

Wrath of a Mad God

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The Darkwar rages, bringing bleak days of destruction and despair to Midkemia and Kelewan. To save both worlds, the powerful sorcerer Pug and select members of the mysterious Conclave of Shadows must journey deep into the dangerous realm of the bloodthirsty Dasati on an audacious mission that has little, if any, chance to succeed. In Midkemia, young warriors Tad and Zane and their fellow soldiers must protect the Kingdom from raiders. And Pug's beloved wife, Miranda, finds herself a prisoner of the Dasati and, even more ominously, of Pug's nemesis, the evil sorcerer Leso Varen.

But salvation may come from a friend thought long dead—an unlikely ally whose remarkable powers will be sorely needed. For there is a momentous battle looming . . . a final, fevered onslaught against the most malevolent agents of evil ever known.

Wrath of a Mad God Details


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Author : Raymond E. Feist

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From Reader Review Wrath of a Mad God for online ebook

Patrick says

The final volume of the the weakest Feist trilogy I have read so far - it jumped around too much in terms of who was the protagonist - it sets up a couple of characters early on then almost abandons them in favour of Pug - which is fine but I think it suffered because of that in that you weren't really following a story of a key protagonist such as Eric or Tal as per previous series.

And for me the whole dasati thing was not well done - we were led to believe the dasati homeworld was so alien and unfamiliar, but Feist has not got the skills to really pull that off, so it just left me with the impression that the dasati were basically just "bigger"!

Theo says

This is a "preview" review based on how bad the novel has started. Will update if it gets any better.

2 chapters in and this currently deserves a 1 star review for lazy editing and lazy writing just to make a specific plot point happen:

Chapter 2:

Issue #1 Continuity: One of the 4 friends from the University in Into A Dark Realm has undergone a name change. Godfrey is now apparently Geoffrey. This is the same Godfrey/Geoffrey who was sword fighting with Jommy in Into a Dark Realm, but magically became Sevarn later in that same novel. Who edited these novels??? It's awful!!

2nd issue: lazy writing 101. So a scouting force from an army is on a coast somewhere for the Conclave of Shadows waiting for something. The Conclave knows that this has something to do with the Dasati thing. So does the Conclave provide a Magic User to assist this force in case something extra dimensional happens. No, they do not. This completely lack of magic using force is supposed to deal with a potential extra dimensional threat. Seriously?? Pug, Nakor, Magnus and Miranda aren't the only magic users in the Conclave. And, not so surprisingly, like in a poorly written TV script when something obvious is going to happen that someone can't handle due to poor planning ahead, the obvious happens.

Not sure I really want to keep reading lazy plot points and an inability to keep track of characters names.

For the 3rd book in a trilogy, there is way too much retelling of older novels. I understand if it's the first novel someone picks up, but that's what an appendix with a character cast and backgrounds are for, vice padding the length of a novel by retelling prior novels in 40% of the new one. One particularly egregious thing is the Kaspar storyline. He had an entire novel about his exile. It's been re-told in some fashion in every subsequent novel. That's just ridiculous!!!

Leaving this at 1 star.

Victoria says

Wow! A lot happened in one book! In many ways, strands of the plot started all the way back in *Magician: Apprentice* were tied up - so much so that I am very curious to where the future of this series will head. But, really, in other ways, this was my least favorite book... while I was relieved to FINALLY have questions about my favorite character, Nakor, answered, this book involved some real tragedies...

Mostly, I am nervous about the characters in the next books... Pug has never been one of my favorite characters, and while I initially liked Miranda (more out of relief that there was finally a strong female main character), she has become trite and stereotypical (and WHY does her eye color change so often?) and to be honest, I can't stand Magnus (I can't exactly put my finger on it, but there is something just... off about him). Truly, the only character from the beginning on that I still like is Tomas, and even he is beginning to show some serious flaws. His ever-so-convenient Valheru flashbacks have become an over-used plot device to validate information. Also, his powers have been so strong in previous books, his absence in other books makes little sense.

