



Warmage

Terry Mancour

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The Goblin Invasion Is On...

...and a wizard's work is never done! After facing a hopeless siege, an implacable foe and an impossible escape, you would think that Minalan the Spellmonger would be able to rest -- but the armies of the undead goblin shaman Shereul (known as the Dead God to his human victims) are rolling over the western reaches of the rustic Duchy of Alshar and is headed toward the heart of the Duchy of Castal. Thousands are fleeing for their lives as hordes of goblins pour out of Boval Vale and devastate the rugged fiefs of the Alshari Wilderlands. And the super-charged shamans of the Dead God are making defending the realm almost impossible for the outnumbered Alshari country knights.

While the two Dukes play feudal politics to further their own ends, the only people who seem to care about the invasion are Minalan and his outlaw warmagi friends -- and they're busy dodging agents of the sinister Royal Censorate of Magic.

But if someone doesn't organize an army in northern Alshar soon, then there will be nothing to stop the armies of the divinely-powerful Dead God from conquering all five Duchies in his genocidal quest for vengeance.

But things are just not that simple: he has to cope with a sexy young Shadowmage assassin who works for a mysterious spymaster, a cocky new manservant, a dysfunctional group of suddenly-powerful warmagi, the Censor General, and a bunch of whiny nobles before the Dukes will grant him the troops and money he will need -- and the Dukes have plans of their own. If Minalan the Spellmonger can't lobby the courts of Alshar and Castal to work together -- and quickly -- the hordes of the Dead God will sweep over the frontiers of both states. Worse, the mysterious Umbra veil he has erected around Boval Vale may come to imperil all Five Duchies.

Minalan would rather just go home and let the Dukes handle it, but his conscience won't let him. Someone has to stop the Dead God . . . and that someone happens to be him. Beyond politics and plots, goblins and trolls, mercenaries and magic, the Soulless and the shamans, Censors and secret orders, for Minalan there is only the thought that his child is to be born in a world with such dangers, and that is something he cannot permit.

It is time for the Spellmonger to pick up his mageblade, summon his allies, and go to war again . . . as a Warmage!

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Hollie says

This is a highly entertaining, often clever, and sometimes amusing story. Minalan, despite being no golden boy, is a really likeable reluctant hero, and the while there are really no surprises in the plot, there is still plenty going on to keep me turning the pages, figuratively. Oh, and it's long, even by fantasy standards this is a pretty hefty tome, or it would be if it was actually in physical form.

There are two things in my mind that hold this book back from being all it could be:

First, and easily, if not quickly, rectified, are the innumerable typos, missing words, inconsistencies, and other editorial issues rampant throughout the book. I read somewhere that this is a beta version, and these issues will be cleaned up later on, so I don't hold it against the story, which is still good, but it would certainly be a smoother read after all those issues are ironed out.

Second, which is more a matter of personal opinion, are the lengthy discourses on history and geography of the world which dominate whole swaths of the book. While I applaud the authors world building prowess, I think most of these could be pared down quite a bit, and occasionally cut out all together. As it is now, the story drags through these sections, affecting the pace of the overall story, and I think a little tightening up would really be beneficial.

Lucy says

Loved it! Very entertaining. Lots of developments within the story and I am eager to get started on book 3.

Read this if you like reluctant heroes with foibles

Read this if you can tolerate swearing, sex and war scenes

Don't read this if you are a feminist, pacifist or prude.

That is it in a nutshell. This won't be to everyone's taste but I found it entertaining.

Erick says

This is a great extension to the series. Lots of action and interesting political angles. That said, Min is a pratt. He is overly dense and his values are definitely not contemporary. Which is very hard to accept as someone who doesn't much believe that someone should sleep around on his wife. Just sayin'.

