



In the Earth Abides the Flame

Russell Kirkpatrick

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Battered and bruised, suffering grievous loss, the company enters the great city of Instruere. They have to warn the Council of Faltha of the Destroyer's threat, and have no idea of the depth of treachery that awaits them.

In the Earth Abides the Flame Details

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Author : Russell Kirkpatrick

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Lindsay says

“In the Earth Abides the Flame” was definitely better than the first. The plot was thick enough that it distracted from the lack of character building. Still I fought with the randomness that Kirkpatrick assigns his character back-stories. Just when you think you are getting to know a character, the scene switches and he begins to delve into another characters life.

The story compelled me enough to carry on with the third and final book. This being said, I will most likely avoid this author’s work as I do not enjoy his writing style.

Douglas says

The second book of this series continues in about the same vein of the first, but at least they are out of medieval Canada now. This being a trilogy, our protagonists' long struggles and hardships are meet with even more struggles and hardships as they come to terms with what is happening to the world and what they are called to do.

Perhaps the strongest parts of this part of the story, at least for me, is the growing realization of who the Most High is and what he requires of the travelers and how he relates to Leith in particular. It an illustration of the real struggle with God and what God wants of us -- and the choices we make in light of those struggles. Although the Most High speaks to all our travelers, Kirkpatrick wisely keeps conversation with the Most High to a minimum, most in interior dialogue with Leith.

The developments of the story remain mostly interesting, even if having very familiar fantasy trappings and tropes. They may not be painted well enough to appear fresh, but Kirkpatrick keeps the pace of the story moving along to satisfy. Overall, this book builds on the first and so I give it a total of 689 milli-tolkeins.

Shay says

The religious overtones make the book seem familiar though not quite predictable. The plot is paced better than the first in the series, but still drags at times. And the ending was utterly random, as if Kilpatrick decided to just stop writing to save something for the trilogy.

Sue says

It was better than the first one. I usually get all three books of a trilogy at the same time (even though I get burned sometimes), and I was glad that this book was better than the first. I'm just starting the third book now, and I'll weigh in on the entire trilogy there. Oh, and I wouldn't put this series on the same level as LOTR.

Brian Hagedorn says

Just like the first book, the maps are incredible. Unfortunately, the rest of book isn't--just like the first book.

Much of this story is like the garbled mess of a first draft or something crunched out during NaNoWriMo. The book can never decide whether it should be omniscient or limited omniscient in its viewpoint, bouncing between the two for no reason whatsoever. More annoyingly, the characters act in a very decidedly melodramatic fashion, and often bouncing from one emotion to the next. The main character, Leith, comes off as a whinny idiot--much like Harry Potter in the last few books in that series.

Compounding the mess is too many plot contrived events. Too many "random" events that seem to only serve the purpose of filling space because nothing is happening. Too many times something bad happens because things are going too good--the classic pull-the-rug-from-underneath-them trick. Too many magical "fixes" to get them out of a bad situation.

That was, by far, the most abrupt ending of any book I have read. A WTF moment that's more baffling and confusing than the bad plot and writing. There's no logic to it--at all.

And the worst offense: the unnatural mashing of "Lord of the Rings" epic fantasy with Christian undertones of "Chronicles of Narnia". Where subtlety was needed, there was a brute forced hammer instead. A complete utter failure of epic proportions.

The fact that this book actually gets two stars is simply because I've read worst crap than this.

And that it had the amusing quality of a SyFy channel movie.

Aisha Mahmoud says

This one too was really good. I was not too keen at first about the religion bit and thought the author was going into a Christian fiction kind of thing and ending it in a subtle sort of follow Christ message but I was pleasantly surprised. Really good. I read it in three days which for me is really fast with my ADHD and all.

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Mick says

This is book two of the Fire of Heaven series by Russell Kirkpatrick and continues the wonderful tale. This time around the battle is no longer against the elements but now it mostly against evil rot by other characters. For this reason it is also darker than book one. The pacing is quicker and more interesting characters are brought into the mix. My one complaint is a minor one. There is no natural end like in the first book, here the ending is a cliff-hanger. Make sure you have book 3 on hand.

