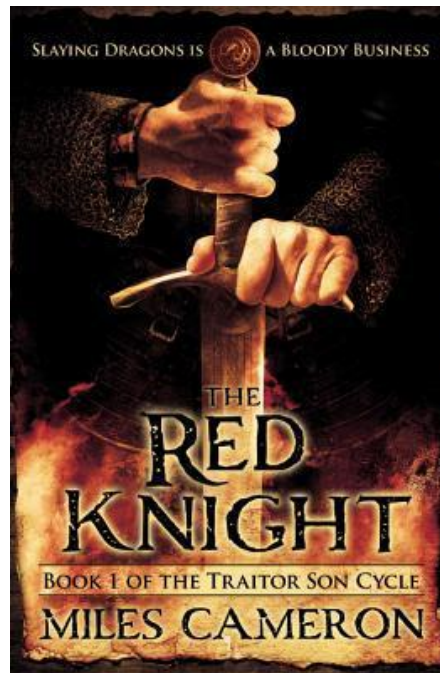




The Red Knight

Miles Cameron

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The Red Knight Miles Cameron

Twenty eight florins a month is a huge price to pay, for a man to stand between you and the Wild.

Twenty eight florins a month is nowhere near enough when a wyvern's jaws snap shut on your helmet in the hot stink of battle, and the beast starts to rip the head from your shoulders. But if standing and fighting is hard, leading a company of men - or worse, a company of mercenaries - against the smart, deadly creatures of the Wild is even harder.

It takes all the advantages of birth, training, and the luck of the devil to do it.

The Red Knight has all three, he has youth on his side, and he's determined to turn a profit. So when he hires his company out to protect an Abbess and her nunnery, it's just another job. The abby is rich, the nuns are pretty and the monster preying on them is nothing he can't deal with.

Only it's not just a job. It's going to be a war. . .

The Red Knight Details

Date : Published January 20th 2013 by Orbit (first published September 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Miles Cameron

Format : Kindle Edition 667 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Epic Fantasy, High Fantasy, Fiction, Dragons

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From Reader Review The Red Knight for online ebook

edge of bubble says

My rating for Red Knight fluctuated throughout the book, but even if it had ended up as 3 stars, it would still go into my favourites shelf.

I've used author's own picture, because this deserves a nod and why the hell not..

Story starts a bit confusing and the numerous PoV characters doesn't help with it at all. I was enjoying myself from the 20th page, despite the hard push into this foreign world. And I've come to love the rapid PoV changes with a wide spectrum of characters, from knights and queen to merchants and nuns.

But, the true beauty of this book lies in it's amazingly worded details. Nothing feels unnecessary yet you get to see the ordinary aspects of the surroundings and characters' situations. This works wonders with especially battle scenes, which are described in minute details sometimes. Yet, reads somehow magical.

Speaking of magic, the magic system here, is something I've never seen before. Unique and intriguing. And you are not shoved information about it. As the story progresses, author gives up bits and pieces when it is needed.

I loved the main protagonist, Red Knight. He is cheeky, driven, not perfect and in 5 to 10 years, will be in my harem. For now, the emo in him is too strong for my tastes. His sometimes whiny attitude with the annoying af romance going on in the background was two of the reasons my rating lowered. Another reason is the repetitive religious banter, his *God is mean, we don't get along boooo* and others' *God loves everyone, even you weeee* speeches got annoying fast, yet never ceased.

And there was a Dragon! At the very end and quite brief story time, but still... DRAGON!

All in all, this was a great read. Towards the end, in one battle scene, a song started playing in my mind and I'll leave you with it.

<https://youtu.be/t9Le57GzYA8>

Lindsay says

Warning: Goodreads has this as a 650 page paperback. I'm sure that is the case, but I'm also sure the font used in printing must be tiny for this to come in at that. Calibre counts this as 286,000 words. In comparison, The Name of the Wind comes in at 257,000 words.