Katie says

I? really enjoy this world and characters and the whole story, but there was a lot more meandering primers on politics and war and whatnot that felt more like tangential essays than part of the story. I? understand why they were included, as this book was heavy on political machinations, but the presentation of these ideas felt clunky and took me out of the story. This is still a good story, but not perhaps the best imo.

Dantegideon says

The main character in these books is startlingly unlikable; a lecherous, pompous, self-satisfied git who sits around having one plum after another drop into his lap. I got extremely tired of him and his one-dimensional adventures long before the end of this gigantic book.

On top of this, the author's habit of hopping back and forth in time every other chapter is pretty jarring, not to mention frustrating as he uses it as a cheap tension generator ("At last! The big confrontation is upon us!" Next chapter: "Six weeks earlier I was having my chamber pot cleaned when...") He also drops a pretty serious clanger at least once per book; a character in this book dies conspicuously but is briefly resurrected at a later meeting, before being dead again.

But apart from that, Mrs. Lincoln, the play was fine. It's not a terrible book. I just got... tired. Of it.

Mark Halse says

This book was good. I won't deny it. It kept me interested and wanting to read but it didn't enrapture me. It didn't rock my world. Though I struggled to give WARMAGE four stars, I just couldn't do it.

The series follows a battle mage as he struggles against a goblin invasion and in this book we get into the bones of a magical war. Interesting but nothing too special. The truly great thing is we get to see a battle mage do what he does best and what I've wanted to see other battle mages do in other books. He cast and orchestrates really awesome and devastating battle spells.

The story itself is good. There is plenty of action and enough intrigue to make the brain tingle a bit. The author did quit using so many parenthesis which was a pleasant surprise.

Alright, let's get to the crap. First of all, I personally don't care for goblins. There is just something corny and childish about them. I don't feel this way about many fantasy races but for some reason goblins just don't do anything for me and this book is filled to the brim with goblins.

Secondly, the thing that probably bothers me most about any fantasy book is the ridiculous pronouns. In most books they become fluid and you eventually get used to them. In this series the names of people and places were so clunky and ugly that I found myself constantly stumbling through them. It really makes it difficult to submerge yourself in the story.

Thirdly, the writing and editing was just sloppy. I read a lot of indie books and this didn't usually bother me. When you pick up an indie you know what you're in for but this was like a big middle finger sometimes.

Mancour over explains things and reiterates constantly. Like, I'm not a moron. I don't need to be told who is in a war council there times or be told multiple times how a character feels about a certain thing. Tell me once and fricking move on. He gets so wrapped up in the details sometimes that he forgets who recently died or left and suddenly they appear, saying something redundant when they're dead or supposed to be far away.

And the editing! Fuck! There were several sentences and paragraphs that were cut right in the middle. They just trailed off into nothingness. Like a fucking cliffhanger.

Lastly, Minalin, the main character is all around pretty douchy. Sometimes you like him, sometimes you hate him and sometimes you really hate him.

I did like this book and will most likely continue reading the series... someday. It's just not urgent. I could die and not really care that i didn't finish.

Recommended?

D says

[If you are part of the Society in Defense of Goblins and Other Strange Creatures, then I can't recommend this book to you. Lots of Goblins seem to have been harmed in the making of this book. (hide spoiler)]

Everyone says

Better than the first book.

Loads of action.

Very good story.

Sucks you right in and never lets go.

Chris says

A bit crass at times, but a great story overall.

This is well written, enjoyable, and very engaging. The characters are intricately crafted. It is a pleasure to watch the plot unfold and it has some riveting fight scenes. I very much enjoyed the first book and this second book did not disappoint either.

While I do think the sexual aspects of the book are a bit crass and over done, besides that I can't really think of anything bad. The audible version is fantastic and definitely an enjoyable listen. It makes my hour commute, each way, fly by!

Aaron Nagy says

I let this book sit for a while before reviewing it...I really liked some parts and really had some major issues with the story.

I truly liked a lot of the story and my few reservations and complaints could possibly be solved even in book 3...however the time jumping was obnoxious.

