



The Shattered Alliance

Jeff Grubb

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After the ice comes the peril

The Ice Age has come to an abrupt end, but the world's troubles have not. Legions of undead still plague the living. The temporary peace in Kjeldor has come to an end, and an evil far more treacherous than Lim Dul has been unleashed upon the land.

The ice has gone, but the evil remains.

The Shattered Alliance Details

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Author : Jeff Grubb

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Michael T Bradley says

Sadly a really lackluster end to this trilogy, which I liked a lot at the beginning. We're still focusing on Jodah, but here's the thing: The first chapter is about Lim-Dum, the necromancer from book two (and also ... Marisil? from book one) in his current state (being contained in a ring on his dead hand) and how he's going to rise again. Then someone picks him up. After that the "main" book kicks in, and it's PAINFULLY obvious who's being controlled by the necromancer. I skipped ahead to where that reveal is b/c I didn't want to bother plodding through everything else, and ... it's on page 250. Of 300. I read the last 50 pages, and it felt like I'd missed nothing. :/

Oh, well, they can't all be winners. I believe Jodah has a later book all to his own, so I'll be curious to see what happens there.

Iain says

A fantastic end to the Grubb's trilogy. I can't say exactly what he's done right here. It's just a solid, workman-like effort, that hits the bases. A good book/series for Fantasy fans, and a classic for fans of Magic the Gathering novelizations.

Scott Johnson says

It seems to be a theme with these books that the middle book of each trilogy is the strongest. This wasn't bad, but it wasn't nearly as good as the last.

The big mystery of who took the ring I guessed on like page 20. Also, the big twist at the end was spoiled for me by the current Dominaria set since I know that Jaya's spark has to ignite.

Mathew Ostrander says

While pleasant, it really felt like this book was mostly about tying up the loose ends from Eternal Ice. Things felt a little disjointed as we travelled to all the previously important locations to learn what everyone had been up to in the lapsed twenty years.

That being said, I enjoyed the character dynamic between Jaya and Jodah. Jodah has so much that he's had to deal with over the years, but during this book it feels like he gains a renewed sense of purpose. It's a shame that he plays such a smaller part in the future stories.

Patrick says

This was definitely the weakest of the Ice Age trilogy. Even if I didn't know how it was going to end from

previous knowledge of the story, the foreshadowing was about as subtle as a bazooka. Not that it wasn't enjoyable, just obviously plotted.

Chip Hunter says

This one picks up twenty years after the close of The Eternal Ice, with the realm in apparent peace. It doesn't take long, however, to find out that Lim Dul wasn't quite as dead as he was assumed to be, at which point Jodah and his trusty side-kick Jaya set off to discover his whereabouts. The majority of the book is spent following this pair all across Terisiare as they do detective work to track down their old nemesis. One of the most enjoyable aspects of this book is in trying to solve the mystery before the characters, something that most readers will be able to do with the ample clues provided along the way. The actual plot of this one seemed rather weak to me, however. The same-old bad guy comes back to life to threaten the world in the same-old way he had before (almost). Actually, this entire story just seemed somehow less significant than the previous book, without the world-changing battles and no involvement by Planeswalkers. I will say that the end of the book is very dramatic and fun to read, and the conclusion was done very well, leaving the reader satisfied with the story of Jodah and the series as a whole.

This one, like the other two in the series, contains short, but witty, excerpts from the Algarvian historian Arkol at the beginning of each chapter that call to mind the little nuggets of text present on many of the MTG game cards. While these snippets aren't usually directly related to the story being told, they are entertaining, and give the book a 'historical' feel that cements it in its proper place in time.

If you've enjoyed the first two books in the Ice Age Cycle, you'll definitely enjoy this one too. And if you're just looking for something out of the long-running saga of Urza and Gerrard, this one fits the bill. Recommended for fans of the series.

Shase Lindell says

A great story to end a trilogy.

Albert Meadows says

Just gonna dive into this one and save some time. This is so far my favorite magic 'block' series and it is well written. The general idea is solid and the final conclusion, while the lag prominent in book 2 carries over, it is a worthy conclusion.

Characters - Jodah and Jaya are the main focus, and they are so well written and I love their interactions with each other. While some characters receive interesting plot twists, it is generally still 'good', the only two characters that explicitly stand out are these two.

Mairsil is also here, and he is still a great villain.

Setting - Dominaria. Talked about it twice, so I will just leave this one be and just write it off as 'good'.

Plot - With twists and turns, the small 'hiccups' in the middle was not noticable and I can say it is well written with no second thoughts. There is a major plot twist that I personally was 'aware' of but it still felt

rewarding.

Time to read - A day. Similar to the Brothers War, I think it is a quick and fun read. I dont expect anyone to finish no later then a few days.

Overall, I think it is a good book and I look forward to seeing more of Jodah and Jaya later on in the story (especially considering the Epilogue has a twist.)