Highly recommended!

Attila says

The travelling party arrives at the capital city to tell the Council about the Bhrudwan invasion, but the Destroyer's minions have already infiltrated the capital, so the warnings are not heeded. Some of the good guys decide to travel to a remote location to recover the Arrow of Flame, an old relic that may aid them against the enemy.

I found this more original and intense than the first book, and I can say I liked it. The final scenes and revelations were great.

Ruth says

c2004. Second in the Fire of Heavens trilogy. The second book did not disappoint but ended somewhat abruptly for my taste. I know that the third book is out but if it had not been, I would have felt really cheated. It always seems to me to be publishers greed that breaks up these books sometimes or the editors of said publishing houses encouraging the authors to adopt this behaviour. Having finished the rant, the Company's next set of travails were just as good as in the first although I felt if there is little or no additional characterisation. I did find that this felt far more "religious" than the previous book and I found myself anticipating some of the more trite passages in the book. However, I would still recommend the book although for some reason, it took me longer than usual to finish the 506 pages (excluding the glossary). "Truth is more powerful than deception! Deceit wins many battles, but the fruit of its victories evaporates along the lies it tells. Truth may suffer many defeats, but the victories it wins are permanent. We must tell the truth!" Kirkpatrick incorporates his clear love of geography really well and this fairly unusual knowledge does provide the novel with realistic descriptions of the surrounds and weather. A synopsis would have helped in order to have got the mind set sorted but I found that the detailed glossary did the trick in kicking the memory cells in order for me to actually remember the nuances of the main characters.

Jeff says

It took me 2 times to make it through this book, but in the end i turned out to enjoy it. Yeah, it has all the familiar fantasy elements, and at times the characterizations could be better. But, the world is deep and well thought-out. If you want sorta a throwback quest fantasy and mindless fun, you would probably enjoy this book. more thoughts here

Rachel says

I suspect that I am never going to be a fan of Mr Kirkpatrick's so-called "epic" trilogy, mostly down to the fact that, for a doorstep of a book, it's very low on plot and characterization, concentrating instead on ramming huge amounts of preaching and religious fervour down the reader's throat. The Hermit, in particular, seems to have no other purpose other than to be held up as an example of how Hal's preaching is right, whereas everybody else is wrong.

Characterization is also not a strong suit, taking all of the first book and most of the second for our heroes to become more than two-dimensional little blobs of exposition, and there may be one or two only who are even remotely likable.

I also don't quite get the Lord of The Rings comparisons, unless it has something to do with length. Other than that, they are worlds apart.

Felicity says

My mother gave me this series of books to read. There are a lot of descriptive battle scenes and an underlying religious message. Most books take me about a 3 days (if not busy) to a week to read. Each one of these took me a month. It was good enough to keep reading but it didn't hold my attention for long periods of time. I like to be swept away by fiction. Unfortunately that did not happen with these books.

Daniel Taylor says

I fell in love with the characters and the stories in the first book of this trilogy, but then the poor author got caught on the publisher production line and had to produce this sequel in twelve months. He lacked the chance to develop as an author and refine the manuscript to the same standard as the first, flawless, book.

Peter Smith says

This is the 2nd book in this series, and picks up immediately after the 1st left off. The group is divided and the main character sets off to recover an artifact with which to well we actually don't know what purpose it will serve yet, be it talisman of power, or just a rallying point.

All in all the story is good, and there is a revelation, of sorts, at the end as to what the quest is. Oddly though, after 600+ paperback pages, I really can't see what took so many to accomplish, except as in the first descriptions of scenery.

Some may dislike that, I find it helpful for visualization, but it probably is too much for many, and the story part of the story could be expanded, or we could have had shorter books.

I'd still recommend it tho, its an easy read, and better than many in the genre.
