



To Green Angel Tower

Tad Williams

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As the evil minions of the undead Sithi Storm King prepare for the kingdom-shattering culmination of their dark sorceries and King Elias is drawn ever deeper into their nightmarish, spell spun world, the loyal allies of Prince Josua desperately struggle to rally their forces at the Stone of Farewell. And with time running out, the remaining members of the now devastated League of the Scroll have also gathered there to unravel mysteries from the forgotten past in an attempt to find something to strike down their unslayable foe.

But whether or not they are successful, the call of battle will lead the valiant followers of Josua Lackhand on a memorable trek to the haunted halls of Asu'a itself - the Sithi's greatest stronghold.

To Green Angel Tower Details

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Author : Tad Williams

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From Reader Review To Green Angel Tower for online ebook

Leah Nadeau says

Looooooooooove <3 I don't even know how to review this book... it's massive. LOT's happen... it's amazing. I especially loved Miriamele's plot, and Tiamak's. Interesting new build characters on Cadhrach and Camaris too.

Scott Kemper says

Ful review to come. This was a buddy read with Laura from Fantasy Buddy Reads and there's not much I can say to add to the discussion of this trilogy besides the fact that it's one of the best fantasy trilogies I've ever read.

Xara Niouraki says

As a whole, it was an entertaining series. I enjoyed the feeling of classic fantasy that it gave me, especially since I've been reading a lot of dark fantasy lately. I was satisfied with the conclusion, but I had several problems with the third book.

First of all, it is huge. I don't have a problem with big books, but this one made me wish that it were smaller. I grew tired of it as I was reading it.

Secondly, the series is full of repetitions. I felt that half the pages of the series were descriptions... How many times do I have to read a description of the underground corridors of Asua??? How many times did Simon come close to insanity??? The thing I hated most was the repetition of vocabulary. I literally hate the word mooncalf after reading the series....

Most of the women in the book (not that there were many) were annoying. The worst one was Miriamele. I wish I could punch her in the face. She was constantly running away without consulting anyone.

Morgeness manuscript: Ok Morgeness was wise and wrote the manuscript to help everyone. The thing that bothered me was that the characters kept reading the same thing again and again and discovering new clues and info. Maybe if they had more sources of info I would be more convinced.

Finally, the characters were plain stupid many times. Many things were in front of their eyes and they kept talking and arguing and did something totally dumb in the end.

Carrie says

This trilogy was pretty much my first into fantasy. It was right after my first child was born and I had a lot of time stuck in the house to read. I had kind of thought fantasy was for, you know, geekish people which was a problem considering my husband and two best friends were all into it. I have now entered the geek and proud of it crowd. These books were wonderful and I have not stopped reading fantasy since.

Jeraviz says

Pues más de lo mismo. Si hubiera leído esta saga de adolescente después de descubrir El Señor de los Anillos tal vez me habría encantado. Pero después de tanto tiempo, volver a leerme una trilogía llena de tópicos (protagonista humilde que se convierte en héroe, objetos mágicos que hay que encontrar/destruir, dragones que hay que matar, etc...) me ha resultado muy pesado.

Ben says

I sort of enjoyed this series, but there are some infuriating stuff in these books. Simon, the main character of the books, seem to grow more and more pathetic as the series wore on. From crying in the midst of battle to groveling for attention from a stuck up princess, he really wore on my nerves. The pacing of the book is better than "Stone of Farewell", but that isn't saying much. One of the problems I had with the series is that I really didn't care who lived or died. None of the characters really made me have an emotional investment in the book, which is too bad because Williams is a pretty good writer. Overall, I still recommend this series even though the books are far from perfect.

Wanda says

A satisfying ending to an engaging trilogy. I can see why this final tome was originally published in two parts—it was a definite door-stop! I sprained my wrist two years ago, and I found that old injury aching at the end of lengthy reading sessions!

However, the size of the volume was necessary in order to tie up the many, many loose ends from the first two books. I especially appreciated the return of "Rachel the Dragon" as an honoured elder lady, even as I grieved the loss of other characters. I also have to say that I appreciated the focus on Miriamele, despite the fact that she often came across as spoiled and irrational. I was able to endure that portrayal because Simon was often angry and petulant for no particular reason that I could discern either. Equal opportunity bad behaviour!

I appreciated that Osten Ard was not just a clone of Middle Earth. Williams gave the world his own structure and rules, and created unique creatures and challenges for his characters. I really liked the ending--it worked for me. I always feel the tug of emotion as the war ends and the circle of friends must split up to return to their own lives—happy to get back to normal, sad to be parted.