That translates into a 30 hour audiobook which is mostly how I consumed this. (The narrator Matthew Wolf is superb, handling an enormous cast of characters with distinctive voices and suitable accents).

The world is an alternate version of ours set during medieval times with Christianity and Feudalism, but also with magic and magical creatures. The Red Knight and his band of mercenaries have been hired by the nuns of Lissen Carak, a fortified Abbey and town in the North West of Alba, a part of the country that has been steadily reclaimed by the Wild. The mercenaries have been hired to deal with a monster rampaging through

the region, but it becomes quickly obvious that this is only the first attack in the largest incursion by the Wild in generations.

Soon, Lissen Carak is under threat of siege and the whole North of Alba is under attack by an enormous and varied army of the Wild led by a fearsome sorcerer. The Red Knight and the Abbess stand firm as the forces of Alba rush to reinforce them. What follows is a long build up to the actual siege and a back and forth of advantage and disadvantage between the two forces.

There's much to recommend in this book. There's also much to criticize. Quite frankly, there's just *much*. I'm a little out-of-practice at reading the tree-killer tomes that epic fantasy is so well known for. What we have here is a story told through well over thirty different point-of-view characters, although it does concentrate mainly on a few favorites. Where the rest of the bulk comes from is the endlessly detailed description of the weaponry, armor and battles associated with the siege.

Another issue with the book is around world-building, and the basis of much of it in our world. There are world-building shortcuts that don't make a huge amount of sense. In a world with magic, and a world where resurrection and healing is possible through magic, how does Christianity work? What sets the deeds of Christ above those of your average sorcerer? In this book Christianity seems to be very similar to how it is in our world. There's anti-witch prejudice as well, but people with Power are very common especially in the Church itself. How does that work? The whole presence of magic feels tacked on, or a vague homage to something like Camelot.

Or more specifically, the author seems to have created the world he wants to play in and given only vague thought to how that world came about.

I also struggle with how women are treated in this book (and in much of epic fantasy to be honest). Women can be soldiers in this world, although we only get one named character who is a female soldier. But every other female character in the book fits pretty neatly into categories of wife, nun or whore, with a far greater variety of characterization among the male characters. And there's at least one of the female characters that's just horribly written with the male gaze just dripping off her and her very cynically aware of it.

But all that being said, this is an epic story that mostly achieves the goal of showing all sides of a siege battle in a fantasy world while making it very clear that even this sprawling conflict is only the first part of a much larger war. I'm hoping some of the issues I've come across here improve markedly in subsequent books.

Orient says

3,5 ?

A BR with my wonderful comrade at arm and a great kick-ass lady, **Nils** ?

'I will be what I will, not what anyone else wills, as can you. Be what you choose'.

I saw The Traitor Son Cycle series in updates/reviews quite a lot when my GR friends read it and I was the one who was determined to wait. I should have known better ? So when as usually stalking my GR friend Jody, I saw him reading this series and read his awesome review, I felt the right kick to start this series at

last.

At quick first sight “The Red Knight” has all the things for a fantasy read I like a lot.

1. Interesting, medieval plot with knighthood and stuff ?
2. Memorable characters I can root for ?
3. Magical creatures and magical world in total ?

But why 3,5 stars then? Well, not all went as planned for me!

Interesting plot with knighthood and stuff.

I liked “The Red Knight”, I really did. The writing is detailed, the story twists and turns are well planned and hard to guess and it left me excited for the next book. The fighting scenes are brutal and full of technical stuff (I could clearly imagine all the fights in my mind, the author even added the various parts of armor as a treat). The story is centered on one timeline, which spreads into multiple storylines. The chapters in “Red Knight” are quite long and it was confusing a bit for me as they contained several POV’s. It certainly helped that each POV part in the chapter was presented with a name and location. It’s interesting to follow and....stumble on grammatical errors. I am not sure if other editions had it, but mine clearly had. At first I was so interested that I didn’t notice it. But when some things started wearing me off, I added the grammar issue to the main complaint list. This is something I hope the sequels won’t have!

Memorable characters I can root for.

