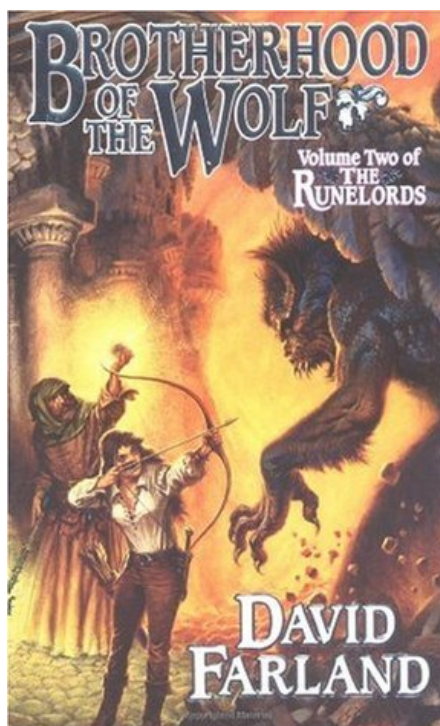




Brotherhood of the Wolf

David Farland

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Volume Two of *The Runelords*

Raj Ahtan, ruler of Indhopal, has used enough forcibles to transform himself into the ultimate warrior: The Sum of All Men. Ahtan seeks to bring all of humanity under his rule-destroying anything and anyone that stood in his path, including many friends and allies of young Prince Gaborn Val Orden. But Gaborn has fulfilled a two-thousand-year-old prophecy, becoming the Earth King-a mythic figure who can unleash the forces of the Earth itself.

And now the struggle continues. Gaborn has managed to drive off Raj Ahtan, but Ahtan is far from defeated. Striking at far-flung cities and fortresses and killing dedicantes, Ahtan seeks to draw out the Earth King from his seat of power, to crush him. But as they weaken each other's forces in battle, the armies of an ancient and implacable inhuman enemy issue forth from the very bowels of the Earth.

Brotherhood of the Wolf Details

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From Reader Review Brotherhood of the Wolf for online ebook

Diane says

I find the Earth King's idealistic naivete very frustrating. That being said, I find this world unique, rich and totally unputdown-able:-)

Meo says

It seems that both The Earth King and The Wolf Lord have a common enemy: The Reavers - strange, 16-ton insects which live underground. As The Reavers attack both kingdoms, Raj Ahten besieges the strategic location of Carris - only to be besieged by Reavers himself.

Another fine book, which focuses on the strengths and limitations of its characters. Whilst there are battle scenes with thousands of men dying, it is the personal conflicts which the protagonists must overcome. And, at the end of the novel, there is a surprising and amazing confrontation between Earth King and Wolf Lord which displays why they are so different.

Chip Hunter says

Farland continues to impress with this second volume in the Runelords Saga (now up to eight volumes). By expanding the scope to include more story-lines, BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF has a more epic feel than its predecessor, and while some readers have found it slower, I actually enjoyed it more than The Sum of All Men. With the continued development of the characters and setting, and the addition of some great new elements to the story, this book seems to be where the series really takes off. Like THE SUM OF ALL MEN, this one takes place over only a four day period, but even though I would think that such restrictions would detract from the story, Farland pulls it off masterfully here. Very impressive, him being able to give this story such an epic feel with such a limited time-frame.

BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF picks up the day after the close of the previous book, with Gaborn trying to decide how to deal with Raj Ahten's continued threat. We learn that Gaborn and Iome, and Borensen and Myrimma have quickly gotten hitched, and much of the world seems to be gathering at Sylvarresta to pay homage to the newly christened Earth King. The sense of celebration is short lived as a new threat is introduced in the Darkling Glory, a sort of elemental hunter summoned by Raj Ahten's flameweavers, presumably to seek out and destroy Gaborn. From there, the story branches out into a number of very interesting side stories that introduce some excellent new characters. A Wing Rider named Averen is among the first to witness the invasion by the Reavers, and is charged with a quest to deliver the news to the authorities. Her character promises to become one of the main focal points for the rest of the series as she finds herself helping/being helped by the elemental wylde summoned by Binnesman in book 1. Also of key importance in this book is Raj Ahten's most favored concubine, Saffira, who has been endowed with thousands of women's glamour and voice, and sets out to convince Raj Ahten to end the war by seeking peace with the Earth King. Remarkably well-developed for a secondary character, Saffira is one of my favorite parts of this book. Eventually all of the story-lines come together for an epic battle that takes up about a quarter of the book as the forces of man meet an unstoppable-seeming hoard of reavers (which turn out to be every bit as big and bad as they were sold as being). An awesome and devastating battle, this clash serves to demonstrate the talent of Farland and makes me eager to read more of the series.