Mostly, what upset me about this book was that it was rife with errors. More so than Miranda's fluctuating eye color, Kaspar claimed to have never met elves before, and Tomas only once in passing, when in *Exile's Return* he was in Elvandar... and even shared an ale with Tomas... So, his whole experience with the Sun-Elves really frustrated me!

Also, it is mentioned in passing that Erik never married... but he DID get married! In secret, to the ex-thief! In fact, I had been wondering about her ever since Erik was brought back into the series. I realize that series construction and continuity is difficult, but even if the author did not catch these errors, it is the job of the editors to do so... Really, all in all off-putting.

So much so, that unless something terrifically exciting happens in the next two books, I think it will be another decade or more until I re-visit Feist's epic series again.

Sud666 says

The Darkwar Saga ends.

Pug and his supremely annoying wife Miraranda struggle to save their world from Mass invasion of the Dasati. But there is a far more insidious threat underlying the Dasati invasion- their Dark God hungers for the very fabric of life in Pug's world. What follows is a slow motion catastrophe as the world becomes a battleground for the Dasati versus the Tsurani.

I was very interested in the developments with Bek and Nakor. I won't give it away but the explanation for their abilities was rather cool as it ties in neatly with the background of the first book. Well done. I enjoyed this series overall. While not the groundbreaking series some have hyped it to be, I found it rather a typical fantasy story. An interesting world, though Pug and Miranda are getting a little long in the tooth-sheesh let the younger kids have shot. As far as Miranda, I find her supremely smug and irritating. BUT I have a respect for power and those who can use it well. Her escape from the Deathpriest's lair and some of the magic she pulls off is worthy of respect and my admiration for her skills has gone up several notches, though as far as her personality? I wish she'd fall in a pit and just stay there. *sighs* Likely not. A magus as powerful as she would just levitate out. But I digress.

Fesist's trilogy was a fun read and while not groundbreaking, per se, it IS entertaining. That's really all I ask of my fantasy-entertain me!

Blake says

Great end to another great series by Raymond Feist. Like most of his book #3, always leaves it for another series to come. Love his character development, and how they all accompany each book hand in hand.

Ospinboson says

Everything's too easy.

Lots of people die, and lots of them of course die heroically, but that's nothing new in Feist's world.

Leso Varen just keeps on going on and on, for no apparent reason other than that he's necessary in the end as a plot device. Nakor's final scenes and explanations are incoherent, apparently incomplete, and otherwise badly fleshed out, so as to make me wonder what exactly I was supposed to glean from reading 'his' final thoughts. Too little of the how and why surrounding the 'vessels' was explained compared to the number of casual allusions made.

Pug just keeps on going, even though he's constantly exhausted, while the chronology of the final 2 chapters is murky at best. Where is he getting the energy?

I've seen enough Sympathetic People die by now.

Too many paragraphs consist of "Magnus would in the future become more powerful than his pop&mom combined, but for now, and probably forever, he would implicitly trust daddy." or "miranda loved and trusted her hubby dearly (the implied slight misogyny makes me queasy.), but she was really frustrated/emotional".

The story is interesting, but by the time it's over there are so many holes that I have a very hard time being satisfied by the outcomes, even though I really like the universe as a whole. Wherever there are numbers mentioned of the number of people that were involved, there seem to be inconsistencies, either within this one cycle, or between this cycle and the Serpentwar cycle (this book mentions 20-40k people, whereas the SWS mentions 200-400k).

Similarly, the population figures for the Dasati keep switching between millions, tens of millions and billions, and there is no real reason given for why the Dark One would want to not first eat billions of Dasati before continuing onwards to the next world, as he does at the end of this book (Apparently choosing to leave them alive for no apparent reason other than 'haste').

All in all, it struck me as badly redacted, and very intent on thrill-mongering through mentioning big figures. In stead of 2000 Great Ones (Riftwar saga), there apparently only are 400 by the time of this series (Why would there be fewer magicians if there is a bigger pool to draw from?), nobody is able to deduce beforehand whose body Varen might have possessed when he came to Kelewan, etc.