“The Red Knight” is a promising fantasy read with quite a big cast (oh bro, I wished it had a cast list for real). One of the most important parts of reading a great book for me is enjoy it without going back some pages to find who was that or this important character. And to my great disappointment some characters were just cast aside for 100 pages or so. It felt like losing a thread as when the character reappeared after being missing for 100 pages I just forgot who he/she was and again got a bit lost in mix of different POVs. It was like that for almost half a book. Also I felt that one character was totally unnecessary in the book. (view spoiler) I am eager to be proved wrong in the sequels!

Putting that aside, I think, the characters’ personalities and names are really great and I enjoyed them greatly. There are heroes, villains, some both and some simple nice people to root for. Names like Cuddy, No head, Wilful Murder, Sauce and Bad Tom gave interesting spices to characters and helped to tell their story. The story mostly centers upon the fight between good and evil. Nasty and gripping even more than you can hope!

‘Hope in one hand and sh*t in the other and see which one smells most.’ Hector

War is simple. That’s why men prefer it to real life Hywel Writhe

Bad Tom slammed his fist into the thing before it was done moving. ‘I name you – meat!’ he shouted. The mercenaries laughed. Some of the men-at-arms were even applauding and the guildsmen began to realise they might live. They began to cheer.

'Never use this power on your emotions, boy. Our humanity is all we have.' Harmodius

The camp of the good is well-formed, having a bunch of well-fleshed out personalities to root for. Apart from the Captain, the Red Knight himself, a born leader with wonderful powers and crappy past, there is my Tommy Boy, Bad Tom, an admirable kick-ass pal with amazing humor. The crew is worth their captain! Though, I must admit, I missed some great kick-ass heroines the biggest part of the story. I literally needed to wait for two thirds of the book to get some! Hah, but it was totally worth waiting! My love goes to Sauce, Amicia, the Abbess and Mag ???

'We are strongest, we mere humans, when we unite. Together we can resist. As individuals – we are no stronger than our weakest.' The Abbess

'Captain, I intend to pray. Try not to vanish in a puff of smoke,' said the Abbess.

The evil side is supported by various creatures like boglins, irks, daemons, wyverns and so on. Of course, not forgetting the greatest evil ever – humans. They all have their own plans, personalities, strengths and weaknesses. Not leaving aside the very top villain Thorn, a real thorn on the butt of the goodies.

Magical creatures and magical world in total.

The book is packed with various creatures, beautiful and ugly, they are well-written with details and their way of life. The magic system is new to me, I haven't encountered such in other reads and that is a huge plus!

(view spoiler)

The beautiful creatures of the wild ?

To sum up, I think "Red Knight" is a great read. A fan of fantasy genre will find a great treat with interesting battles, gripping magical system and memorable characters.

'Victory and defeat are for amateurs,' Tom said. 'For us, there is only life and death.'

Mike (the Paladin) says

Here we have the beginning of what seems to be another fine, readable, highly enjoyable epic fantasy. The story draws us in and if it has a weakness (and what book doesn't?) it may be that the story (again) strings out into several viewpoints. Of these most of us will probably become more interested in one "storyline" than we are the others (I know I did). Still when it boils down to "a" climax (actually there might be said to be "multiple climaxes") the author weaves all his threads together and pulls them into a tight bundle.

I've read a few lukewarm reviews that said things like "well it's a good story but there's nothing new here." Awwww, so sad." Or maybe, so what? How many truly original novels are there out there that use plot lines and story ideas/points that haven't been used before? Very, very few. Yes you will see some character "types" here. The plot is not some original new never seen before idea, there are wizards, knights, men at arms, fantasy creatures, monsters...but they're handled very well. The world is dark and gritty with as much "real world feel" as you can get into a fantasy novel. This is a version of medieval Europe (or thereabouts) with a somewhat twisted version of said "medieval" church (yeah, I'm a Christian and found it a little annoying but you can live with it as a story I think). So yeah, good story, good characters, very interesting novel...I look forward to the next installment.

