite of mine and I liked how they were personified through a couple characters...

The world of Westlands is one of island nations and little cities that stand free of one another. We get a sense of the history of the place as Alex travels along a merchant route and they start to get glimpses of the troubles that plague the area. It was all very intriguing. Of course, we KNEW who was doing it and why but it was fun to see what antics the evil wizard would throw at Alex. If you enjoy a Hobbit or D&D sort of world then this series as well as this book are for YOU!

Two other things I struggled with a touch were development and pacing. I appreciate the friendships that Alex made but events along the trail needed a bit more development so that the pacing felt more exciting. While I loved the book and enjoyed what happened there were times I could put down the book and I wasn't plagued to come back to it. This makes me sad as I'm normally raring to read the next page of this series the entire time...

The incorporation of many details from past books for the end was incredible! The dragons made my heart sing and I was NOT disappointed in the dragon lord part of the storyline. Really the way the END CAME TOGETHER is why I'm rounding up to 4 stars and why I still HIGHLY suggest this book despite it's flaws. Some of the best plotting all jammed up at the end... I literally could not put it down once we got to the castle and KEPT READING to Jabez and beyond!!

Alex totally makes this series and this book! To have read as he comes to be a young man is so incredible and such an example to other readers... I really think every young man could read this series and book and get SO MUCH out of them!! I want to say though that he is a normal kid who didn't think much of himself or his life but through persistence and being aware of opportunities he made choices that took him down this path to being an honorable, wise, respectful, magical, intuitive wizard who is a joy for those of like honor to know and adventure with...

????? Premise & World Building

????? Cover & Title

?? ??? Development & Storycraft

????? Writing & Narrative

?? ??? Plot & Pacing
?? ??? Relationships
????? Feelings

BOTTOM LINE: A Dragon Lord in the making!

Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my special perspective at the bottom of my reviews under the typewriter...

Jessica says

This book was amazing! It brought back all the wonder and joy I felt from the first adventure while still carrying on the interest and intrigue from the adventures in between the two! I can't wait for a follow up and fear the day the series comes to an end.

Cheryl says

Wow. I would not typically recommend reading the last book in a series. Yet, this is what I did. However, it was like I had been following along since the beginning. This is how easy the reading was and the fact that I was able to connect to the characters and the story. As I was reading this book I could not help but feel a little influence of The Sword and the Stone as well as The Hobbit.

The world that this series takes place in is magical. Yet, the true star is Alex. While, he may be young, he is brave and smart. There was a point in the story where Alex had to travel on his own but he was up for the challenge. Then when it came time for him to face Jabez, he did so with everything that he had. A fitting conclusion to this series. You could say that I was transported to another world. This is the best part of books. I plan to go back and read books one through four. Although, I will not be alone as I will be introducing my nephews to this series as well.

M R says

Alex must face his toughest opponent, Whalen's past mentee, Jabez. I appreciated that things didn't come as easily to Alex as they often did in the other books. Though things still were a little too convenient. The beginning with Alex's lost memories gripped me, but then I had to slog through the first few chapters of Whalen telling his sad backstory and Alex preparing for his quest. Whalen was overly secretive and I found it a little annoying that he didn't give any reason for having Alex take so many circuitous routes.

The journey to Conmar was a little long without some of the fun banter and connection in previous books. I did, however, really like how Alex learned to respect Whalen and not rely only on himself and his own past successes. It was great to see him have to deal with accepting Whalen's wisdom gathered through generations even when Alex didn't agree with him. There wasn't interaction with others until further along

the journey, but once they came in they were fun. The sea elves and some other creatures introduced were so cool!

The evil wizard's obstacles were intriguing and it was cool to have Alex get glimpses of trouble in Westlands as he traveled. The pacing was a bit slow in many areas, but with a little more development of the plot and subplots, it could have moved a little better.

That said, the ending was amazing! It tied in details and loose ends from previous books to the sweeping conclusion. I did feel the big confrontation was over a little fast after the big build-up, but once you get to the castle it's hard to stop reading. I loved the dragons, because dragons make everything cooler, and how the magic was shown.

The series is about Alex growing into a great young man and dragon lord. This would be a great book for late elementary school and middle-grade readers who love adventure, think Dungeons and Dragons and The Hobbit, and magic.

Mitchell says

When will it come out????!!

Wensday says

I have to admit that I felt like I won the lottery when I received this from NetGalley. As with all the fans of this series, the wait was long, but we understand; the positive side was it gave me time to re-read the other books and enjoy the adventures again.