I know the author wanted to mix-up politics with war but there was too much of it and it became distracting and annoying, and around 1/4 of the way the book I just wanted the story to be told straight, and figured their was some big reveal the author was hiding but nope...nothing.

Also I have no complaints with the protagonist being lecherous like he was in this book like some of the other reviewers as long as it comes back to bite him in book 3.

Brett Sayles says

This is now one of my favorite series, ever. Min could be me or just about any one I know. The normal guy becomes the hero that forgets to pee before he puts on his armor. A great story that never tries too hard to be epic, but indeed is.

Cor says

I had high hopes for this series but sadly the didn't get fulfilled because this book fails in to many aspects.

#Slight spoilers ahead.

For example one of the major themes of the book is that the MC is separated from his one true love, the mother of his child and that he would like nothing more than to be with her... and yet he sleeps with the first attractive woman that he encounters and its somehow okay because he is not married and she looks like her? And everybody, even his lover, shares that sentiment. Hell we even got some bloodthirsty mercenary wizard trying to protect the relationship between the two because its something "special" and "right".

Or the constant bashing of the aristocracy and its high nobles and their affairs because they don't believe every word of the MC or give him total control of everything. For one who always says that he doesn't want the responsibility of being a leader he really asks for a lot... and expects to get it because somehow having supreme power means that he is always right and can do no wrong.

And how he can still think of himself as commoner when he is everything but that(I mean come on... he is the son of a rich merchant, highly educated, behaves like a noble and has nearly unlimited power-> what exactly is it that makes him "common"?) is beyond my understanding. Especially because only a few pages later he argues about how he is the only who is allowed to make mages into living gods and control them.

And last but not least we have the whole.. this is "Total War" theme going on and yet when they find the source of the improvement of the enemy army do they kill him? No they let him live and leave. And the same happens 100 pages later with the commander of the enemy army. It feels more like a friendly sparing

match between two friends then a bloody genocide.

The only aspect of the story that really pleased me are the battles because despite all that they are still entertaining.

But if this book aspires to be anything better than a guilty pleasure it should get rid of the whole romance thingie and focus on the goddamn war and its horrors.

Summers says

good read. The story continues on. Not much to say, its more of the first book. The politics is bubbling underneath and comes to a head. If you were upset with MC not standing up to the Family, a spy network run by the Dutch's mother; they get what's coming to them. They are playing politics in the middle of a war! MC though keeps saying he is not involved in politics and is angry at the Duke who is worried about invasion from other duke even though he was very right to be worried. He fixes this problem near the end and it was very satisfying to watch someone who tried to work with others even though he could just overpower them show his strength.

Will Wittmann says

Great story, worldbuilding, and characters. My only complaint is the format of how he tells the story. I think it would have been better if he just told it chronologically instead of skipping back and forth

Tim Robichaux says

The one thing I want to get out of the way in this review is my complaint. It's not about the writing, or the story, but rather about the formatting. It was BAD. Both the first and second book had the problem (on the Kindle app, at least) of having extra lines between each of the paragraphs. This would seem like a minor thing except that it really broke up the flow, and there were times where it interrupted the story. There were some other flaws there, as well, but none that were quite as vexing as that.

On to the good! I was very happy with just about everything else with this book. I loved that it was quite long and involved, but I will admit that some of that felt like padding. The thread of the story never dropped off, however, and it was compelling enough that I wanted to keep reading, even when I needed to stop.

One of the things that I thought was interesting was the switching from the "present" to the "past" to describe some of the things that were happening. The lead-ups felt a little contrived... "Oh, you mean that incident I had with the nun on the road? Well, let me tell you about that *scooby-do music*"

I'm really looking forward to the next installment. The hero is someone I wish I could be. His companions are people that I wouldn't mind spending time with and the villains are driven, ruthless, and compelling in their own right, even though they can be inconsistent at times.