Book number 267 in my Science Fiction & Fantasy reading project.

Joseph says

OK, just as a matter of timing, I managed to finish all three Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn books while I was engaged in various travels with little or no Internet access and with no access to a decent keyboard, so I won't be composing full reviews. Instead I'll just say: George R.R. Martin has said that the Williams books were what spurred him to write *A Song of Ice and Fire*, and I do think that if you draw a line connecting Tolkien to Martin, Williams falls almost exactly midway between. The books are clearly epic fantasy (and I do mean EPIC, both in what happens and in word count), but they're not just slavishly aping *Lord of the Rings*; they're written as more of a response to or conversation with *Lord of the Rings*.

And short of Tolkien himself (or possibly Terry Pratchett), Williams writes the best elves I remember finding -- they're genuinely alien, often aloof and sometimes disturbing.

Robert Cooke says

I recently devoured the 'Memory, Sorrow, Thorn' series having read and enjoyed Tad Williams 'Shadowmarch' series. I have to say I did enjoy this better, with *Green Angel Tower* providing a fitting climax to the series. Strangely when reading 'Shadowmarch' I found that the lore of the world richer than the characters, here I found it somewhat the reverse and could have happily had a bit more background history at certain points. Though that said part of the joy of the book for me was the central characters labouring in ignorance at what they should be doing. The books do a great job of making magic something rarefied and well magical, knowledge is power as the saying goes and the series makes a point of highlighting this throughout. Williams as always builds an engaging world of diverse places and as a result I found the story very difficult to put down. With the book leaving a couple of loose threads open I would imagine I would be entirely annoyed right now had I read this book when it was initially released in 1993, as it is I feel I timed it right with Williams releasing a long awaited follow up series this year. If you've read Williams work before then you'll be in safe ground here and it's easy to see why this was his breakthrough series. If you're new to his work then this is an engaging and rewarding place to start.

Terence says

[Second read: March-April 2017]: DNF

Memory, Sorrow & Thorn has not aged well for me. I had to give it up less than 200 pages into *To Green Angel Tower*. If I were the type to go back and adjust ratings, I'd give four stars to Williams' later *Shadowmarch* trilogy, and three for this. *Shadowmarch* is essentially the same story as *MS&T* but it's so much more focused on essential plot without wandering down trackless paths of unnecessary exposition and subplot.

While reading, I was thinking to myself that this is what *The Lord of the Rings* would have been like if Tolkien had included the battles of Lothlorien, Rivendell, Mirkwood and the Lonely Mountain with all the minor characters and subplots that that would entail, instead of properly consigning them to brief mentions in the Appendices.

I'm still looking forward to reading *The Heart of What Was Lost* when I find the time. The fact that *Shadowmarch* is so much better than *MS&T* shows me that Williams has grown as a writer and that the good stuff I remembered from my first read wasn't an illusion.

Javier says

This review is more a review of the whole trilogy rather than a review of its last volume.

Memory, Sorrow and Thorn is a good fantasy series. Events occur in a world named Osten Ard. The world itself follows many stereotypes of other fantasy worlds. The elves in this world are called the Sithi and the dark elves are called the Norns, but even though the author hasn't chosen the word elf to describe these creatures, they're essentially the same. The bad guy concept, Ineluki, is quite close to Tolkien's Sauron, i.e. it's dead and defeated, but somehow it can come to life again and it's still a threat and some sort of mastermind conducting an evil plan.

Most of the characters are quite simple. Every character is either good or bad with the exception of (view spoiler). I've specially enjoyed the rivalry of the two brothers: king Elias and prince Josua, and the difference of characters and attitudes. Aditu is also one of my favourites. Aditu is a mixture of elegance (don't forget she's a Sithi), mystery and fun. I like the way she talks to mortals like she's having fun while they do not understand very much about her acts. "Amused" is the word Tad Williams uses constantly to describe the way Aditu looks at anything that's not immortal. I like the way she treats Simon with respect but at the same time as she were talking to a complete ignorant.

