



Honored Enemy

Raymond E. Feist, William R. Forstchen

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As the Riftwar tears Midkemia apart, enemies trapped in the frozen Northlands must trust each other to stay alive. . . .

In the sprawling, embattled land of Midkemia, fate can form strange alliances. Nine years into the bloody and ongoing Riftwar, Dennis Harraft's Marauders are cold, hungry, and exhausted. Having only just survived a disastrous encounter with their sworn enemy, the Tsurani, the soldiers are headed for a frontier garrison, where they will be able to rest and recover. But Harraft's company arrives at the same time as a Tsurani patrol, and both sides discover the stronghold overrun by a migrating horde of dark elves called moredhel, a foe so deadly and vicious the bitter enemies must band together and fight as one.

But can their hatred for their mutual enemy overcome their distrust of each other? As the two groups, bound to each other by their common foe, make their way across the unknown Northlands to freedom, they have to struggle with not only the elements and the enemy, but also their consciences. For, with both sides carrying painful scars from past wars, each man must ask himself what is more important: one's life or one's honor?

Honored Enemy Details

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From Reader Review Honored Enemy for online ebook

Matthew says

Unlike most of Raymond E. Feist (the author) books, this book lacked the fantasy element. Granted, this is a standalone sidebar to the Riftwar Saga (another series by the same author) and there were elves, dark elves and some reference to rifts but this book is just pure fiction and action.

Fans of the Riftwar Saga will not see their heroes in action and find themselves embroiled in a action packed, fast paced war fiction similar to the novels of Bernard Cornwell's (a historic fiction author) Sharpe series. The author had explicitly mentioned he tried to mimic Bernard Cornwell and having read the Sharpe series, I would say he did a passable impression of Cornwell's Sharpe series. Due to the story plot, magic or spellcasting is non-existent as majority of the Midkemian forces battled without the aid of magic during the Riftwar.

Dennis Harraft (main protagonist) and his mercenaries were in the middle of a war against the Tsurani (human race from another world) invaders when they found themselves facing a third party. Between the struggle of loyalties and war-hatred, Dennis had to make a decision to ensure the survival of his mercenaries.

In this book, fans of E. Feist will learn more about the Returning. A fantastic read by its own, and the best book in the Legends of Riftwar (the name of the series). I will recommend this book for war fiction fans.

Jesse says

Good book. I liked the combination of Feist and Forstchen. It created a Feistian tale, that was a bit more close to the ground. Another tale from Feist that has a Tsurani as a major character is always welcome. Another plus was more insight into the Elves and Dark Elves of Feist's world. Feist's elves (Regular or Dark, or any other) are really the only elves I've ever been able to actually enjoy, so thanks to this team for giving me more of them.

Unfortunately I have to report that while I enjoyed this book, along with everything else Feist has written, many others will not. He is a great, even excellent craftsman of words, but that is the highest praise I can give his writing. I think his best strength lies in having created a trully living world, and being able to share the history of it with us in an entertaining fashion. So if you like good solid, and often times better than most of the fantasy dreck permeating the genre, sword and sorcery fantasy with an almost historical fiction presentation, then this guy is your man. Though start out from the begining, not this book. You gotta read his stuff in chronological order, so Riftwar Saga first, then Legends of the Riftwar..etc.

Ok, so to end on task at least a bit. Solid fantasy from Feist and Forstchen here, with a down in the trenches grit you don't see as often in Feist. Still best Elves in the known world as far as I am concerned, and it was not overly long so its short and sweet. Check it out for something light but suprisingly complex in the fantasy department.

Scott says

This is the first of my book reading where I've decided to go back and read all of the Feist, Salvatore and Weiss that I missed/skipped over the years. An active decision made to go back to authors who can tell a good tale because I'm so disillusioned with the current fantasy offerings that are being published.

This book is a stand alone novel in the Riftwar series.

It's nine years into the war with the Tsurani.

Dennis Harraft's garrison is up near a frontier outpost.

A Tsurani garrison is there as well.

You would think there would be a battle but...enter the moredhel (dark elves).

The only way for the humans and the Tsurani to live long enough to fight each other is to team up against the moredhel.

Now just imagine all the complications, plot twists and moral decisions that come out of that alliance.

It took 50-75 pages to turn this from a military fantasy book into a character based book (the reason I love Feist).

This book is very good.

The only thing stopping a five star rating is the fact that it's a stand alone novel and lacks a greater weight in the Riftwar series.

Pretty glad I picked up Feist again.

I wouldn't read this if you've never read other books in the series but you don't have to read all 30 (or so) in order to enjoy this one.

