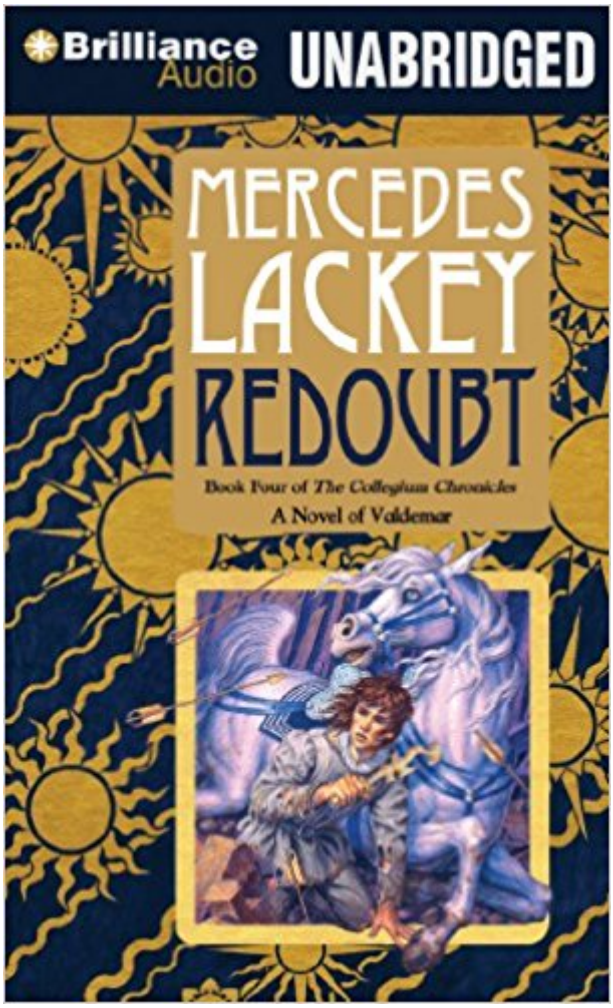
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Redoubt: The Collegium Chronicles (Valdemar Series)



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Synopsis

Life at the HeraldsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Collegium in Haven had definitely improved for Mags. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢d even become something of a hero since risking his own life to rescue AmilyÃ¢â ¬â •daughter of Nikolas, the KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Own HeraldÃ¢â ¬â •from Karsite kidnappers.Things had improved for MagsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ small group of close friends, too. MagsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ friend Bear had become a bit of a hero himself; though still a Trainee, he had performed a difficult and complicated medical procedure on Amily and restored the use of her legs. Now Bear was accepted as a peer by the Healers, and Amily was slowly gaining strength, walking on her own for the first time in her life. Lena, the Bard Trainee, was relieved to be free of the crushing disapproval of her now infamous, exiled father. Bear and Lena were in love, and so were Mags and Amily. Mags had his Companion Dallen, classes, his friends, Amily, and kirball. He was no longer the Ã¢â ¬Å“foreignerÃ¢â ¬Â• so many students distrusted. Life was good.But Mags still didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know who his parents had been, and Bear, who had his own demons, was not one to let him forget: Ã¢â ¬Å“You gotta deal with your past, Mags, you have to. If you donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll just keep coming back to haunt you, and one day itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll do something to you that you canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t get out of.Ã¢â ¬Â•Mags began his special training as NikolasÃ¢â ¬â„¢ undercover partner and future spy for the crown. Disguised, they worked at night in one of the seedier parts of Haven, where Nikolas had set up a false identity as a pawnbroker and fence. Mags posed as his deaf-mute nephew, covertly watching and listening from behind the desk. He was especially good at the trait that had kept him alive in the gem mineÃ¢â ¬â •ferreting out hidden motives. Fading into the shadows, as he had done as a child laborer, his extensive knowledge of gems was a multifaceted benefit, for he could identify specific stolen treasures and also separate the real from the fake. And Nikolas could trust him to chase down leads. Mags had grown extremely strong, agile, and remarkably adept at running across rooftops, slipping down drain pipes, and sneaking unseen along dark alleyways. He knew there were still skilled, determined assassins hunting for him, hired by Karse, ValdemarÃ¢â ¬â„¢s long-standing enemy. It was necessary for Mags to be always on his guard.Now Mags has graduated to a new role: NikolasÃ¢â ¬â„¢ partner and information broker. Mags channels his old cunning self from the mines and discovers that heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s quite good at his new job. So good, in fact, that Nikolas decides to let him open the shop alone one hot summer night.Mags has barely unlocked the shop when everything goes black in a blinding flash of pain. He wakes with an agonizing headache, bound, blindfolded, in a conveyance of some kind. But worst of all, heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s head-blind. No MindspeechÃ¢â ¬â •he canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t even sense Dallen. And if he canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t sense or hear Dallen, then no one can sense him. And if no one can sense him, no

one can come to his rescue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Returning to her beloved Valdemar universe, Lackey opens her new series at a pivotal time in the history of Valdemar, when the education of Heralds is changing and dangers from other lands are felt in the court and on the training field. Series fans will enjoy the variations on a familiar theme, while enough information is presented for first-timers to discover a world of high adventure and individual courage. Highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Library JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“A real page-turnerÃ¢â ¬Â|. Outstanding characters, especially Mags, will greatly please Valdemar fans.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“Has everything youÃ¢â ¬â„¢d expect in a Valdemar bookÃ¢â ¬Â|and itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wonderful.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Romantic TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Recalls Lackey’s earliest Valdemar books... a worthy entry in the overall saga.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Publishers Weekly --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.