I've read a few reviews before writing my own. A couple of them agreed that the trilogy was "overwritten". That it is unnecessarily too long. In my opinion, it is true that there are many descriptions that could be shortened and that the vocabulary used was incredibly rich and it might look a bit artificial sometimes. However, when I was half way through To Green Angel Tower, I realized that this way of writing has accomplished a very well detailed world. For example, the sword Sorrow is called Jingizu by the immortals, the Sithi are called by themselves the Zida'ya or the Dawn Children, on the other hand, the Norns are both the Hikeda'ya and the Cloud Children. In every region they worship their gods and have their own ways to curse. For example, Erkynlanders would say "Usires on the Tree" (an analogy of Christ in the Cross), "Ransomer preserve us" or "Elysia, Mother of Mercy" (by the way, virgin mother of Usires); Tiamak from the Wran would say "He Who Always Steps on Sand", "They Who Watch and Shape", "She Who Waits to Take All Back" (death); and the rest of people have their own mythologies. There are many other examples that I haven't mention for the sake of brevity, but I think that the world wouldn't be so incredibly fleshed out if Tad wouldn't have "overwritten" it.

The plot is the best thing this trilogy has to offer. It is very cleverly written. At first it only follows Simon, the main character, but little by little, it expands to other points of view that intertwine very intelligently. At the end of the last book, everything fits perfectly. It has some clever twists and surprises that I will mention: (view spoiler)

I'm glad that I have read this series. It took me a while to finish it (specially the incredibly long To Green Angel Tower) and I won't deny that I had to make an effort sometimes to keep reading, but in the last half of To Green Angel Tower I was hooked and I was very eager to know the end of the story. Now I've finished it and I'm not disappointed.

For those who don't know, Tad Williams will write a second trilogy about Osten Ard. The working title of the trilogy seems to be "The Last King of Osten Ard" and the first book's "The Witchwood Crown". Release dates to be determined yet (or so it seems).

Claudia says

[it has a happy en

Mark says

Well, that was... something. Tad Williams, it seems, was ahead of his time in having the final volume of something have to be split across two volumes, as I actually read To Green Angel Tower across two paperbacks, each of which had 800 pages. It was a very long, meandering, interesting journey, at times bogged down by tedium, but at times full of tension, building up to a dramatic finale.

In writing about the first book of this series I mentioned that this is kind of like a brother to The Wheel of Time and early Guy Gavriel Kay. Like, it's really interesting to see how it fits in the lineage of fantasy - you can see both the parts where it was obviously inspired by the likes of Tolkien and the parts where it has provided some inspiration to some of those who have come since in turn. For me, finding this trilogy years later, it's like looking into an old family photograph and seeing a picture of an uncle you'd never seen before. Maybe you only knew his name because it was mentioned in passing a couple of times.

Then it's kind of stunning to see how he looks like the rest of the family but he's also his own person, and you kinda wish you knew what his story was. In real life if this happened you probably wouldn't know about this uncle because he's in jail or something, so obviously this analogy isn't perfect. Imagine if he walked through that door one day, though, and wanted to tell you all about his life story in great detail. Some things would bore you, but mostly you'd be really curious, and he's a good storyteller, your uncle, and since you've thought about him your whole life you'd want to hear about it all anyway. That's Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn.

Epic fantasy, swords and sorcery and all that at some times, kind of a gothic horror at others, prose that gives off a legitimate sense of dread. It's a fun read, though it's dense; even a long book doesn't usually take me almost a month to plow through. That's not because it was boring, though, but because I wanted to savor it, and I did. It isn't something to rush through. There are many strands to the plot, all over the world, and unsurprisingly, they all come together in ways that I didn't expect, although of course I'm not exactly notorious as a plot guesser anyway.

Cheesy at times, yes, wrapped up in fantasy cliches that were perhaps more fresh in the late 1980s but have been tread many more times in the years since, sure. But then again, humans have told a lot of stories by now and it's hard to make something that's completely unlike anything that's been done before. What you

can do is build a world that is all its own, with a rich history that is not just another Europe analogue, fill it up with characters, and make stuff happen. I liked the journey up the fantasy family tree.

Jacob says

Truly a marvelous end to a beautiful book and trilogy. This return to Osten Ard for me after twenty years was beautiful. I can't express how much I love this story.

Edward Rathke says

This is one of the longest novels ever written. It's the third in a trilogy, but it's about as long as the first two novels combined, making it a very odd but very satisfying final chapter.

Each step of this series has been pretty difficult for me to meaningfully rate, but I'll use this rating of this book to do the whole series.

I think each book is about a four but the series as a whole is a five, if only because of how complex and beautiful and awesome it all is.

The worldbuilding is probably some of the best I've seen in any series. The cultures are complex with their own customs, religions, and histories. It never feels cheap or shortcatty either. It's all there for you to dig into, even though much of each culture goes unexplained. He even goes so far as to invent really specific curses for each culture, which just feels right.

