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Magic's Price (The Last Herald-Mage)



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Synopsis

ValdemarÃ¢â ¬â •the once-peaceful kingdom protected by the magic of its Herlad-MagesÃ¢â ¬â •is now besieged on all fronts. The king lies near death, the neighboring land of Karse wages a relentless war against Valdemar, and the forces led by a master of dark forbidden magic are massing to strike the final devastating blow against the kingdom. And Vanyel, the most powerful Herald-Mage Valdemar has ever known, has become the primary target of the evil which is reaching out to poison all the land. With all his fellow mages slain, Vanyel alone remains to defend his people against the dark masterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s army. Yet a dream vision has revealed to Vanyel the fate which awaits should he and his Companion Yfandes take up the dark masterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s challenge. And if either Vanyel or Yfandes falters, the dream will become a horrifying reality in which both Valdemar and its last Herlad-Mage must pay the ultimate price. . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for series: "Lackey has written anotherÃ Â intensely wrought, finely detailedÃ Â story of heroic victims struggling to do the best with their fate. VanyelÃ¢â ¬â„¢s magical strengths are countered by his very human insecurities." Ã¢â ¬â •VOYAÃ Â "LackeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s characterization, plotting, and wit are all of a high order.Ã Â A real page-turner for any fantasy collection." Ã¢â ¬â •BooklistÃ Â "Emotionally tense and full ofÃ Â drama and magic." Ã¢â ¬â •Locus "In Vanyel, [Lackey] has createdÃ Â her most empathetic male character to date, making our emotions run high as he meets his fate. And best of all, the very last plot twist is one of haunting beauty that

will touch your heart." Ã¢â ¬â •RT ReviewsÃ Â Ã Â "In this trilogy, Lackey reaches an intensity she had only begun to achieve.... The story of Vanyel is darker than her earlier books, and the pace is unrelenting." Ã¢â ¬â •American Fantasy Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mercedes Lackey is a full-time writer and has published numerous novels and works of short fiction, including the bestselling Heralds of Valdemar series. She is also a professional lyricist and a licensed wild bird rehabilitator. She lives in Oklahoma with her husband and collaborator, artist Larry Dixon, and their flock of parrots.

While I have loved this series, I think that this one is my least favorite of the three. I love Vanyel's character as much as ever, even with all of his stubbornness. For me it was Stefan's character, as well as bits of his back story, that just didn't do it for me. Luckily, more of the story focused on Vanyel and that made me happy!Vanyel is as protective and fiercely loyal as everl He is also always willing to risk himself for the greater good. But Stefan... I wanted to love him, and I did like him, but there were moments that even that was a struggle. He was such a foikl to Vanyel. Vanyel is loyal and noble and honest and I felt like Stefan skirted the edge of nobility and honesty. As a Bard, he had the means to use his Gifts to peacok a bit, to influence others, and to gain personal wealth. And while he used his Gifts in very good ways, he also tended to use them in ways that weren't. And the attitude was always one of surprise when ethics were pointed out to him. That was largely unbelievable to me, considering the back story of the Bards and their training. And he did a whole lot of manipulating of Vanyel himself. He just didn't get the drive that a hero has to save the world. In actuality, Stefan was probably the most realistic character in the novel. He was flawed and he was really just a regular guy with some musical gifts. But in the context of a high fantasy novel, he just seemed to be the odd man out.However, I did love the story. In true Vanyel style, he was driven hero of the story that risked himself repeatedly to save the kingdom and those he loved. He is the character that I always felt deserved to be truly happy and I am not sure he ever got that in life, not really. There were a lot of twists and turns in this book, some a bit predictable and some far less so. There was one regarding Stefan that I am truly not sure how I feel about, although it does answer a lot of questions. And the ending was a bittersweet one that I appreciated!My Recommendation: True, it was not my favorite of the series, but it is an important part of the overall saga. I do recommend it for invested readers of the series.This review originally appeared on my blog, The Caffeinated Diva reads.

Before reading this Trilogy, I was not a fan of fantasy. I was not willing to entertain the thought of magic horses. But Mercedes Lackey was brilliant in her presentation of the Herald's and the companions and the love they had for each other. I went on to read all the books in her series of Valermar as well as some of her contemporary stories.

Magic's Promise finds Vanyel twelve years older and wiser than in Magic's Pawn, but sadly, also darker. He has never been able to recover from the death of his lifebonded lover and lives such a lonely and sad existence. But he is a hero and legend of whom bards write songs about. He is the most powerful herald mage in the circle and has the silver hairs to show for using node energies. Vanyel faces his father and his family upfront and personal in this book and has to overcome years of torment and suffering. Mercedes Lackey weaves a very solid tale in Magic's Promise which is at once heartbreaking as well as uplifting.

Mercedes Lackey has been my number one writer since 1991 when a high school friend handed me "Arrows of the Queen" and suggested I try it. I've never regreted that adventure. My sons now read her as well and enjoy her work as much as I do. I've never been disappointed in any Heralds of Valedmar (or Sword Sworn) tale. Please keep dreaming for us all Ms. Lackey.

There is something about Vanyel that touches my heart, a nobility in spite of his flaws, a courage to overcome his fears, the Last Herald Mage trilogy is on my retread often list, in fact I bought the kindle edition of all three books because my paperback copies were worn out.

The author has developed an extremely interesting, challenging & complex series with her books. If you're able to read them in order, you'll see how each character is introduced then thoroughly developed down the line. I am only disappointed in the fact that there aren't more series from her - I've read her dragon books as well ;-) is to be HUGELY thanked for offering the books that it does at prices I can afford - the Sellers that I have dealt with are fantastic as well!

Vanyel

Vanyel is one of those characters you want to both shake and applaud. He's utterly selfless and ridonculously self conscious. Good story and the end of the arc but still one of Mercedes Lackey's

best books.Without spoiling the book (ha! its over 20 years old) if you've read some of the later books or just read the cues from the series titles you know what's coming.

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