I rate this one a 5 star read if only barely...4.5???? 4.6, 4.7, 4.8??? I don't know, but wherever it falls it rounds up to 5 stars. Recommended, enjoy.

John Gwynne says

What a fantastic read. I can't remember when I've enjoyed a book so much. Loved the blend of historical with fantasy, the realism of medieval life combined with absorbing characters and a driving plot. I didn't want it to end, and can't wait for book 2.

Bogdan says

This is a medieval fantasy world with some influences of K.J. Parker, more visible in the second volume, but the magic system it's something new, not fully explained, but similar on some levels with the one of Parker's.

I like it because the story unfolds very good, with each step we have a small piece of the whole history puzzle of the mysterious past of the Red Knight captain.

The battles are very fierce, bloody and numerous, and here I had a little problem. For me this novel was way too long, with some moments that could have been skipped and let's not forget the whole affair with the secret spy, that our characters haven't had much interest to investigate, thing that has bothered me for a long time. Because he had a clear impact on the evolution of the story and our heroes are totally neglecting him.

There are a lot of pov's, but, interesting thing (maybe it wasn't a bother because the writer knows how to build and to make attractive his characters), I liked this aspect of the story, especially when there is a pov from one of the numerous wild things.

Overall it feels like a new fantasy piece with some fresh ideas, true, also with some old ones, but in the end, despite some minor flaws it was an entertaining novel with a good pace and action.

After finishing it I had in mind to give it a three stars rating, but now, at the beginning of the second volume, and finding here some other threads in the evolution of the action, new ideas and characters, but also some of the old acquaintances, i will give it a fully four rating.

Conor says

3.5 Stars.

Promising start to a fantasy series I've heard a lot of good stuff about. The actions was really well done, especially in how detailed and faithful to historical accuracy it was and the general pacing of the book was strong, especially for 600+ pages. There were also several interesting subplots and mysteries and some cool secondary characters. The frequently shifting POV has been criticized quite a bit however I rather enjoyed it although I see how people could be frustrated by it, especially in a first installment in a series which is generally more focused. The main POV, the eponymous Red Knight was overall a pretty strong lead character although he had some whiny emo tendencies that annoyed me a bit ("This thing that's happening reminds me of my badass secret past. I better not say what that is though as it's too badass and secret to reveal, even in this internal monologue" every other page).

Probably my biggest complaints is the focus on the generic, half-arsed magic system and how it had such a central role in the story. I also would have liked to see more focus on some of the interesting secondary characters and plots, especially the Queen, Jean De Vraile and their plotting and I would have liked to see some other characters like Amicia fleshed out more. As it was I thought too much time was devoted to the siege which while generally exciting and with lots of interesting stuff going on I felt dragged on at times and became repetitive in places (mostly in the monster fighting/magic places. If it had stuck to the military fantasy/plotting and intriguing inside the fortress parts it would have been much more compelling imo).

Overall though this was a good start to an interesting series with some of the best and most realistically combat and strategy I've seen in a fantasy series (dragons and magic aside).

Full review to come....

?Nani? says

Lightning did strike twice. What a ride.

