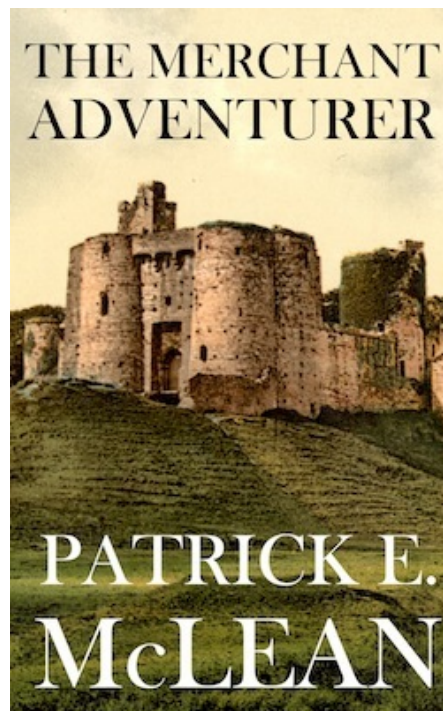




## The Merchant Adventurer

*Patrick E. McLean*

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# The Merchant Adventurer

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## **The Merchant Adventurer** Patrick E. McLean

An ordinary, money-grubbing Merchant struggling to make a coin off penniless, incompetent adventurers is forced to take on the impossible quest of saving his town and rescuing the woman he loves from a treacherous and powerful Wizard. A battle of wit, wits and haggling that is part homage to, part skewer of the richly worked and often overwrought fantasy genre.

An artful, satire of dungeon crawls and cRPG's, the Merchant Adventurer is part Princess Bride, part Dungeon Pawn Stars and a rollicking good read.

## **The Merchant Adventurer Details**

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Author : Patrick E. McLean

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## From Reader Review The Merchant Adventurer for online ebook

### Gregory Alley says

The humor and the fantasy setting of this book is certainly reminiscent of the Diskworld books by Sir. Terry Pratchett, though. I must commit a blasphemy by stating that this book is better than many (but not all) of the Diskworld books I have read. I highly recommend this novel to anyone who likes fantasy novels.

Furthermore, Patrick's audiobook reading of the novel is suburb, and made my commute decidedly more enjoyable.

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### Mark says

Fantasy can be a really stale genre. Too many books with identical premises, monsters, and heros, that take themselves WAY too seriously. McLean turns all that on its head.

The thing to stress about this book is it's sense of humor. Orcs and wizards have been done before, so why not find a way to make fun of all of them? We've all read dozen's of tales of 'heros on a path to righteousness', so instead we're given 'merchant who embraces the likelihood of his own death to do the right thing'.

It's refreshing, really, and worth many a belly laugh. If you want something different out of your fantasy, give this novel a try.

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### Rachelle says

I had so much fun listening to The Merchant Adventurer during my commute to and from school! The story itself is light, comedic, and a bit satirical in a way that is very similar to The Princess Bride by William Goldman. In fact, that comparison is mentioned in the synopsis and it's one of the reasons I chose to give this book a chance. The other is that it has a 100% positive rating on podiobooks.com.

Patrick E. McLean does a fantastic job of narrating the audio. All of his characters' voices and the characters themselves were easily distinguishable from one another. My favorite voice is that of Dimsbury's, the evil snob of a wizard, but my favorite character is the smart-ass merchant Boltac. He reminds me of what Miracle Max might have been like in his slightly younger days.

This book is going on my all-time favorites list. It's that awesome. I'm also looking forward to listening to Patrick E. McLean's other books on podiobooks.com, which all have 94% or higher positive ratings. I highly recommend The Merchant Adventurer to anyone who loves The Princess Bride, comedic Fantasy, or just a good adventure story!

