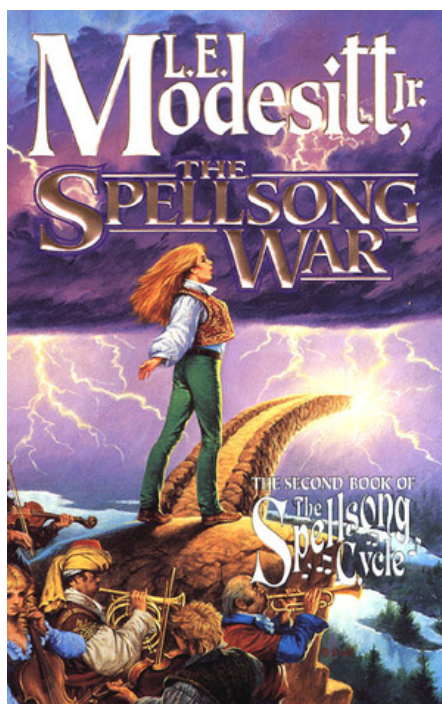




## The Spellsong War

*L.E. Modesitt Jr.*

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# The Spellsong War

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## **The Spellsong War** L.E. Modesitt Jr.

The sequel to *The Soprano Sorceress*, from the bestselling author of the Recluce Saga

With *The Soprano Sorceress* L.E. Modesitt started The Spellsong Cycle, an innovative and compelling new fantasy series that won Modesitt tons of new readers. *The Spellsong War* will enthrall its readers and continue to build Modesitt's increasingly loyal following.

Anna Marshal is regent of the kingdom of Defalk only a few months after a sorcerer pulled her from her boring life as a music instructor in Ames, Iowa to the world of Erde. With her ability and her integrity she saved Defalk from invasion and became it's regent, now she must defend it against the greedy rulers of neighboring kingdoms who see a weakened state and a possible opportunity.

*The Spellsong War* is the second book of the Spellong Cycle.

## **The Spellsong War Details**

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Author : L.E. Modesitt Jr.

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## From Reader Review The Spellsong War for online ebook

### Josephine says

It is a long book, in audio it is fun to listen too. I like how the main character's are having to evolve. Can't wait to read more of the series.

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### Argus says

Have you ever had a friend (or nemesis, I won't judge) who thinks that any problem can be solved with enough violence? I did, once. It was kind of weird. He was a nice enough guy, and I liked bantering and hanging out with him, but his willingness to resort to punching in lieu of actually having a serious debate was unsettling, and ultimately led to our friendship collapsing. Overall, I don't recommend dealing with anyone like that. Friend or enemy, someone who can't think beyond hitting a problem with increasingly larger objects isn't someone who you want to have in your life. As they say, "violence is the tactic of the foolish and the delight of the cruel".

I bring this up for two reasons. One, I've become increasingly amused with the idea of opening book reviews with non sequiturs, and two, this is sort of how the main character of this series acts.

As a normal Earth woman dropped into a fantasy world where songs are magic, Anna is in the perfect position to use her insanely powerful sorcery for a good burst of civilization building. She does so... poorly. Granted, she uses her spell song to build a few bridges, and... and that's the only constructive thing I can remember her doing. Almost everything else involves some permutation of putting fire and or sharp things into her enemies. Also, mind control.

Now, if she were the villain of this story, I wouldn't mind at all. Except she's supposed to be the hero. But honestly, she acts more like Darth Vader than Mother Theresa. Her enemies are problems to be removed, her kingdom will fix itself eventually on its own, so long as she kills any threat to it. At least, that's the attitude she seems to take. And then she resents it in herself, complaining that she's doing bad things. Which, you know, she IS.

I guess my main problem with the story is just how uncreative she is with her limitless power. If she doesn't want to be attacked, why not just wall off the land, China-style? She's proven that she can do mega-construction with her voice; maybe that would help fix the problem of invaders, while still allowing for trade and NOT MURDER. Maybe instead of just mentally dominating anyone who disagrees with her and forcing them to be loyal forever, which is **suuuuuuper** unethical, she could instead buy their loyalty by improving their lands and showing them that a well-ordered civilization is better than the warring tribes thing they have going on. Hell, just by introducing double-entry accounting, she vastly improves her own kingdom's efficiency. I'm sure she's got another piece of esoteric knowledge stashed away that could help.

At the end of the day, a lot of the book is a repeated pattern; which makes sense for a book about music, I guess. She establishes power, then there's a threat, then she fireballs it, then goes back to stabilizing her hold. Rinse. Repeat. And that's it. There's some interesting character bits, but not enough. There's some interesting ideas with the magic, but they get revealed too slowly, and again, they're not enough.