Too many of these kinds of questions remain, although the author seems to think that they've all been answered. Sure, you can play around with literal deus ex scenes, but too much is left unexplained for reasons other than "the gods won't tell you (the reader) everything".

Latharia says

Feist did an excellent job of tying in old favorites, and setting the stage for the next series. Only now as I am typing this review do I realize that a major plotline was left unaddressed ... so that will certainly show up in the next book! Regardless, I didn't feel like I was missing that thread, because the end tied up all of the

crucial, immediate elements very neatly. I resist saying anything else, as it would be considered a spoiler, and I know I avoid reviews that give away details!

Scott says

Ray, I love you, man, and I admire the size and scope of your creation, but damn, this one was perfunctory.

Alex Harrison says

this book carries on my expectations of this collection of pure epicness it has some of the best imagery used so far in my opinion and when i read it i felt like i could of actually been there

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

Via Book Reviews by Niki Hawkes at www.nikihawkes.com

Feist's books have a special place in my heart as they were the novels that introduced me to the world of fantasy. I love his plots, his settings, and his characters. They are all memorable and dynamic and the main reason why I pick up each new book. These later works by Feist contain a great balance of new and old, which I love because it keeps the story both fresh and nostalgic at the same time.

As sad as I am to say it, I think Wrath of a Mad God was my least favorite novel so far in the 20+ list of books from him that I've read. I loved the premise for this story, but I had a little trouble with the concepts. They seemed a bit self-indulgent, requiring a great deal of explaining. When you need it fifty or more pages to explain to your audience what's going on (especially so far in a series where the framework of the world and its realities are already pretty well-established) your concepts might be a bit too convoluted.

Another thing I noticed with this book (which I can't decide if it's a good or bad thing) is the fact that the series as a whole has slowly transformed from fantasy to science fiction. There is no space travel, but people from different worlds still find ways to interact through magical rifts and wrinkles in dimensions. While this shift in genre is interesting, part of me misses the epic fantasy feel of his earlier works.

Overall, I am slightly dissatisfied, but only when comparing it to the standard of other Feist novels. Nostalgia aside, I should also mention (without spoilers) that the ending of this book blew my mind and I genuinely can't wait to see what happens next!

Recommended Reading: I usually hand the first book (Magician: Apprentice) to anybody wanting to try fantasy. It's an excellent representation of the genre, and one I think fans of Terry Brooks and David Eddings would enjoy. Also, for any Feist fans who haven't yet made it this point – keep reading, it's worth it!

Robert Aldrich says

[where Pug creates a gigantic rift to shear off a portion of a moon to kill the Dread Lord. I wonder to myself that if he could make one that big, why didn't Pug go to that to move the refugees? But aside from that one thing, I really liked this book.

It is a shame that this is the last appearance of Nakor—he is one of my all-time favorite characters, but I like that Feist does not ste

Matthew Green says

Raymond Feist's original Magician was in many respects such a gem of a book because it used a world that was normal enough to be relate-able with just a few twists to make it interesting. Feist has been twisting and tweaking that world ever since, and it has come to a point with Wrath of a Mad God where it is essentially broken, disfigured beyond any semblance of reality. There is little way for the reader to relate to the world any longer, and nearly everything dealt with is simply alien. I suppose this is fine if you're seeking utter escapism, but it almost forces you to sink into the action rather than the universe this way, which is like trying to be entertained by non-stop explosions instead of finding a way to enjoy whatever life offers.

Moreover, initially Feist wrote in such a way as to follow characters with some depth, flaws, and layers, but he has increasingly turned away from character-driven to event-driven plots and populated the world with generic figures that even he doesn't know what to do with. This trilogy began with Tad and Zane, but by the end, Feist had all but forgotten about them and turned them to shells of people. Then, for what seems little reason, he introduces from nowhere yet one more semi-phenomenal player with amazing abilities in Jim Dasher, whose one weakness poses no actual threat to him. Wrath of a Mad God's characters are simply flat.