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### Malia says

This was the first book I've read by Patrick E. McLean and I was blown away. I just stumbled across it when

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I was internet surfing, looking for something quirky, sarcastic and funny. This book fit the bill, and I was enchanted by the first chapter. For me, it had similar wit as *The Princess Bride* (which is one of my all time favorites). It's fast paced and just great. I highly recommend this book

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## Alex says

This is a hard book for me to review I have loved Mr. McLean's writing for a number of years now and have always adored his sense of humour. It also goes without saying that I love a good fantasy comedy and it sure is that. It's good, but it should have been great.

I don't want to compare it to my beloved Pratchett or to Yahtzee Croshaw's *Mogworld* to which it is similar at points, because it is very different in it's style. It's very laid back, the jokes are simple takes on old Sword and Sorcery tropes but it never really progresses past that.

It's funny and there is no point I didn't want to know what would happen next so as far as that goes it's a good read, but I wanted there to be a little depth once it got going and for not having that it loses a star

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## A. Sines says

Rollicking good fun with a sliver of dark slicing through.

**\*\*I was given this book for free for an honest review...blah,blah,blah...\*\***

With books I choose, I browse through the reviews before purchase. I've noticed that with the few that require a review for a free copy, I don't bother. I think it's because I don't want to be influenced and I want my review to be as honest as I can make it. That's what I would want if I ever let anyone read my stuff. It is only fair that is what I give to other authors.

I barely looked at anything but the premise of the book and when opening this audible version I noticed the same name in author and narrator. I've never had that experience before. At least not that I remember. This was going to be interesting.

When I first heard Mr. McLean's voice, I got excited over just that. His is the kind of voice I specifically look for when I want something for winding down after a long day. I save female narrators for puttering around the house, keeping me awake.

I thought, regardless if the story is good, at least I'll sleep tonight.

Then, before the first chapter was over, I found that I was sitting on the front porch, enjoying the moments just after sunset, not only giggling like a freakin' schoolgirl, but laughing so loudly, I startled a few cats across the street. Maybe I wasn't going to get sleep after all. (But I did, finally, and had to freakin' rewind...)

By the time the kiddos got home from school (still not done with the book – phone calls and life kept getting in the way), I'd already decided that my middle kid, the boy who only reads when he has to, *has* to listen to

this book.

To say this is an enjoyable listen is a disservice. I'd much rather say something along the lines of "OMFG! You have to listen to this guy!" But I detest sounding like a teenage fangirl.

Personally, I think Mr. McLean did an amazing job not only putting the words to paper, but reading those words aloud. The character voices were spot on and so crazily different, I wondered a few times if the man had help. It reminded me of reading to my kids when they were little and them begging my husband, "Do the voices! Do the voices!"

*The Merchant Adventurer* makes fun of the epic fantasy. All the characters are there: the evil wizard, the hero, the merchant, the damsel, the thief. The story arch is pretty much in line with the formula fantasy. But despite this, it is not your everyday fantasy quest. It has more spice, more sarcasm, more wine than cheese, and more entertainment than the serious business of saving the world.

How I got my kid to listen (besides my own excitement)? *Dude, it's like someone smushed together The Princess Bride and Galavant without the music.* He says, *Really?* Eyes wide and sparkly. *Is it downloaded yet?* He put aside his games and internet perusing and sat down and listened. He had to pause at the goatherd incident, share it with me, and laugh some more. (I'm probably a terrible mother. He's 13.)

Since I've renewed the vigor in my love of reading the past few years, I've found there are few books published today that I would revisit. Truly, my ultimate favs were written before I was born. However, this one, I know I will revisit. When the details fade, the scenes become jumbled in my head, I will have to go back. To the fun.

Check out more reviews at <https://trippingthepagefantastic.word...>

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## Mary says

Having read the reviews and seeing that this was supposed to be a satirical take on all the fantasy tropes used in such books, movies, shows, etc, I was greatly looking forward to reading this. And it was...ok. Nothing spectacular. Nothing that lived up to the reviews I had been reading.