There are many great aspects about these books, but what stands out the most is the uniqueness of the setting. Obviously, the endowment system stands out as original, but I also like the elemental magics, which give the elements themselves personalities and desires. You can take it literally when the Earth speaks to a character here. Also, the continued proliferation of strange and well-envisioned creatures makes this book stand out from other epic fantasies. Not just frowth giants, flameweavers, and ferrin; but draaks, reavers, glories, and world-worms populate these pages. I hope Farland can keep up the originality in the rest of the series. He's got a really good thing going here, and I look forward to reading more of it! Highly recommended.

Garrett says

This was a nice follow-on to the first book of Runelords series.

I was engaged and intrigued the whole book.

The only criticism I have is the "sudden" change of heart for Iome about the dogs. I wanted a bit more explanation and more of her reasoning. But, perhaps it was there and I read through the book too quickly to catch it.

I am excited to read the next book in the series though (I have it and almost changed its order in my "to read" stack, but I wanted to go to a different genre first in preparation for my own next story).

Chris says

A very entertaining read. Starts off kind of slow and contains many fantasy cliches. That being said, it is also action packed and has a very unique feel to it as well.

Farland has trouble giving life to the main characters, I feel like they really don't have any consistent personality and are very boring. There are a lot of side-characters that are really personable and you come to really enjoy, however they are also lumped in with even MORE side characters who you vaguely get to know but are just killed off for shock value it seems (Re: That serving girl in "The sum of all men")

In addition, Brotherhood of the Wolf suffers from being a second child kind of in the way of "Empire Strikes Back", where it is not at all a stand alone novel. Not only does it have a lot of recapping and exposition but many of the storylines are unfinished at the end of the book.

I would say it is a good read for anyone picking up the book, but just start without any expectations.

Gary says

This book has a lot of neat ideas. The author has developed a very interesting world and some decent characters. The only thing I find is that the first third of his books seems to be very slow reads. They are enjoyable, and really quite distinct in the world of fantasy.

I'd have to agree with another commentor who mentioned the disparity in how fighting a certain creature is handled. It seems a herculean task in the beginning of the book and at the end, far easier. (not easy, but not

nearly as time consuming)

The main character's reaction toward endowments surprised me completely. I even felt it was slightly out of character. He seems to change opinions on the subject in a split second.

Scott Cook says

I read an accurate description about this series on a site talking about an upcoming Runelords movie and this quote pretty much sums it up: "Some have called it the "crack cocaine" of heroic fantasy, combining the world creation and artistic sensibilities of Lord of the Rings with the heart-pounding action and sense of wonder of the Matrix". I loved the random green woman that falls from the sky in this book.

Pa says

The second book in the Runelords series. Like its predecessor, a well-above-average fantasy tale. The characters are interesting and generally not one-dimensional. The plot is well developed, though the tale is likely almost endless.

Dino D'Angelo says

i found it surprising that so many 'slammed' this book as one of the worst in the series, i found it thoroughly entertaining... a 'proper' follow up in the series (leading you into the answers that you question while reading, not losing pace nor going off on superfluous tangents).

Daniel (Attack of the Books!) Burton says

Raj Ahtan has fled from Gaborn Val Orden, the prophesied and ascendant Earth King. Tricked on the field of battle by a ruse, Ahtan is far from vanquished. Bolstered by the strength, speed, stamina, charisma, and beauty of thousands of men, he moves to strike at where Gaborn is weakest, to tear down the kingdoms of Rofehaven from within. But while Ahtan works to lure Gaborn into a trap, Gaborn realizes a greater enemy is threatening, and designs a plan that he hopes will ally Ahtan with him against this foe.