What. A. RIDE! *internally screaming*

RTC

~~~~~

After the exciting and glorious journey with *The Thousand Names*, here's to hoping lightning strikes twice in a week.??

I don't know about you but a book with a Knight holding a *spear*, duelling with a *flying dragon* on the cover is already off to a good start.?

My brain demands I stop dragging my feet and get on with it.

... I shall obey.

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## Jody says

### Full review now posted!

*The Red Knight* is the first book in Miles Cameron's *The Traitor Son Cycle*. If you have been searching for a medieval fantasy read, look no further than this series. Mr. Cameron has the knowledge and background that most other authors can't bring to the table when writing this type of fantasy novel. He has a BA in Medieval History from the University of Rochester, is a dedicated reenactor of historical battles, and participates in medieval tournaments as a knight. So, it's safe to say he is very competent in the ways of the sword....and the pen in this matter.

*The Red Knight* is the captain of a group of mercenaries that travel the land looking for people to protect, and all kinds of baddies to kill. Whether it be people, or the many monsters that roam the land known as *The Wild*. *The Red Knight* and his companions have been hired to discover a murder outside the convent in Lissen Carak. What seems like a normal job quickly turns into a battle that humanity and the creatures of *The Wild* are not soon to forget.

***"Honestly, Captain, I have prayed and prayed over what to do here. Bringing you to fight  
The Wild is like buying a wolf to shepherd sheep."***

This book contains a lot of characters, a compelling magic system, and all kinds of mythical creatures/monsters to satisfy almost any fantasy lover. I enjoyed most of the characters, but *The Red Knight* and *Bad Tom* probably stood out the most. The former because he is the MC and gets most of the page time, and the later because of his strong personality. There are other stand out characters, but to keep this review short I will only mention the two.

The magic system was quite fascinating. It is referred to as hermitics, or hermitical magic. When a mage or witch casts a spell it is called a phantasm. I've never heard it called this before, and felt the term fit quite nicely. Also, each magic user has a place in their mind known as their memory palace. This is where they derive their powers and store magical energy. In a magical battle a mage or witch can link up with other magic wielders to increase their power, or steal energy (potentia as it's called) from an opposing magic wielder.

Now, on to the creatures of *The Wild*. There are quite a few, and Mr. Cameron does a nice job describing them all and listing the wide variety of races. There are boglins, wyverns, golden bears, irks, and daemons just to name a few. They are all very scary and menacing in their own way, but are also part of this world. Their interactions with humans are not always violent. Although, to face them in battle would be a pretty terrifying event to witness.

***"Out beyond the walls are creatures who would crack your armour to eat what lies within - or to drink your soul."***

I only had a couple of small complaints with this book. Mr. Cameron's writing style is very good, but I was lost on some of the terminology. He is so well versed in medieval history that I had to look up some of the descriptions. Be it something about a knights armour, or some form of expression made by a character. This didn't take away from my enjoyment, and I mainly looked them up out of my own curiosity. Second, some of the characters are referred to by more than one name. With this story being told in third person that sometimes got confusing in the beginning. These are small things, and only slowed me down at first. Once I got used to Mr. Cameron's writing style I was fine. So, don't be put off if you run into this same problem. Push through and you should be satisfied with a great story.

I had so much fun with this book. It is a great introduction into this dark and unforgiving world. I am excited to see where this series can go and looking forward to the adventure. Another positive is this series has been completed. The final book was released at the end of 2017. No waiting around to get the full story. So, if your looking for a fantasy tale with a medieval setting, memorable characters, and a cast of mythical creatures that will make your head spin...this is for you.

***"Victory and defeat are for amateurs" ..... "For us, there is only life and death."***

4.5 stars \*\*\*\*

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### **Samir says**

DNF @ 22%.

I couldn't get into it.

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### **Samantha says**

4.5 stars but I bumped it up to 5 as this was quite the masterpiece! It's like The Lord of the Rings meets Arthurian literature and it was fantastic! Epic battles, lots of interconnected plots and characters, realistic magic....well you get that idea

Biggest complaints would probably be the writing: at times it felt a bit convoluted and confusing, but eventually you get used to it and it gets easier to read. Also this boom features a LARGE cast of characters that can be a bit challenging to keep straight.