Let me start off this review with a condolence to those who chose this book to be their first adventure into Mercedes Lackey's Velgarth and the Heralds of Valdemar. This book is not an accurate indication of her previous (almost profound) books, which are in short, outstanding. I find that it's difficult and somewhat silly to say that a book "hurt" my feelings, but frankly I've never been this disappointed with a literary work before.In the previous books of the Collegium Chronicles many people had problems with Mags' country bumpkin speech pattern. I didn't have as much of a problem simply because Lackey alluded that this was part of the face, part of the work that Mags' would be doing. That being said, I liked the loss of the bumpkin speech, it's just too bad that the loss of his accent came with a loss of his character, and the tragic loss of actual plot. (Ladies, this book is like watching Magic Mike, you don't show for the story, you come for the so called "eye candy". In this case, the candy is not half naked men, but a white creature with four hooves and a person in uniform)I'm trying to avoid spoilers, so I'll make my criticisms brief.Once again, there is little resolution with regards to Mags' past. The little we get is practically useless,comes at the bitter end of the book, and makes no sense.There's no character development aside from Mags coming to terms with certain fears, Amily being able to walk, and a kerfuffle for Bear & Lena(primarily Bear). The 100 or so pages of Mags' dreams do little to add to the story or to character development. Imagine reading a nightmare journal, and that's about half the story.The other half is a recap of Kirball (fun but not exactly worthy of a plot point), and stolen recaps of the other books. Literally. Cut and Paste memories(both part of the dreaming and not).Readers will meet new characters at the end(and I mean the end because we don't really meet them until we're down to the dregs) with interest. However, this comes with two caveats. 1) Readers will be interested because they're familiar with the world of Velgarth or 2)they will be interested because Lackey provides little information and leaves lots of undesirable and confusing guesswork.It's obvious Lackey's heart isn't in this series anymore. I just wish that she would have realized that even if her heart isn't with Valdemar anymore, there are reader's who ARE invested in Mags' tale. Readers don't need Mag's to be the amazing stories of yesteryear, but is it too much to ask that Lackey write something worth reading, even if it won't be treasured? I hate hate hate to give Lackey a poor review, but this book isn't a book, it's a cop-out.

I felt like someone just played a practical joke on me. The book started off well, a little to much like the previous 2 books with the constant kirball but not bad. Then it was like Mercedes. Lackey ran out of ideas so of the whole middle of the book was a series of nightmares and dreams from Mag's. Literally. Then the ending was rushed with no conclusive ending to the plot and she didn't

adequately answer who Mag's parents were which is what I thought this book was supposed to tell us. The whole book felt like a cop-out for the author. I have never been more disappointed with a Lackey book. I felt like she stopped caring what she wrote and as a fan for more than 15 years that hurt.To sum it up if you are a fan buy it because it goes with the series and we do get an answer as to why they were after Mag's. Definitely do not buy as a first read. And if you can, wait for the paperback because it wasn't even worth the kindle price of 12.99, let alone the almost 30$ for the hardback. She should have used the 80 or so wasted pages on nightmares that Mag's had to actually advance the plot.

I picked up two bad habits in college: Mercedes Lackey and Ben and Jerry's. I still give in and indulge now and then, but it seems like the remorse hits faster and faster.Remember when things actually happened to characters, and sometimes those things were not just a misunderstood Herald Trainee overcoming self-doubt and learning to trust but getting enmeshed in something that filled out the corners of the map, had a little geopolitical intrigue, maybe made you feel like there was a big, deep world that could be puzzled out? Twenty years later, Ben and Jerry's still has reliable chunks of mint cookie but Mercedes Lackey seems to have stopped even trying. After three books with very little plot and only the mildest of story-arcs, the fourth does the bare minimum to even try to resolve Mags' history and the mysterious spies or kidnappers or assassins or whatever they are. Virtually nothing of importance happens in the first two thirds of the book, and the end leaves so plenty of questions.If you're a fan and you've gutted it out this far, you know you're going to buy this. But you'll ask yourself why you keep caring.

I've been a fan of Mercedes Lackey for years. I started reading her books in high school in the early 90s and have been a devoted follower all these years. But this latest series really has me questioning whether it's worth it to continue to read her new Valdemar stuff. When the Collegium Chronicles first came out, I was so happy to have another Valdemar series. Even though the writing in the first few books was rather lackluster and obvious, and the plot development slow to the point of standing still, I persisted. I like to have closure with series that I start, even though I may not be wild about them. It takes a really horrible series to make me stop in the middle. So shortly after October 2, the day Redoubt was released on Kindle, I purchased it hoping to get some closure with this series and move on. I was sorely disappointed. The entire story moved forward less than an inch. It seems like there are miles to go in Mags' story and Ms. Lackey doesn't yet have a plan on how to address it. Most of the book was spent re-examining Mags' past in the mines, and only one

aspect of his unknown past is revealed. Nothing further really happens with Mags' development within the Heraldic Circle, or with the rest of Valdemar. This book was extremely disappointing to say the least, and a complete and utter waste of $12.00.

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