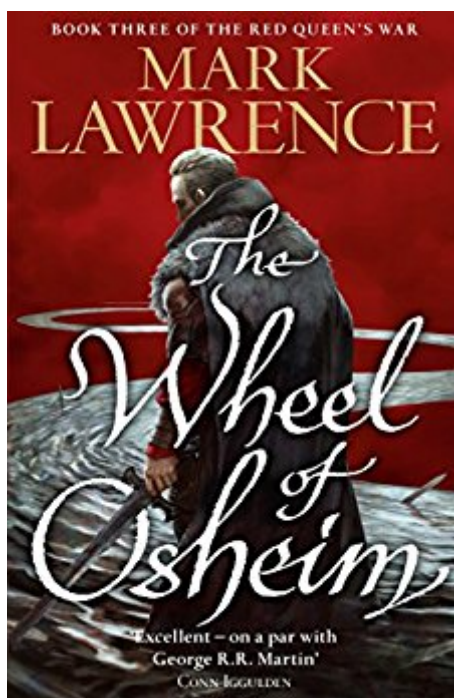


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The Wheel Of Osheim (Red Queen's War, Book 3)



Synopsis

From the critically-acclaimed author of PRINCE OF FOOLS comes the third volume of the brilliant new epic fantasy series, THE RED QUEEN'S WAR. All the horrors of Hell stand between Snorri Ver Snagason and the rescue of his family, if indeed the dead can be rescued. For Jalan Kendeth getting back out alive and with Loki's Key is all that matters. Loki's creation can open any lock, any door, and it may also be the key to Jalan's fortune back in the living world. Jal plans to return to the three Ws that have been the core of his idle and debauched life: wine, women, and wagering. Fate however has other, larger, plans. The Wheel of Osheim is turning ever faster and it will crack the world unless it's stopped. When the end of all things looms, and there's nowhere to run, even the worst coward must find new answers. Jal and Snorri face many dangers from the corpse-hordes of the Dead King to the many mirrors of the Lady Blue; but in the end, fast or slow, the Wheel of Osheim will exert its power. In the end it's win or die.

Book Information

File Size: 1359 KB

Print Length: 432 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0425268829

Publisher: HarperVoyager (June 2, 2016)

Publication Date: June 2, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B0191FND6W

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #242,037 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #236

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Norse & Viking #249 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Norse & Viking #384 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor & Satire > Dark Humor

Customer Reviews

I loved this book, and it provided such an excellent end to the series that I haven't been able to start

reading a new book for a couple of weeks because I haven't wanted to leave Mark Lawrence's world. I was intrigued by how the author constructed this book, where not only did it tie the character's stories in a neat little knot, it also entwined this whole Red Queen's War Trilogy with the author's previous Broken Empire Trilogy. I'll try to avoid spoiling anything, but I loved how essentially the ending of *The Wheel of Osheim* set up the ending of *Emperor of Thorns*. This book also drove home the point that while they were completely different characters, in many ways Jalan is the distorted mirror image of Jorg. I loved their little drunken meeting on the roof of the building near the Mathema, and the resulting series of events were really satisfying when Jalan returned home. At first, I was a little annoyed that the previous cliffhanger ending was solved at the beginning of the book, and instead was doled out in flashbacks. I know the author must love this writing style, and it does provide a nice alternating flow to the book that I enjoyed, but I did miss having Snorri around a large portion of the book. However, this did provide Jalan with the chance of being the hero and the leader when the Undead Army attacks the city, something that was tougher when the heroic viking was around. One of my favorite parts of the book happened towards the end, where it almost turns into a Science Fiction story instead of a Fantasy book, and all of the readers get much more info into how the world works. It was incredibly interesting to read, and full of a lot of ideas that would normally never be found in other books that would be found on the same shelf. I loved how it was everything was presented when they reached the Wheel of Osheim, and it lead to the near perfect ending, and a hilarious Epilogue. So overall, I would highly recommend this series to everyone, and I think both Fantasy and Science Fiction readers would find a lot to love within these pages. *The Wheel of Osheim* was an excellent conclusion to an outstanding trilogy, and I look forward to reading whatever the author puts out next.

While this was an amazing trilogy and the ending was epic, it was still missing that elusive "something" that authors strive after that pushes their work into the "masterpiece" class. Mark Lawrence achieved this with the "Broken Empire" trilogy but while I could not point out any specific thing in this trilogy that was lacking it was not to the level of work that that trilogy was but then again, many fewer people would be offended with this trilogy as compared to that one I suppose. Bottom Line: I kept me enthralled for days and I am glad I read it but the last few pages after everything "heroic" had been accomplished, while in keeping with the authors depiction of our reluctant hero, was still a bit disappointing. 5 Stars for a wonderful story that kept the reader addicted but anyone who has read *The Broken Empire* trilogy cannot help but compare and find this one just below that very high mark set by that story.

I did have a number of minor quibbles about the protagonist during the progression of this trilogy. In fact, found him less likable than Jorg - from Lawrence's exceedingly similar Broken Empire trilogy (and Jorg is a jerk)... which begs the comparison. With The Red Queen's War, believe that I liked the Dead King, necromancers and their various creations better than the meanies in Broken Empire. Speaking of the Dead King?! All said and done, this was a very entertaining trilogy and would recommend it to anyone finding themselves reading this review. In fact, would suggest reading this series before the Broken Empire books because there are some important interactions, with Jorg, which have implications to Broken Empire but not the other way around.

Mark Lawrence's *The Wheel of Osheim*, the third book in his *The Red Queen's War* trilogy, is a vehicle for his artistry, a moving story painted brilliantly with vivid, vermilion-like prose. Mark finds revolutionary ways to turn a phrase, spinning a tale driven with excellent pacing that never becomes tiresome. Whenever things seem to settle a bit, the plot veers off in an unexpected direction. At the hub of it all, we once again have Prince Jalan Kendeth, a character we cannot safely bank on or with, who makes a hell of an entrance at the beginning into an explosive situation with serendipitous effects. Mark has written a fantasy laden with horror, and carrying a heavy mantle of science fiction that cloaks the world's magic. I'd venture to advertise it as an adventure story too; saving the world is something the plot spends a lot of time on. The story takes classic genre structures and classily updates them so that they still seem fresh: a siege involving undead combatants that turn their enemies into dead ringers; the apotheosis of entities as a result of popular belief systems and legends; monsters created by our imagination's fears that want to kill us (I first saw this in the groundbreaking 1956 movie *Forbidden Planet* and *id* scared me then). One episode in the novel was especially eerie, but my cardinal rule is no spoilers even if it leads to blank stares. I am fairly sure that the name *Osheim* is an homage to the mythical literary Land of Oz; although, to be frank, Ozheim sounds better (even if more relatable to an Osbourne than the novel's *Unborn*). There's also quite a bit that mirrors *Through the Looking-Glass*, and What Alice Found There; and it's not just because there's a Red Queen and her name happens to be Alica, or that looking-glasses play an important part in the story. No, Mr.

Lawrence's allusive skill far exceeds the obvious. I mention all of this because it's reflective of the kind of sly references and humor prevalent throughout "The Red Queen's War." Anything I didn't like? Well, the writing had one idiosyncrasy that distracted me. There was a peculiar overuse of words with the prefix "over," exacerbated by their being constantly hyphenated though the over-hyphenation was unnecessary, making these words look as broken as the Empire. This made me "over-wrought," but I got over it. Overall though, as I indicated earlier the prose rose to the occasion and made the finale of "The Red Queen's War" a resounding one. When the best novels of 2016 are gathered together as a group, "The Wheel of Osheim" will be around.

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