The previous novel began to devolve at the end so that the narrative kept jumping from setting to setting and character to character every two to three pages. One might argue that this was to heighten the sense of urgency and action, but Wrath of a Mad God uses this same technique in the middle of the book, and it just feels choppy. I felt like I was getting literary whiplash from being jerked from scene to scene.

And let us not forget the random side-plot that was thrown in at the Peaks of the Quot that had only the most tenuous connection to the rest of the book. It might have been set up for later books, but what I can find suggests that Feist completely dropped it. I must admit, though, that dropping it was a positive considering that it is nothing but a rehashing of the lifestone plotline in a new form, making me question whether the author's creativity has simply run out. Plus, with the introduction of the anoredhel, it feels as if when Feist grows uncertain of what to do, he just adds another race of elves like a floundering chef, tossing spices into the pot with the hopes that they will enhance the quality of the dish. I understand that this is the foundation for the following trilogy as well, compounding the problem.

Finally, various plot points were problematic in of themselves. First, some were contradictory to previous books in the series. For example, the Minwanabi ominously are returned to the series despite their destruction, though don't actually end up causing any problems. Other plot points were simply confusing. I still don't really understand what happened at various fairly important points despite reading the paragraphs several times before giving up and moving on. Things were often wrapped up quickly and in unclear prose with little reflection following. Even the characters seemed to feel little emotions in response to the closing

events or at least no impetus to talk about them with one another. It felt like the author knew what was happening but wasn't concerned with communicating it clearly and simply wanted to finish up and move on.

The narrative to the book was, ignoring the sections where it pinballed from scene to scene, sufficiently good to keep me reading, but after it ended, upon reflection, I grew more and more frustrated with the book. I'll not insult Feist by saying it was a tale told by an idiot, but I'll definitely aver that it was full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

Martin Chalupa says

The last part of The Darkwara Saga trilogy. I liked that even you can recognize some Feist's storytelling patterns from his previous work there are still enough surprises to keep you entertained without feeling that you already read the same story. Unfortunately, characters from previous two parts Tad and Zane are put a bit in the background. I think they were a refreshing part of the universe and old good heroes from previous sagas. If you are a fan of Faist's books this one will be good for you, but if you are a new reader of his books or you weren't excited from them you can probably skip this one. I'm in the first category so I enjoyed reading it and I'm curious what will be the next adventure for my favorite characters.

Gareth says

An epic end to this trilogy. Following on from the last book's abrupt end, this one maintains a good sense of suspense / building danger throughout, as things head towards a cataclysm. The ending third did feel perhaps a little rushed against the first part of the book, with a lot happening with a lot of emotional impact, but run through quicker than I think needed to be for maximum impact. Compared to the previous trilogy, this one harks back more to Rage of a Demon King / Shards of a Broken Crown in terms of having real impacts on the worlds at large. Overall I really enjoyed this one.

Diane says

Suite très attendue ! On se rapproche de la fin de l'aventure... J'ai du mal à dire s'il était temps ou si je suis attristée que ce soit bientôt la fin. Cette fois-ci l'histoire se passe en partie dans une autre dimension (ou autre plan de réalité, notre 1er cercle de l'enfer). J'avais beaucoup apprécié, dans le tome précédent, suivre le cheminement de pensées de Valko, un des habitants de cet autre plan de la réalité. Ce changement de perspective manque un peu dans ce tome, l'apprentissage d'une nouvelle culture, d'autres habitudes. Le tome reste toutefois bien complet puisqu'il s'agit d'une fin de trilogie qui nous avait laissée avec beaucoup de questions.

Je reprocherai encore un dernier point à la forme et pas vraiment au fond (j'ai dévoré le tome, l'histoire m'a transportée jusqu'au bout) : trop de personnages à suivre et du coup trop peu de Pug, Thomas, Miranda à mon goût. Même si je comprends le développement des arcs de Kaspar, Jommy et les autres, j'aurais préféré un meilleur focus sur les trois personnages cités plus haut et pas seulement une figuration pour le Tomas !