Funny? It had its moments. I loved the Knight in Shining (TM) Armor, laughed and nodded at the Evil Wizard overloaded with paperwork because of all the inventory needed for an army of 2000 orcs, found it hilarious that the stereotypical "kidnap the girl for sex" was instead turned into "kidnap the girl so she can make sandwiches!" It really screwed around with those typical tropes.

Unfortunately, those were few and far between. And at some point, the story started taking itself too seriously. The merchant who was previously just in it to make a buck instead of rescuing the damsel and being a hero? Right, so he realizes he loves the damsel, rescues her, and becomes a hero. That trope, which I was hoping would have been more amusingly played out, just played out in the stereotypical way after all. Oh, and like all heroes, he raises up and becomes king. And then it was as if McLean remembered how he was supposed to be writing this book and attempted to make Boltac being a king more of an amusing subplot where he could still make a buck - but the ultimate thing is that this satirical take on fantasy novels became really nothing more than a stereotypical fantasy novel with a few funny moments that pointed out the absurdity of the overused tropes....inadvertantly falling prey to those very tropes.

Oh well. Enjoyable read, but just not what I was expecting.

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### **Lukas Lovas says**

Funny and original. I liked the mocking way it was written, though it became a bit more serious toward the end, which spoiled it for me a bit...but then again, it's very difficult to keep up such a high level of absurdity throughout a whole book.

Short and smile enducing is, what I'm trying to say :)

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### **Tyler Lomas says**

An excellent take on the stereotypical fantasy novel. Has a nice Dungeon and Dragons feel to the world, but breaks out of the mold by telling the story from the point of view of unique character. I listened to the audiobook, as voiced by the author, and thoroughly enjoyed it. He did an excellent job both with the writing, and the voices. Go read it if you haven't yet.

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### **Deedra says**

This was a fun romp! There is a quest, a lady in trouble! There is a wizard, and Orcs! Yes really, Orcs! With a lot of wordplay and sword(or mace) play, you should read this book.

Patrick E. McClean did a number of voices and did them well.

"I was provided this audiobook at no charge by the author in exchange for an unbiased review via AudiobookBlast dot com."

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### **Mike says**

Take the ever present merchant of role-playing games and actually flesh out his character. Add a little True Love and he becomes an adventurer. There are a ton of fantasy cliches that are made fun of but rather than being simply a parody it has a fun plot that takes advantage of various in-story events and magic.

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### **Jon says**

This book is similar to the author's How to Succeed in Evil series in that it's a different take on a familiar genre. As with the protagonist in the other series, in this book the main character is more interested in making money than in the usual cliché motivations of the genre. Unfortunately I felt that the amount of time spent on the main character's life as a merchant in a fantasy world (the concept that initially drew me to this book) was way too brief before the plot moved on to the "call to adventure" and he's off to do the expected dungeon crawling (albeit still with the mentality of a merchant).

Overall it's an okay book. The characters and writing are decent, and the plot had some novel elements to it. If you have read and liked How to Succeed in Evil you might as well give this book a shot, but if you haven't

read it I'd recommend that book first.

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### **Benas Adomavicius says**

A wonderfull, easy going and fun book. Patrick as always manages to find a unique angle in a common genre. Don't look for meaning of life in this book, but rather a nice and enjoyable one evening read. :-)

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### **Dan Absalonson says**

This book by Patrick E. McLean was awesome. I listened to the audiobook narrated by the author. He is a fantastic narrator. His delivery of all the characters' lines were so good. He got the voice for the protagonist perfectly. The wizard and an interesting Orc character - I distinctly remember them all and they were unique and interesting voices that really brought the story alive and made the fantastic dialog shine. Now onto the story.

I really enjoyed the story. I was never bored, which sadly I can't say about many novels. First off, I love adventure stories. This was an adventure story that was very different. You can tell by the title. What? A merchant going on an adventure? Yes. But he's what you might expect from Patrick, a character who uses his brains and wit to get what he wants. He's not swinging a sword. He's not out for glory. He never set out to be a hero.

