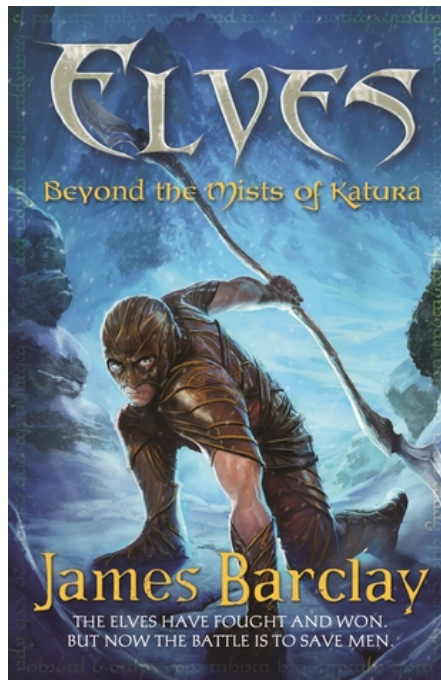




Beyond the Mists of Katura

James Barclay

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Thousands of years ago the elves were enslaved by the Wytch Lords. Murdered in their thousands, worked to death in slave gangs and divided against themselves, the wounds inflicted by man run deep - and elves have very long memories. Two of them - Auum and Takaar - led the rise against their enslavers, and united their people against men in order to free their nation. Now Calaius is at peace...but that doesn't mean their nation is safe.

Men need their help.

The Wytch Lords have rallied, men's magic has grown more powerful, and their politics have become altogether more dangerous. Especially now: one of the mages has created a spell, called Dawnthief, which has the potential to destroy all living things on the planet. All four magical colleges are fighting to seize it and, in the background, the Wytch Lords have schemes of their own. Schemes which involve crushing the elven nation for good. Whoever seizes the spell, it places the elves in tremendous danger. But can Auum and Takaar overcome their differences and work together to save Calaius? And even if they can, is it not already too late

Beyond the Mists of Katura Details

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From Reader Review Beyond the Mists of Katura for online ebook

Robin Carter says

I have been a fan of James Barclays work since 1999 when Dawnthief first hit the book shelves. His style so reminiscent of my then favourite author David Gemmell. The characters flawed but heroic, larger than life yet down to earth. The action fast and furious and the body count high. And yet despite that there has been something that has niggled at me since Once walked with Gods, a feeling that he had strayed from his earlier writing prowess.

With Beyond the Mists of Katura I think I have finally nailed the problem, The characters are still great, the writing fast yet sparse where needed and powerful and emotional where required. The plot pushes ahead at a furious pace and the body count leaves me wondering if there will be anyone left alive.

The niggle i fnally figured out is with the Elves themselves, whilst they are not unbeatable, despite their near immortality and their legendary fighting prowess. Its the constant description of an elf in fighting mode, there are only so many times you need to read about what part of what hand or foot or throwing knife did what damage. The action is too intimate, it needs to be pulled back to the broader picture sometimes, and have more of the emotional depth of the scenes at the end. The finale with Auum is simply excellent. Takaar is also such an excellent character, so flawed so damaged by his long life and so dangerous no one can predict his next action, perfect fodder for a great story. The book brings the whole series plot full circle back to Dawnthief, and ends the cycle. I think this is a good thing, I'd like to see James break away again as his did with the blooming excellent Ascendants of Estorea.

Would I recommend?

Yes to all existing fans of James Barclay, for newbies, i think you need to start at the beginning, I would have been a little lost and overcome by the battles if not for the back story.

overall a 4/5 for the end of a series

(Parm)

Simon Howard says

finished this heartbreaking but wonderful book and enjoyed every minute of it!!!

Leigh Lyle says

The elves, led by Auum and Takaar, have been summoned to save their kin at the besieged college of Julatsa. A journey taken reluctantly by Auum and his cells - as it means leaving behind their beloved rainforest. The threat, however, is very real as the powerful (but bickering) Wytch Lords have made a pact with the rival college of Xetesk and the trophy they seek, the Dawnthief, could destroy all life.

This well written stonker of a book takes you on an emotional voyage of highs and lows, the fight scenes are breath-taking, the character building is superb as you enter the insanity of Takaar and feel the abiding

comradeship of Auum and Ulysan..all in all, a thoroughly good read!

Excellent

Leon Niemandt says

I tried more than once to start this series, urged on by a friend who also enjoys fantasy. Took me a couple of tries to get into it but then really enjoyed Books 1 and 2. Really bad bad-guys, ass-kicking good-guys. But I have been stuck more than halfway through the 3rd book for weeks now and I just realised: I'm never going to finish it.

It's not that it's bad. If you enjoyed Books 1 and 2 then there is no reason you shouldn't enjoy Book 3. The problem is, there really is no difference between Books 1, 2 and 3. Yes, the story progresses and a few new characters are added or killed, but essentially it's still exactly the same story and exactly the same action sequences repeated over and over and over again.

And I just don't care anymore. I won't give it a 1-star, because it's not a bad book, but I won't give it more than 2 because I just can't honestly say that I enjoyed it.

Taylor says

I am sorry this is the last book but it was a great finale. If you have not read Chronicles of the Raven your in for a treat.

Ruby Ridge says

The concluding volume of this series is what we have come to expect from James Barclay, no gratuitous sex, no ridiculous romance, no story padding just cover to cover action and a helluva story. A quick read because you just cannot put the damned thing down - 5 stars. Recommended to anyone who can read, although if you have a weak heart you may want to check with your doctor first.
James - another series please!

Bianca says

definitely my favourite book from the trilogy.. loving the bromance, a warm reminder of hirad and my favourite elf ilkar.. ^.^
not liking the heartbreak though i know it's inevitable..

Ross Coulbeck says

Fantastic! need I say more? As a long time lover of The Chronicles and Legends of the Raven, the Elves

books were always going to be something I enjoyed.

This is a great conclusion to the story and I can't fault it. The battles were exciting and the emotions ran high. Planning to now go back and read the Raven books again, since the end of this book leads onto them :)