One of my favorite things is how Williams deals with religion, because it's not an overt aspect. It's just this net that kind of stretches under the world for most humans. There's a dominant religion in Ostern Ard, the continent this takes place on. It's super similar to christianity in practice, though customs are heavily borrowed from Norse mythology as well. The religion is brought up often because it's a central aspect of most of the characters' lives. This is sort of a medieval setting so it's like christianity in medieval europe: most people believe it. There's no focus on it being untrue or true. It's never really put into focus. The trilogy doesn't dwell on religion, except to show how it shapes a person's worldview and how they may come to lean on it in times of misery and calamity. It's a subtle thing he does and I really appreciate how Williams chooses not to spit on why people believe the things they do, which is something all too common. But this religion isn't the only one, and like most europeans in medieval europe who had to share borders with people of other religions, they're gently tolerated. Sure, characters call them heathens and so on, but they're allowed their beliefs.

The characters are well developed and well loved by the end. Though the first book does a lot of telling you who is good and evil, the series becomes much more amoral as it goes. Good characters must do evil and evil characters find themselves doing good. It shows how Williams grew as a writer and storyteller in the writing process. I mean, how could he not? The series is like 3,500 pages.

I really dig this narrative style. There are times in this third novel where it felt like fifty page chunks could have been condensed without losing anything, but I was also okay with it. I think I only began to feel that way because I read half the book in airports and on airplanes and kind of just wanted to finish it so I could

stop carrying the five pound monster around. But it's an easy going style that flows forward. This was probably the novel with the most forward momentum, or at least with the most happening.

It's interesting, too, how Williams will almost skip action scenes. It would feel like a cheat, but I think it's more subtle than that. Something more akin to Malick's *Thin Red Line*. Because this story has never been about the ability to kill or fight. It's been about intelligence, history, and putting pieces together.

I've said before that I could see how the series would end and that that didn't matter, because it's the journey that counts for these books. I still think that, but this final volume had plenty of surprises in there to keep me going. Even the ending had a fair share of surprises. I'd actually like to discuss that ending because it's one of the most interesting ones I've ever read, and it will definitely lead to a love or hate kind of effect.

I mostly find it interesting, but wholly understand why a lot of people might hate it.

The series is very satisfying in many ways. Though it began as a story about scholars and servants, it becomes much more traditional as it goes. It's a story of heroism with many of the characters being nobility of some kind, but the scholars actually remain some of the most important characters. Other important characters are thieves, drunkards, scoundrels, shaman, and so on, but this is very much an aristocratic story by the end, which is kind of disappointing, but some of the characters have very interesting things to say about the nature of nobility, which I greatly appreciated.

Williams has a great understanding about what motivates people, and how it's often the story that matters more than the truth, and this is shown brightly throughout this volume.

I really loved this series and there are a lot of things I want to talk about but I won't write it here because of spoilers and so on, but I recommend this highly. If you finish the first book and dig it, you should read to the end. It's a very interesting take on epic fantasy and so worth the stamina you'll need to plow through all these pages.

Kat Hooper says

Reread. Reviewing audiobook soon at www.fantasyliterature.com.

Earl Grey Tea says

I don't put down a book or a series that I start. While the first two books did peak my interest quite a bit, I was suffering through almost all of the 1,104 pages found in this behemoth of a tale. Maybe I should have read it in two parts as it was released in its corporeal form and taken a break half way through. Instead, I went for the e-book version that doesn't suffer any publication problems when it comes to size.

By the time I was about a third of the way through the book, I was already burnt out. Tad Williams spent a lot of time and effort in the first two books to create his world, but for this last book it seems as if he was trying to finish the story so that it would fit into one book. I think that this book could have easily been written in three large books with plenty of detail and development of the story.

Also, some of Williams' writing in this book seemed sophomoric. I lost count of the number of bad similes that I found, such as, "His eyes were sad like a lizard's." Through out this book, there were quite a few group discussions between the characters about what to do next. After a brief explanation by what would naturally be considered an unreliable source, the leader of the group is quick to declare that they trust this person and will follow their advice. I find this type of logic unrealistic, and it pulls me out of the story. Another time, one of the characters refused to enter a cavern. Instead of sounding like a person deeply troubled by some past experience (which I believe was the author's intent), the person ended up sounding like a pouting teenager. The overall human interaction seemed a bit whitewashed and oversimplified. Many of the characters' actions seemed too idealized.