But overall, it was a pretty fantastic book! I look forward to reading book 2

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### **Stefan Bach says**

***„Is this the real life?***

*Or is this just epic fantasy?  
Caught in a landslide  
Altogether with medieval history?  
Cover your eyes  
Let loose all those vivid images in your mind and see*

*Mama, just bought me this book  
Put it in my hands  
I've opened pages, and now I'm as good as dead  
Mama, life had just begun  
But now I'm stuck with it, thrown my social life away“*

Alright, alright, I'll stop butchering Bohemian Rhapsody. :D

So, what exactly is a book *The Red Knight*?

*The 100 Years' War VS Swamp Thing.*

Well, it's not like I'm wrong... :D

On one side there are knights, mercenaries, Kings and Queens, nuns, pages...

While on the other different forces of nature.

Abundance of uneven battles, sieges, betrayals...

But also reflection on the fact how organisation, preparation and finance are one of decisive factors of every conflict.

The Red Knight is a combination of everything best from *Glen Cook's Black Company* and *Malazan Book of the Fallen* by *Steven Erikson*, primarily.

With the world set on foundation on which *Mark Lawrence* build his trilogy *The Broken Empire*.

Characters in this world get to explain their actions, so, as you venture deeper into the story, you realize how there's actually no evil characters, just... bad ones and those who are slightly less bad than others.

Chapters are very long, sometimes even 100 pages long, and they usually cover events throughout one single day.

In them we follow all characters, so reader gets an impression how they change too quickly, so that's something he needs to get used to.

Author's prose is really stunning, and his attention dedicated to details is really fascinating.

I admire his ability to describe you surroundings in which characters are and their mood; ability to develop a plot, a plot that's everything but static, and yet you don't get downpour of information nor description.

Dialogues in this book are probably the strongest part of it.

How can I explain...

There are writers who use their dialogues to explain their plot, or history; to reveal motives of their characters, leave political messages or simply say something that you could find under 'quotes' on places like this.

And that's completely fine.

Then you have writers who drown you in their descriptions because that's how they write.

And then you have writers like Cameron, where you simply cannot know, nor anticipate, what will characters say next in their communication with each other, and yet he doesn't deprive you of that, seemingly, clearness where the story goes.

And when on top of all that you add great characters diversity, you'll catch yourself, more than once, reading same dialogues because, well, they simply are really fun to read.

*„Hector took a deep breath. 'So, it's war then.'*

*The Keeper looked away. 'I hope not.'*

*Hector took another pull of ale. 'Hope in one hand and shit in the other and see which one smells most.'“*

Probably not the best example. :D

All in all, it was such an enjoyment reading this book.

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## **J.P. Ashman says**

Wow! A friend recommended this to me and oh how well he knows me.

The Red Knight is a must for fans of fantasy and medieval history both. Cameron's knowledge of armour and weapons and knightly accord comes from his historical fiction work as Christian Cameron and it shows. I truly felt like I had stepped back into medieval Europe, but a past of ours that included all the mythical creatures and beings from all those heraldic devices. Wyverns and hulking trolls, demons and wyrms.

The battles are gritty and real, the characters more so. From knights to squires and nuns to priors, the way the characters interact is sublime. There are a lot of POVs of all classes and personalities and abilities - and I like that.

If you like your knights traditional and authentic, your beasts powerful and horrifying, and your magic system unique, then The Red Knight is for you! I highly recommend it and cannot wait to get the next in this awesome series.

JP

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## **Experiment BL626 says**

*The Red Knight* (TRK) was a mixed bag surprises.

### **Great writing**

I love the succinct writing. I love the subheading of the character's name and their location every time the plot shifts in POV. TRK is a big Fantasy book, and I expected to be lost in a wall of text at some point, but I never really was.

### **Too many POVs**

What I did not love was the boatload of irrelevant POVs. It took me a couple *long* chapters to realize the book was plot-driven given the focus on the large cast and how an unexpectedly small amount, about less

than a third of the book, of the plot was told from the eponymous protagonist's POV.

I never felt that the book attempted to make me feel attached to the characters. Many times I wanted Thorn, the main villain, to succeed and kill all the good guys because I was bored silly with their inanities, especially with 2-3 characters I wanted dead already. So bored I ended up skimming the middle of book; I wanted to be done with the book already and read something else. It would have taken a miracle for me to pay attention to the book again.