The wait was SO worth it! The story does not disappoint and is just as exciting as the other four books. This was full of action and emotions. I do hope there are more adventures to come for all of the characters. It would be fun to see more characters from the dark elves develop in other adventures.

I received the from NetGalley.com for my honest review.

Jennifer says

There was a lot of buildup for this book. The initial publication date was pushed back when the author had health issues. This is understandable and a valid reason to not have the book ready. I think that the delay in publishing made it so the author felt he needed to get it out as soon as possible, and the story suffered for it.

I have read all the other books in the series and was looking forward to seeing how it ended. I honestly thought there would be more than five books, but this one has been announced as the final book in the series, so it had to have a strong send off. This book felt completely disconnected from the rest of the books. It was okay I guess, but Alex started getting really annoying, and characters and story lines that had been throughout the rest of the series were randomly dropped. What happened to the rest of the magic bags that

Alex was supposed to be returning? All of the previous books had him return a bag, but if my math is correct, he still had at least three by the end of the series. Nothing was mentioned about them at all.

There were a lot of new characters, but they didn't seem to serve any real purpose. They were just fillers. There were plenty of characters that had been present for most of the series that I would have loved to see again. I believe there were only three that were mentioned, two of which were only mentioned for a moment. I couldn't really connect with the new characters. They hadn't been around long enough for me to care about what happened to them.

This series could have done with at least a couple more books. It was a disappointment to wait so long only to end up reading a book that seems disconnected from the rest of the series.

Author: M.L. Forman

Publisher: Shadow Mountain

Taylor says

Wonderful conclusion to the series. I did think that the end felt a bit rushed as the series finale and that there are still some unanswered questions/other ways that elements from the past books could have been worked into the conclusion to wrap it up. For instance, Whalen mentioned after Alex showed him his true form in book 3 that he knew of an old legend myth about a true silver dragon but we never learned more of that. Unless this myth is being saved to be used in other books I think it would have been a good way to potentially link the sea elves redemption legend giving it more weight since it came to pass in the end. I also feel that the end battle between Zain/Galin and Alex was a little too quick compared to the battle with Jabez. Since most of the book revolved around Jabez and his defeat the battle scene was the appropriate size to the length of the plot that it took to get there, however, the battle with Zain/Galin and Alex was supposed to be the culmination of the entire series and thus should be an appropriate size to the length of plot that it took to get there. Instead they were easily defeated with Alex's binding spell and quick work from the Axe of Sundering with hardly any fight/retaliation/trickery from Zain/Galin.

Regardless of these points I did LOVE the book and LOVED the series to the end. It was still a very good way to wrap up the series and I did enjoy seeing that Alex failed at least once throughout the series. It was getting a little far fetched with the amount of times he succeeded throughout the other books in the series.

Shoutout to M.L. Forman for the hard work so that we could finally know what happened with Alex.

Edit: The book cover also bothers me as well as the book covers of the others books minus book one because they get one detail wrong. Alex has sandy blonde hair as described in book one. Otherwise they are all good covers.

Amanda Kern says

Don't end

I know this is the last book in the series. I don't want it to end. I do like how the author wraps up the story, but I want to read more. I am looking forward to what else this author will do.

Trey Mandelin says

Trey Mandelin

November 17, 2017

The book *The Axe of Sundering* by M.L Forman is an amazing book filled with magic and dragons. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure books that are filled with action. This book is about a kid named alex and his quest with his mentor and friend Whalen. They are going to destroy an evil wizard who is trying to take over the world. They end up destroying him and an evil society called the brotherhood. In all of this Alex accidentally breaks a wall between the living and dead, and has to become a true silver dragon(his second form) to fix it. The true silver dragons are the protectors of the lands and have extreme power. That's why alex was able to destroy the brotherhood so easily.

This book is valuable because its really good and people want to buy it. One part of the book that was slow and unnecessary was when alex and Whalen went on the ship and Fought a sea monster, the book didn't need this part but I think it added some more action to it too. I didn't like that when Whalen died he came back from the dead, I feel like Alex was abusing his power as a guardian. I agree with the author's perspective because he is an amazing guy and has a great imagination. This book connects with his other books in the series because it ties up loose ends and things are brought together. Alexs personality is important because he is nice and always good to other people by offering them help. This shows that he is good and will never turn evil. This book makes me feel really good and makes me excited to turn every page, it also makes me want to stay up late and read.

The theme of this book is that good people can always overcome evil. It shows this in the book because Alex always Faces people who are evil and he always wins. Even against all odds like when he fought the brotherhood. He still was able to win even when the barrier between life and death was broken and even more people cam in. he still was able to get them all back in and fix the wall.