Nina Schmitt says

The first of a major new Feist acquisition, returning to his best-loved series. Written with Bill Forstchen, acclaimed writer of great military fantasy novels in the US. **FREEDOM AT ANY PRICE?** Harraft's Marauders, a crack band of Kingdom raiders, are a special unit designed to infiltrate and fight behind enemy lines. They are currently heading for a frontier garrison, after a disastrous encounter with the Tsurani.

Meanwhile, a Tsurani patrol is sent to support an assault on the same garrison. Both sides arrive at the same time and discover the garrison has been overrun by a migrating horde of moredhel (dark elves) and they are forced by circumstances to band together and fight as one unit to survive. The only problem is, who do they hate the most -- their mutual enemy, or each other? As they make their way across the unknown Northlands to freedom, they have to struggle not only with the elements and their enemies, but also their conscience. For what is more important -- one's life or one's honour?

Review

“[A] compelling and profoundly moving tale... an invaluable addition to a beloved canon.”
(barnesandnoble.com)

About the Author

Feist is now firmly established as one of the world's leading fantasy writers. His Riftwar and Serpentwar Sagas have been global bestsellers for years. Raymond E. Feist was born and raised in Southern California. He was educated at the University of California, San Diego, where he graduated with honours in Communication Arts. He is the author of the bestselling and critically acclaimed Riftwar Saga (*Magician*, *Silverthorn*, and *A Darkness at Sethanon*), *Prince of the Blood*, *Faerie Tale* and *The King's Buccaneer*. He is co-author (with Janny Wurts) of *Daughter of the Empire*, *Servant of the Empire* and *Mistress of the Empire*. The Serpent War Saga (*Shadow of a Dark Queen*, *Rise of a Merchant Prince*, *Rage of a Demon King* and *Shards of a Broken Crown*) has continued his phenomenal success, and his epic new Riftwar series includes bestsellers *Krondor: The Betrayal*, *Krondor: The Assassins* and *Krondor: Tear of the Gods*.

Ryan says

I'm not going to lie, I was more than a little bit worried to read this book. As I mentioned in the *Magician: Apprentice* review, some of Feist's later books are, less than good. It was right around this period when I think some of the books went off course, but I'm happy to say that this wasn't the case for this one. Be it Forstchen's coauthorship or Feist returning to the beginning of the series, *Honored Enemy* was amazing.

I'm currently going through all of the Feist books, some for the third or fourth time, others for the first time. This just so happens to be the first time I've read this particular novel. I'm doing an alternate reading order in the sense that I'm going semi-chronologically. I'll finish off the rest of the Riftwar Legends books because they happen during start of the whole series. I'll read the Empire books next, before finally going by publish date.

As with the books Feist worked on with Wurts, I really think he benefited from having a second voice in writing *Honored Enemy*. The beauty of this duo was the fact that you really could not tell where each contributed, their styles meshed so well that it was extremely easy to get lost in the stories and characters. While the premise sounds simple and somewhat boring, which is the main reason it has taken me so long to read, the book is fantastic! Just the dynamic between Dennis and Asayaga is enough to warrant picking up this book. Add to it a deeper look into the Dark Brotherhood and a setting never really explored in the other books, any fan has to go out and read this. Since I've read the majority of the series already, I had no trouble picking up on some of the references and details that were put in, but I would highly recommend going through everything by publish date if it's your first time through. I'm impressed as to just how well the authors got the tone of *Magician*, having just read the two novels, it was like jumping back in despite the books being separated by two decades. It also makes me eager to jump into the next novel... off I go!

Barbara says

I quite enjoyed this simple tale set near the end of the Riftwar. I was not terribly impressed with the Riftwar trilogy, enjoying moments but being disappointed overall. But I loved the Empire trilogy. Those were just fantastic. So it was interesting to have a bit more on the Tsurani during the Riftwar in Honoured Enemy.

I was impressed with the subplots, Richard, Tsugama, and especially Tinuva and his brother. I didn't see

Corwin's betrayal coming, but it was plausible enough – I've been unfortunate enough to meet some sociopaths in my life. The implausible part was the soldiers' happy holiday in the valley. If they knew they were being hunted by Bovai and his men, wouldn't they perhaps spend some time preparing an exit route? Or bolstering the defences of the stockade? Instead they sit around bathing and feasting and observing religious holidays. Very implausible to me.

Of course there's still that distasteful undercurrent of sexism you'll find in every single Feist book, except the Empire trilogy, the prose of which was so obviously not written by him but Janny Wurts. As I've said before, I get that Feist targets boys but his characters' treatment of women always leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Whenever a woman is described, it starts off with her body. It is accepted as normal that all male characters visit whores whenever they can. Rape is a relatively common occurrence (not in this book but in many others) although rarely viewed as such. You'll often find female characters playing two men at once, being petty, or described as overemotional and annoying. Women are generally seen as inferior. It's just tiring. And the worst part of it is that you can tell by the tone of the writing that Feist isn't aware that he's sexist, he thinks that his opinions are perfectly normal and correct. Ugh.