Taking place over the course of just a few days, Brotherhood of the Wolf picks up right where The Sum of All Men left off without breaking stride. Gaborn is grappling with the ramifications of becoming the Earth King, as well as his marriage to Iome Sylvarresta, the daughter of the late King Jas Laren Sylvarresta. Determined not to use forcibles to increase his strength and power, Gaborn finds himself at an immediate disadvantage to Ahtan's super human abilities, not to mention vulnerable to any who does not share his qualms.

It is an ongoing source of dissonance for Gaborn: he sees the slavery and debilitation caused when ever one man gives his abilities to another, but is faced with an enemy that is prepared to end not just humanity but all life on the earth. Should he accept the endowments of other men to become strong enough for the coming battle, or should he rely on his new found abilities as the Earth King? With the selection by the Earth,

though, comes responsibility above those of other men, and Gaborn must weigh the future of all men as he makes his decisions.

With how short a time as passes during the novel, events unfold at a breakneck pace. If only Farland would move his text as fast. Not atypical for an epic fantasy, Brotherhood clocks in at nearly 700 pages. Frequently I found myself wondering if a few of those pages weren't unnecessary to the story.

The result is that Farland develops his characters more than might otherwise be possible in such a short period of time. The length of the novel lends itself to more viewpoints than a shorter story might allow, and shows the reader a broader vision of the events unfolding. While the story never drags--per se--a faster paced story might have spent less time with each view point.

If The Sum of All Men was intended to introduce the main protagonist and antagonist of The Runelords series, then Brotherhood feels like a pulling back of the curtain. The threat to Rofehaven and the entire world is far greater than anything introduced in The Sum of All Men, and Farland takes advantage of the opportunity to hint at the scope of his series by introducing side plots, new abilities to what initially appeared to be small characters, and expanding his system of magic beyond the initial forcibles/endowments magic introduced in the first book.

Picking up a thick novel is always a risky endeavor. The time investment is long, and the pay-off may be a long time in coming. In the end, Farland provides, however, delivering a denouement that satisfies his promises, if not perfectly, at least satisfactorily. It's a worthy successor to The Sum of All Men and continuation of The Runelords' series. I ran into Farland at the Salt Lake FanXperience in April and picked up Wizardborn from him there. I look forward to following where he takes Gaborn, Iome, Ahtan, and the rest of his growing cast next.

Mark says

Book two is still one of the better fantasy series out there because it struggles to avoid the cliches of the genre. It still fails. It also violates a few other rules of writing, for example:

Rule #38a: If your book goes over 500 pages and your name is not Leo Tolstoy, make it smaller.

Rule #38b: If your trilogy goes over 3 books, make it smaller.

Rule #48: If you are a really good writer, than you are permitted to bring _at_most_ a single character back from the dead in a series (c.f. J.R.R.Tolkien). Bringing back two in a single book is just pathetic.

Rule #97: If your monsters can barely be slain by the greatest of warriors, don't forgot a hundred pages later and make them vulnerable to random peasant attacks.

Angie says

The more I think about this book, the less sure I am that I liked it. All that talk of eating reavers and drinking blood just makes me feel a little bit ill. And it just took so long for everything to happen. I can't believe the entire book took place over the course of about a week. I didn't really like the way that Farland organized the

book. I always had to backtrack whenever I got to a new character, and that is not only annoying, but also a bit confusing.

However, because I am such an avid reader, I am determined to stick the series out to the end. (At least the first four books, anyway.) Every series has to have a transition book—I'm hoping that this book was it. Everyone is still trying to figure out what the heck they are doing. That is why I wish time would go by a little bit faster. It would be nice if weeks would go by in just a few paragraphs. It just seems a bit unrealistic that worlds could change so vastly in a week. The series starts with just rumors of the legendary reavers, but a week later they are attacking by the thousands. And Gaborn needs to accept that he can't save everyone. He's starting to get on my nerves.