Amazingly, a miracle did happen, which was the biggest surprise of the book. I skimmed for a couple minutes but I stopped once the good guys and bad guys were finally duking it out. The excitement regained my attention. TRK shined for me in those battle scenes, and finally there was a purpose to all those POVs.

### **Lack of misogyny**

More importantly, TRK didn't have that tone of misogyny I usually see in Fantasy. There were usual references of rape, but it wasn't done as gritty-realism fluff. All the female characters were strong. None all of them played second fiddle to their manly man partners, be they a romantic interest or a fellow warrior. Not even the queen was secondary to the king. Speaking of the queen, it was refreshing to read a Fantasy where the queen and king are alive and in love, and to see that one trivial character of a douchebag who threaten rape got quickly chastised. They were peripheral details but they made a big impact in my reading experience.

The lack of misogyny greatly compensated for the disappointing revelation of The Red Knight (the character), the secret for why he went by the moniker and hid his noble background. I thought it would be something more tragic and devastating, not something that happens in almost every normal noble family I have ever read in Fantasy.

### **Accessible world building**

The world building was quickly graspable. I didn't actively keep track; passive immersion was enough. The setting took place in a medieval kingdom walled against the Wild, similar to The Others in GRRM's series, with a reference of a faraway kingdom that have French named knights. It didn't take long for me to imagine TRK's kingdom as a faux-England.

TRK had Christianity but TRK's Christianity felt more like paganism; never once did the story feel religious or portray the religion in a black and white manner. I really liked how naturally interwoven the spiritual/magical element was with the religion.

### **Not a black and white book**

It would have been easy for TRK to portray the Wild as bad guys who are destined to be defeated by the end of the series if the book has any intention to make the series' ending satisfactory. Many times I empathized their plight, and I would have been okay if they won. I liked how diverse the Wild was with some as beasts and some as humanoids. It was not straight out demons who destroy for evil's sake; in fact, it was strongly suggested that the Wild was of nature, and that there was a theme of nature vs. civilization at play in the book.

The Wild also have human allies called Jacks by their enemies. These Jacks weren't barbarians or criminals that no human civilization would accept but the Wild. They were people who wanted freedom and the end of slavery and the monarchy, leading to another theme of divine rights vs. human rights.

## In Conclusion

I rate TRK 2-stars for it was okay. While I didn't enjoy the book as much as I wanted and skimmed some of it, I can plainly see why frequent Fantasy readers would. I liked that the book can be enjoyed as a simple adventure or a critical read. I would have liked TRK to have a tighter plot by doing away with the multiple POVs and move faster towards the big showdowns between the humans and the Wild.

I may not have enjoyed the book much but I would recommend frequent Fantasy readers to try the series out.

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## Ivan says

Edit: Winter cleaning isn't over yet. I'm reducing rating from 5 to 4 stars. It's sequel remains 5 stars.

Me and this book had some ups and downs, and early on I even thought of DNF-ing it but in the end I am giving it 4 stars. My biggest problem was that book keeps jumping from PoV to PoV in very short chapters and I often feel it unnecessarily slows down pace and needlessly prolongs the book. I never really gotten used to it but as soon as I found it tolerable I could focus on good parts and there is lot of good stuff.

While it is actually our world with Christianity as main religion it's one that is hardly recognizable. There is no mention what happened to old world and there are no sci-fi elements, this is high fantasy through and through. While this world is not as complex or fascinating as Roshar or world of Malazan book of fallen it's well built stage that doesn't take spotlight from main stars and those are characters, dialogs and combat.

No matter how long or short their PoV is all characters, from Red knight to local wench, are very well written and feel real except maybe the bear (or not? I can't guarantee since I don't really know what bears think). Since this is military fantasy, military stuff is important and it's done superbly. All from battle tactics to magic use and personal combat is done in great detail and in as plausible way possible (mostly) without info dumps.

Battles between mages are some of the best I read. They are very different from Sanderson's (whom I consider king of magic systems and combat) magically enhanced physical combat. This are true duels of magic, a bit abstract but detailed and very well written

Overall not flawless but nevertheless great piece of military fantasy maybe just few notches bellow Malazan book of fallen.

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