But anyway, since I'm capable of rising above one man's uninformed perceptions of women, I still enjoyed the plot and the characters. I'd give 3,5 if I could.

Elar says

Writing and story was surprisingly good, so I think author really did a good work here. Enemies thrown together in desperate situation brings out best and worst of people giving reader thrilling adventure story.

Bookwraiths says

Originally reviewed at Bookwraiths.

Raymond E. Feist is an author I grew up reading, yet haven't picked up in a long time. But when I saw this standalone novel set during the *Riftwar*, I decided to take a chance on one of my old favorites. Now, I'm glad I did, because Feist and William R. Forstchen deliver a great military fantasy story with *Honored Enemy*.

It is nine years into the Riftwar on Midkemia. The battle lines are fairly stable. Frontier forts and garrisons lining the cold, rugged and war torn Northlands. Midkemia and Tsurani units fighting more small actions against one another than huge battles. Little headway made by either side. Both sides growing weary of the near stalemate. But the war continuing with no end in sight.

Dennis Harraft's Marauders are one of the most successful raiders in the Kingdom army. Their commander's hatred of the Tsurani driving his men to accomplish daring missions behind enemy lines; their name infamous even among their enemies. And now they are returning from another raid, heading for a frontier fort called Brendan's Stockade to settle down before winter arrives.

Meanwhile, Asayagsa, a Force Leader of the Kodeko Clan of the Tsurani forces, has orders to attack Brendan's Stockade. While Asayagsa believes his orders are madness inspired by Tsurani politics, he cannot disobey for fear of bringing shame to his house.

Fate brings our two forces together at the frontier fort at the same time. A surprise awaiting both of them. The danger of being decimated by a third enemy causing the Kingdom and Tsurani to band together to survive. The rest of the tale focused on our “honored enemies” attempting to find a way across the frozen Northlands while battling a determined enemy and trying not to slaughter one another!

Definitely, this is a military fantasy, where the troops and their situation is tense, exciting, and filled with action, but it was my growing fondness for the characters themselves which kept my reading into the night. Dennis Harraft's past very compelling; Asayagsa's constant dilemma with honor and survival expertly told; and the developing tale of the elf Tinuva wonderfully developed. Hell, I even loved the times when the enemy leader was focused on, finding this individual far more than a cookie cutter bad guy but someone I could understand, even empathize with in a strange way.

What I didn't enjoy about the story were a few twists which eased the tension between our honored enemies. These events were just too convenient, too fortuitous for me to really believe they would happen in real life. And it kept the narrative from having to handle the ultimate question of whether our two bands would turn on one another as soon as the enemy presence behind them disappeared.

All in all, I really enjoyed *Honored Enemy*. This book – plus the short story *The Messenger* in *Legends II* – has reignited my desire to return to Raymond E. Feist's *Riftwar* series, because now I realize my childhood fondness for his stories might still hold true today. And I'd encourage other Riftwar lovers or fans of action-packed fantasy with a military twist to pick this one up. I really believe you will enjoy it!

Pete Bartel says

Good character development in this one.

Amanda says

So, I thought this was kind of like lord of the rings, where you really didn't need to read the Hobbit to understand anything, but this was not so. This is one of those prequels(apparently) that you need to read after you've read the series, so you understand these "legends" or whatever that happened before. Which pretty much fails, because after all, strong books stand alone, even if they are part of a series.

But, it wasn't a complete failure. It was a somewhat trite story about the enemy of my enemy is my friend and whatnot, but it was sort of entertaining to read about these manly men crawling around the borders of friendship in the middle of a war. It wasn't a bad sunday morning read, when you're just kind of bored and nothing's on t.v. and you realize this playstation controller is broken and it feels like God is really trying to keep you from playing video games. ...of course, maybe that's just me. I don't recommend it unless you really feel like you just want to go on autopilot.

Steve Howarth says

An interesting take on Xenophon and a decent standalone fantasy yarn. Slightly more Gemmell than epic Feist, it has a solid in predictable plot, a few twists and a reasonable ending.

I didn't mind the step away from fantasy as the story carried well enough for a pleasant comfort read.

Hilary says

Oh how I have missed you Raymond E Feist! I'm not sure why I haven't read one of these in a while, but I somehow got off track on some horrible fantasy novels and it was like a breath of fresh air coming back to these books. The story and characters were as good as always, and frankly I was surprised it was coauthored - seamless story telling!