Overall, recommend that you skip this series. The first book is not bad. The second book is more of the same with no significant developments. I'm not planning on pressing this literary expedition.

## Stacie says

Note: This is my review from 03.

I really enjoyed the first book in the series, and was excited to read the next one. What I got was a very blah book. It's hard to pinpoint the exact problem.

Almost all character/world building is left to the first novel. The first novel had Anna's introduction to Erde and many of her reactions to her new circumstances, and learning about her new powers. This book doesn't build on those themes much, though relying on the same complaints she often had, from the first book.

All politics are mostly shown by snippets of the other world leaders of Erde having bland discussion with their subordinates. Perhaps this is all building towards something larger in the next book, but I felt that I would have been just fine with Anna's storyline, and not had the world politics revealed to me without so much as a spell song.

OK, the novel is called the Spell song War, but the Spell song War parts bored me to tears, as well as the traveling between them, so what was left to this book? Not much.

Speaking of long sections. I haven't read many Modestitt Jr books, so I don't know if this practice of copying text is common in the other ones. I could almost feel the copy-paste in the computer happening as I read. I had the sense that I had read several sections before, almost to the letter.

The same description about flowery language, same complaining from Anna about the things following it happened over and over.

It's always Holly Lolly Polly Pop... We learned more warm ups in 2nd grade, why does she almost never vary it?

Almost everytime the hat is mentioned it is 'the floppy hat' with no other description. If you're not providing new information about an item, why bother mentioning it? I can almost always remember to imagine it as floppy. or flowery, or that she has to clear the same mucus from her throat or ect.

Music. This is a problem. I have never been an opera singer, but I have been in a performing orchestra. Anna is missing some spark that makes it seem like she's been up on the stage. That she knows more about music than words like vocalise, or strophic (which is not clear to me, as a musician, though I could research it). She never seems to feel the music build in her, never describes what it's like to be the music, the instrument, to be carried by the rush of performance. Perhaps she's too...tired.(as she always is) But would it have hurt L.E. to do a bit more research into how music feels? how it feels to perform? Has he ever talked to a group of musicians? felt their passion? seen how they can geek out over an overture, or aria? Also, I understand she may not be a composer, but the snippets provided don't do enough to show that they are actually part of songs, The closest we get is a bit from The Battle Hymn, but as a classically trained opera singer(usually charged with memorization of their music) she should have a much larger set of music to draw from, even children's music as she's had children.

Many of these things I forgave in the first novel, due to the interesting premise, characters, places. Somehow Anna has become a flatter character, with less to offer in this novel. I had expected things to evolve more, and was let down.

With all of that said, I'll still likely give the 3rd book a try, I'm still interested in the premise, and want to see if things really do improve with the 3rd novel. I'm hoping for less travel, and more character building.

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## Pickyreader says

### Good

This was good not one of my favorites but intriguing enough to finish and see where the next in the series takes me.

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## Stephen says

This is not the best book ever written and pretty much just continued the story from the last book. The main character learns nothing new about Darksong and Clearsong, her headaches and double-vision are left unexplained. Also unexplained is why the scrying burns up mirrors, and how any of the magic in the world works. She has a crush on her confidante, but it's mostly ignored, whereas her feelings about women and men's differences in power and other topics are repeated throughout. She basically burns and murders her way through a very boring and repetitive story that drags on for 600 or so pages before the "ending" which really doesn't solve much of anything and merely sets up the next book.

I gave this 2 stars because there are some parts that are genuinely interesting. These parts are few and far between though. Not a quick read and definitely will not be reading the sequels.

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## Rob says

I love Modesitt. Some don't like the detail in his works, but I feel the minutia is what makes it real and believable. This is another much like all his writing, but continues the Anna's journey and introduces the Sturinnese into the picture, portraying them as powerful, organized and thoroughly rotten to the core. By the end, you recognize that bringing an end to the misogyny of Erde, or at least all of Liedwahr, might just cost Anna her life. How far are you willing to go, to bring true peace and prosperity to an entire land and all its people?

As usual, Anna second-guesses herself constantly. She makes mistakes. Loses her temper and struggles with what she can and can't do in a culture completely foreign to her in so many ways, and yet so strikingly familiar. She seems alone in doing what is right, but starts to see friends and allies appear, who ultimately recognize Anna's truth in everything she does and tries to accomplish. I wish I was as brave.

Looking forward to the third.