Let me just say that this book left much to be desired. But I still have high hopes for the next book.

Marcelo says

This book tired me a little. It is a compelling story, about caring characters, but it suffers from the typical illness of epic fantasy: nothing happens for 500 pages, until the bombastic, epic battle climax. Truly, this novel could be a couple of hundred pages leaner.

Those are my only complaints, though. As a sequel to «The sum of all men», this volume lives up to its task. David Farland delivers a satisfying story and cleverly brings forth a host of new characters, and he gives life to each and everyone of those — to the point of their stories getting more interesting than the main characters at points.

Again Farland infuses so much life, emotion, and drama to the saga of the runelords that the reader can easily catch himself fearing, loving and even weeping for his heroes. That's epic fantasy at its best.

I liked the first volume of the series better, though, so I'm giving «The brotherhood of the wolf» three and not four stars. Let's see if the third volume, «Wizardborn», keeps the pace or turns it up a notch. One could only hope.

Mark says

If I could give this book a 7/10 I would but I'm rounding up since I think the lower rating is partly my fault. I didn't like this book as much as the first one, which I gave a 5/5, and I guess it's because the first one opened a whole new world for me and I feel this one just took longer to get anywhere. You know there's a final battle that's going to happen but you have to read through 400+ pages of people talking and plotting first and now that this world is open to me I was kind of bored at times. I'm also getting a little tired of reading about how many endowments everyone has but it's necessary to read otherwise some of the fights wouldn't make sense. Overall it is a good read and still as vivid as the first book but I just fell like it's more of a lead up to book #3.

Lucinda says

A spectacular sequel that promises much to come, for a truly ambitious series of outstanding scope!

Brotherhood of the Wolf is the second installment within the magnificent Runelords series, which exceeds all expectations with its complexity of plot and depth. Exquisite storytelling that is so absorbing and compelling, David Farland puts the 'epic' in fantasy with his remarkable and totally original creation. Detailed, realistic and cleverly crafted the scope of world-building is just astonishing as to amaze whilst the character-study is fascinating. This stunning book is a delight to behold and kept me awake for hours reading into the early hours of the morning, not able to tear my gaze away from the pages that had enchanted me. This page-turner is a book that you will find extremely hard to put down, with such profound intensity and electric tension as to have you rooted to the spot!

Wolf Lord against the Earth King: the epic struggle begun in 'The sum of all men' continues...

Gaborn has managed to drive off Raj Ahten, but the Wolf Lord is far from defeated. Striking at far-flung cities and fortresses and killing dedicats, Ahten seeks to draw out the Earth King from his seat of power, in order to crush him. But Gaborn is about to discover that his enemy is far from the brutal conqueror he imagined him to be. It seems that Raj Ahten has a very good reason for what he does – indeed, they may well be on the same side.

Still, an alliance seems unlikely and as they weaken each other's forces in battle, the armies of an ancient and implacable enemy issue forth from the very bowels of the Earth.

Just when you think you know the enemy and have grasped the plot, then David Farland incorporates another unexpected twist in the tale that shocks and intrigues you! It is not the enemies that we can see but what lurks in the shadows; those who are more powerful and deadly than you could have ever imagined will come forth...Fast-paced and full of heated conflict, bloodthirsty battles and significant events that change the course of the future this is a tale like no other and of such mighty magnitude as to astonish. This rare sweeping fantasy classic is so impressive and like nothing else you will encounter within this genre, hence I highly recommend it as an engrossing read! Amidst the bloodstained action, the interesting characters and the power-play between good and evil, this book will remind you why you started reading fantasy in the first place.

This fantastic, amazing book is a must-read for any fan of fantasy, sword and sorcery and those who enjoy the 'old-style' of fantasy (such as works by authors like Robin Hobb, Tolkien and Raymond E Feist and not forgetting Kate Elliot whose style is similar). A book to loose yourself within and one that will leave you wanting to read on and find out what happens next in book 3...