Jeff Cothorn says

EDITORIAL REVIEW:

The first of a major new Feist acquisition, returning to his best-loved series. Written with Bill Forstchen, acclaimed writer of great military fantasy novels in the US. **FREEDOM AT ANY PRICE?** Harraft's Marauders, a crack band of Kingdom raiders, are a special unit designed to infiltrate and fight behind enemy lines. They are currently heading for a frontier garrison, after a disastrous encounter with the Tsurani. Meanwhile, a Tsurani patrol is sent to support an assault on the same garrison. Both sides arrive at the same time and discover the garrison has been overrun by a migrating horde of moredhel (dark elves) and they are forced by circumstances to band together and fight as one unit to survive. The only problem is, who do they hate the most -- their mutual enemy, or each other? As they make their way across the unknown Northlands to freedom, they have to struggle not only with the elements and their enemies, but also their conscience. For what is more important -- one's life or one's honour?

Alien says

Eigentlich 3,5/5. Fing ganz vielversprechend an, aber gegen Schluss wurde es doch arg gewöhnlich. Spielt nicht in der Champions League der Fantasy.

War aber doch nett zu lesen und hatte einen gewissen Realismus, soweit man das über Fantasy sagen kann.

Sean Smith says

I haven't read any of Feist's other novels so I started this book with a clean slate. It covers the adventures of a group of soldiers called the Marauders as they fight their mortal enemy the Tsurani. I don't want to include much more, as it spoils many of the initial plot twists, but suffice to say there is much more depth to the plot. This is one of those books that you really just need to finish. I would have given it 2 stars about half-way through. Many of the characters felt static and I really didn't feel interest in seeing how the book ended. That all changed, however, about 100 pages before the end.

At that point, I really began to have an interest in what happened to Dennis and Asayage (the main characters). It is also at this point that the characters seem to change and become far less static. These new dynamic traits really kept me reading and I am glad I did finish the book.

All-in-all, this is a less than mediocre book that really sells you in the closing chapters. If you like fantasy

that is focused war and the adventures of almost super-human protagonists, then this is up your alley. If you are looking for a book that will immerse you in its intricate lore and epic plot, you might want to stay clear of this one.

Zoe says

Better as you went along.

southernmyst says

[For example, when Dennis Harraft has his encounter with the Dark Elf scout while circling the burnt-out fort, the author tries to tell us that this battle-hardened veteran of nine years is recovering from his near-death experience and thus not so quick on the escaping part that his comrade urges him to. This really doesn't work

Michael says

Enjoyed reading this book many years ago. From what I can remember of it, this was one of the many spin-off novels based around Feist's original Magician novel. I liked this one in-particular because it offered a different viewpoint on the Riftwar saga. Enemies sometimes must 'bury the hatchet', so to speak. If you liked Magician, Silverthorn and A Darkness at Sethanon, you'll more than likely enjoy this too.

Kristina Van Hoose says

Note: Actual review is 3.5 stars

This was my first experience with the world where the story takes place. The characters and the premise were definitely interesting, and they kept me reading. Tinuva was a mystery, and I was really worried that the authors were never going to explain his subplot. I wish there had been more information regarding the two types of elves though, particularly regarding the Returning. Why tell us about something that sounds really intriguing only to never explain WHY it happens or really explain HOW or how someone knows when someone turns. Halfway explanations seem to be pretty popular in this book.

At times, Dennis seemed a little ...whiny? I'm not sure that's precisely the word that is best to describe his internal monologue about the Bad Things That Have Happened, but that's the word that comes to mind at the moment. I also wish they would have better explained Gregory's history, how he and Tinuva knew each other, and the history behind the Main Villain and his dislike for certain Good Characters.

Honoured Enemy is the first in a side series about Midkemia; however, I feel that it did not explain some things as well as it could have. In fact, it seemed to assume that you already knew the history from the other books, which annoyed me. For instance, while I understand the Tsurani are alien invaders, have been there for 9 years, and came through some sort of portal, I did not understand WHY they came. They also referenced a lot to the "Great Game," yet they never explained WHAT it is. From what I've gathered, it has

something to do with politics. Actually, Asayaga's entirely conflict with Sugama still confuses me. I felt there were a few more opportunities to really explain some of the differences between the culture and aspects of the various groups since 4 different cultures were present.

My other big disappointment is that the authors jumped POV a lot, which is a big pet peeve of mine. While it appears that they were striving for a third-person limited POV, we often get inside information that POV character would not know. I have to check the book again for a good example of this since I can't find the notes I had. It seems to me they were also not going for a third person omniscient POV either based on the fact that they did usually limit themselves to whoever was identified in the first sentence of each section.

Despite these flaws, I still found myself intrigued by the overall plot. The latter portion of the book was also so riveting due to the action and the stakes, that I simply could not put it down. (view spoiler)

Because of the ability to keep me captivated and it's flaws, this book earns 3.5 stars.

Overall recommendation: Rent it from the library if you enjoy fantasy or stories regarding war in fantasy-esk settings.

emma Fitzpatrick says

5 stars, great read.
