



The City of Splendors

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The fourth novel in The Cities series, set against the background of civil strife at the heart of the Forgotten Realms setting.

This novel is set in the most important city of the **Forgotten Realms** setting: Waterdeep, city of intrigue and secrets. Its authors are considered by fans to be among the most authoritative figures writing in the **Forgotten Realms** setting, and each has a legion of loyal readers. This novel is their first collaboration.

ED GREENWOOD lives in Ontario, where he created the **Forgotten Realms** setting more than 30 years ago and has written hundreds of articles, novels, stories, and game products in the setting. His most recent novel is *Elminster's Daughter*.

ELAINE CUNNINGHAM published her first novel, *Elfshadow*, in 1991. Since then she's written the Songs & Swords series, the Counselors & Kings series, and the Starlight & Shadows trilogy, concluding it with *Windwalker*. She is also the author of the **Star Wars**® novel *Dark Journey*.

The City of Splendors Details

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From Reader Review The City of Splendors for online ebook

Stefan says

Wonderful collaboration between Ed Greenwood and Elaine Cunningham. This has been in my personal library for years and I go back to it from time to time and read through some of my favorite parts. Elaith Craulnober is one of Elaine Cunningham's finest creations.

Lee says

Love Forgotten Realms, Waterdeep, and Ed Greenwood - this was a fun romp with great characters by a master storyteller!

Daniel says

I enjoyed this book. It was a fun adventure with lots of twists and turns. The main characters were honorable yet ready to find some trouble at every turn. Ed Greenwood is one of my favorite authors but he has a strong tendency to get too in-depth about magic (what it looks like, how it acts) and people (he loves to introduce you to a score of complicated-named characters and then somehow tie their stories together at the end). What was so refreshing with this books was the inclusion of Elaine Cunningham. I so enjoy her sense of story and her easy writing style. You can see her hand all over this text smoothing out the complexities and wrinkles. What a dynamic combination! It makes for a very entertain read.

Dan says

Typically busy and overcrowded with magic, races and weirdness, it took me a while to get into this one-off (I think) fantasy. D&D lends itself to such problems, and the Forgotten Realms moreso, but once I got past all the names and powers and stuff, there's a fun story. The action is fast and furious, although sometimes arbitrary, and the big fight at the end is a hoot. While the characters come in a little shallow (there are an awful lot of them to cram in), the city itself is center-stage, and reveals itself in al the overwrought, magic-drenched splendor one could hope for.

Jeffery Chatham says

It's hard to be sure how I feel about this book. It was an okay fantasy that takes place in a city I love, had great feats of magic, and villains I'd never experienced before. But it also took awhile to get anywhere and a lot of the characters weren't memorable.

Jordi de Groot says

No me ha gustado este libro, y tras ser el tercero que leo de Ed Greenwood, he llegado a la conclusión que no me gusta este autor. La trama me ha parecido muy pobre, con muchas hojas en las que lo que ocurre es banal. Los personajes, unos nobles jóvenes, son predecibles y totalmente clichés. El único personaje que podría ser atractivo es Kelven, pero lo dejan fuera de combate a las primeras de cambio. Lo terminé porque había pagado por él, pero no creo que vuelva a gastar tiempo en leer nada suyo.

Josh says

Not quite as good as I remembered, but still a strong entry from the creator of the Forgotten Realms and one of the best authors to ever play in that pool.

It's essentially a coming-of-age story in a lot of ways, tracking the evolution of a group of nobles from a band of spoiled younger sons of wealth and privilege to a serious band of heroes looking to do right by their city. There's romance and tragedy and all kinds of fights and threats. There's lot of good Waterdeep lore and you get a great feel for the city, which is great.

One of the reasons the Forgotten Realms has always been so popular is all of the places feel real, like there's real history and evolution behind them. Which of course, there is, since it's one of the major locations of Greenwood's campaign world since the start and he's been writing stories there for decades. Cunningham has always done a great job taking the hints and scraps of things Greenwood has left lying around and built them seamlessly into stories that fit very well into the world while being unique and interesting. She's a great choice to write with Greenwood here.

Good stuff. Too bad Wizards doesn't seem interested in publishing her any longer...

Andreas says

The story is all over the place, the characters are depressingly superficial and conflict non-existent. A pointless read. After 150 pages, I called it quits. Ed Greenwood should just stop writing books.

Matthew Miller says

I'm not going to pretend that this book was spectacular or anything, but I liked it. Ed Greenwood has a tendency of falling for classic fantasy clichés (though arguably he invented a lot of them), but it definitely got better by the end. It had some reoccurring characters from other books in the series and expanded my knowledge of Waterdeep.

Not for someone that isn't a Forgotten Realms fan, but a good read for someone who is.

Dave says

Got bored, didn't finish.

Jonathan says

A wonderful collaboration - both authors kept each other from falling into the same routines and kept the narrative fresh. A solid fantasy read full of interesting characters, heroes and villains alike.

Kagan Oztarakci says

"Argue not with success."

"...beauty was its own guild and the business of its members was to charm all the world into doing their will"

"Be careful which toes you step on now, lest they be connected to the arse you must kiss on the morrow."

"...some stories were great only if they remained untold."

M says

I spent too much time second guessing the magic in it going "That's not how it works!", but after a bit of a rocky start it was fine.

Nariyah Moonshadow says

Resumint, és com de costum un llibre sacacuartos, però la ciutat on està ambientada m'encanta i té el seu què.

Henrik says

Hardcover purchased directly from one of the authors, Elaine Cunningham, with a personalized autograph:-) Cunningham & Greenwood are two of my favorite Forgotten Realms authors; I look forward to reading this story.

More to come...