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## Debbie says

This is the third book in L E Modesitt's series Spell Song Cycle. When my husband saw I was re-reading this series, he mentioned that he didn't like this series as much as the Recluse books. I figured out why when reading this book. The main character, Anna, doesn't have a very good opinion of men. She's magically transported from Ames, Iowa to the world of Erde where the men have very chauvanistic, medieval attitudes

about women. She a very strong sorceress in the new world, and sets out to change the lot of life for women in that world. Unfortunately, reasoning with the men in power never works - they have such low opinions of women that they won't take her seriously, until she uses her powers of sorcery to kill their armsmen and sorcerers. When she does take down one of the bad guys, the rest of the men in this new world think she's too harsh and evil. Anna's commentaries throughout the book are pretty anti-men, but she also questions if she isn't just as bad by always resorting to violence to solve her problems. She also questions whether she has the right to make the changes she has set forth in this world. I found her to be strong, but not perfect.

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### **Kurtbg says**

The singer stranger in a strange continues to work on pulling the 33 lords together and fighting against an entrenched patriarchal mindset. Not many fantasy books spend their time on the logistics of building a kingdom like education, accounting systems, bridges & dams, but you get it here. Anna, the stranger, is now regent in Defalk, and is surrounded by enemies as she tries to keep everything together. She keeps her eyes on the prize of unification, but her own subjects need a bit of convincing. If you liked the first one, and you like a rolling story then you won't be disappointed with the next installment.

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### **Joy says**

Anna, Regent of Defalk, is intent on making the country a peaceful, just one for Lord Jimbob, the heir, to rule. To her dismay, it seems the only way toward peace is through war. Her southern neighbor is stirring up rebellion among some of Defalk's more chauvanistic lords. Is there a way to make them respect a good ruler? Only by proving that she is strong and ruthless -- not good. But she will kill herself if necessary, to produce the sorcery her country needs to end the threat.

Modesitt's style is so smooth and pacey that it is hard to stop reading. The story would not stand up so well, IMO, without the smooth writing.

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### **Angela~twistedmind~ says**

It has actually been a bit since I read this, the 2nd book in the Spellsong Cycle Series, and I'm having a hard time remembering exactly what part of the story is in this book. I suppose being in the hospital, severely ill and hallucinating will play tricks with your mind. lol. Unfortunately there is no book description on the front nor the back of the book. I will do the best I can, so excuse me any mistakes.

Anna is now Regent of Defalk, holding the lands for the heir, young Jimbob. Lord Jecks, Jimbob's grandsire, is one of Anna's most valued and trustworthy allies and Anna depends greatly on his opinions and loyalty. Not only does Anna seem to face trouble from neighbouring countries (not really sure here if they would accurately be described as countries), often having to go to war but she is dealing with the Lords of her own lands rebelling against a woman regent. She must prove her power time and time again to men who will not believe that a mere woman could possibly rule with a strong hand; nor do they believe that a woman could be such a strong and commanding sorceress. Anna wonders how long it will take for the Lords of her land to respect her and accept her rule.....or if she will be destroyed by a revolt.

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## **Katie says**

This series is nostalgic for me because I first read it years ago. I'm reading it one last time before selling/donating the books, and don't feel like I'm going to miss them. As with the L.E. Modesitt Jr work in the Order/Chaos magic-world, it gets very very repetitive -- I think this series is worse than the other in terms of repetitiveness within the same book. The same words, phrases, plot action just got old for me. I like the characters alright, in general I enjoy strong female main characters, but...meh. Enjoyed it more as a teenager.

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## **Mike (the Paladin) says**

I like these books I like the magic system (slightly reminiscent of the poetry system in Stafsheff's wizard in rhyme books, but much more involved.) There are a few flaws here but not too many. Good reads. Picked these up after reading many of his Recluse books.

Anna is now regent of Defalk...she defended it once, but now neighbors believe the kingdom to be weakened... I guess "a woman's work is never done", when she can do magic with music and her voice. I suppose being regent of a fantasy kingdom is probably just work, work work all the time. I suppose Anna finds it more exciting than Ames Iowa though. (see book one). :)

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## **Elvet says**

I gave up on this one. I got tired of reading all the time about how Anna complains that she has to eat like a horse to maintain her magic powers. Of course, she is still too thin. Grrr!

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## **Traci Ramsey says**

It was a good book but I swear if I had to hear her mucus cough ups and globs of this one more time I might have put the book down. This author loves to be descriptive but at times I find it rather too much.

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## **Data says**

A strong female singer takes on the whole world. I really wanted her to get somewhere with her love life in this book though.

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