As much as I love fantasy for all its tropes, it was refreshing to read a story with a very different kind of protagonist. The wizard was a great character too. A bit of what we expect except when it comes to his personality. He was a fun antagonist.

Another great thing about this story is that I was never able to guess what was going to happen next. In a way that Boltac the main character might say it: "This ain't your ordinary fantasy adventure kid." Something else I liked was the prose. Usually it was snappy witty dialogue that had me laughing a lot. Sometimes, however, there were remarkable phrases elegantly describing things of beauty. More quiet moments where you weren't waiting for the next laugh but carefully reading or listening to each word. When you get to chapter 37 you'll see what I mean. Great writing. So I gave this novel a 5 star rating because it was a blast to read, had fantastic writing, and I'm really glad I gave it a go.

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### **Susan says**

The Merchant Adventurer by Patrick E. McLean This book is part epic adventure fantasy and part tongue in cheek pointed humor at the often overdone fantasy tropes. Our main hero, Boltac the Merchant, is, indeed, a very reluctant hero. However, eventually, against his better nature, he is forced to join the adventure, outwit the bad guy, rescue his lady love, and bring prosperity to his home town. Or something along those lines. Really, Boltac is just focused on one thing: not letting his lady love know he actually has a soft spot for her. One day a would be hero, Relan, strolls in to a shop wanting to purchase a sword so he can gallivant off to rescue his lady love. However, he doesn't have the coin for it. So he asks to lease out a sword. Boltac rolls his eyes and eventually clouts Relan over the head and drags his unconscious body outside. But then the minions of an evil wizard (Dimsbury) and his side kick (Raddick). The owner of the local tavern, and secret sweetheart of Boltac, is stolen away. Now Boltac must make some tough choices.

The humor permeates this novel and is often of the skeptical variety. Boltac questions nearly everything, even if it is just in his head. He's always weighing the choices, adding the coins, calculating what's in his best interest. Relan is great sidekick for him, being so idealistic, so naive, so honorable. Boltac is constantly having to rein the young man in, and not always teaching him the ways of adventuring. The back and forth between these two is most amusing!

There are a few ladies in this book. I can think of two off the top of my head. There might have been a third. One is a supposed damsel in distress that is working with a group of folks running scams. The second is Boltac's secret love, the tavern owner. She's smart in her own right, taking charge of her actions and formulating a plan to escape from the first moment. However, we spend little time with her. The author shows he can write female characters, and yet he had so few in this book and gave them small, tiny roles. I hope his other books make better use of the female gender, as I fully intend to seek out more of his work. Then we have the bad guys. They come in two flavors: ruthless and deserving of death and then we have the orc servants (like Samga the orc leader) who would probably have fairly quiet lives if left to their own devices. Raddick is vicious and enjoys killing for the sport. Dimsbury is the brains behind the evil duo and is quite ruthless in his own way. These potent villains make great adversaries for the shrewd Boltac and the idiotically heroic Relan.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book. It strongly reminded me of the days when my man played Dungeons & Dragons weekly and he come home in the early dawn hours, smelling of stale pizza, one too many energy drinks, and cigarette smoke, babbling about his exploits in a some dungeon or medieval forest. This book was like that, but far better since it was a coherent story and not just disconnected ramblings by a man who was obviously dead tired but too wired on caffeine to sleep.

Narration: Patrick McLean narrated his own book, and I always have a few worries when I see an author narrating his own work. But have no fears here! McLean does an awesome job of narrating this book. He has a perfectly shrewd and skeptical voice for Boltac, a wonderfully dense and optimistic voice for Relan, and a serpent's treacherous sneer for Raddick. I also enjoyed his 'I'm way too smart to deign to chat with you' voice for Dimsbury. And don't forget his toothy voice for the orc Samga. It was a most excellent performance.

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