While there were some interesting ideas presented in this book, I'm glad that it is over. It was an experience for me; I saw some more of the world of fantasy literature, but I'm quite doubtful that I will pick up another Tad Williams book in the future.

John says

It feels so good to finally be able to finish a fantasy series! So many of the ones I'm currently reading aren't finished and it's so frustrating having to wait years for the story to continue. To green angel tower, part 2 is the second half of the final book in the Memory, Sorrow and Thorn trilogy. It was exactly what I've been waiting for while reading series. The first two books of the trilogy were kind of a roller-coaster, good at times but I also find myself daydreaming during other parts of the books. The final book was very exciting throughout almost the whole book and even though the ending was somewhat anti-climactic I still enjoyed it and I finished very satisfied.

My favorite part of this series?

What these books lack in action they make up for in character development. You really get to know each and every one of the main characters and they are pretty believable as well. When I finished the series it was bittersweet because I knew it was the last time I'd read about these characters.

I give this book 4.5/5 stars. At times, Tad Williams showed signs of brilliance in it but I think the book falls short of being 5 stars. For the series I give 4/5 stars. Even though it wasn't amazing it was still pretty good. I'm glad I decided to stick with it after the awful first 400 pages of the Dragonbone Chair.

terpkristin says

Audiobook from Penguin Audio

Narrated by Andrew Wincott

Length: 63.25 hours

Tad Williams, it seems, is very good at writing *very long* books to end trilogies. This was a long book. Wikipedia says that it's one of the longest books ever written (though looking at the list of "longest books", there are many more that were even longer). I don't say this disparagingly, I say it so that readers of this review will be able to grok the scope covered by this book, which is almost as long as The Dragonbone Chair and Stone of Farewell put together. This lead to many hours of aural enjoyment, listening to Andrew Wincott

narrate the story, but also lead to a lot to process. (Note: in my original review I noted that it was no surprise that this book was broken into two; it turns out that the hardcover release was always one book, but the paperback edition was broken into two).

There isn't much to say about the third book in the Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn trilogy that I didn't say in my review of book 1 or book 2. This is an epic fantasy trilogy that follows in the vein of Tolkien but takes cues from Nordic myth as well as, I think, European folklore. Years before George R.R. Martin published A Game of Thrones, a couple of years before Robert Jordan published The Eye of the World, and contemporary to Guy Gavriel Kay, Williams started a series of books that would have many of the hallmarks of the books by these other authors...all in one series. Given that the first book was published in 1988, it seems likely that many people my age (and probably some who are older) go their first taste of "modern" epic fantasy with this series.

Because I don't want to spoil anything in this review, I'll simply note that this is a deep series. The characters are multi-dimensional; they feel like real people instead of simply caricatures. Their motivations sometimes start simply, even innocently, but take on bigger life as the story unfolds. Some of the images in the trilogy are obvious, some are less so. Over the course of the three books, the reader loves, loses, and probably even cries...and certainly there are some good times, too. Veteran fantasy readers will recognize elements in common with a lot of other books out there, but will still enjoy it. For me, it was a comforting read that offered new experiences along with the familiar ones.

Once I got the character names down (see my comments in the review of The Dragonbone Chair), this clearly became a "must listen" series, even though it could be consumed more quickly (for me, anyway) in print. I really enjoyed Wincott's narration style and accent; they felt like they "belonged" with this story. If you have the opportunity, I strongly recommend listening to it. I look forward to what's next in Osten Ard and I hope that Wincott narrates it.

Dawn says

++SPOILERS++

This is the third book in the series, and this edition contains both parts 1 & 2 of the Green Angel Tower. There is a 4th book out and I plan to jump into that one soon.

Even though there were moments I felt frustrated over certain aspects of the story, overall this series was excellent.

The world building was incredible! The pace was good and although it was over a thousand pages, I couldn't put the book down. Yes there were times I skimmed and it did seem at times the overdescriptiveness got to me from time to time, but it was only here and there. Mostly I enjoyed the details which gave it depth and a reality.

I think what I love most about long fantasy novels is the closeness I feel with the characters. When the story ends, I feel sad and will miss them. This is how I feel with this series.

The friendship between Binabik and Simon is sweet and touching. I really felt their brotherly love of each other.

The only negative I have is with the romantic aspect. Being a lover of romance novels, I am sure to be overly critical, but even other reviewers, I think, seemed to have the same feelings.

Miriamele. I didn't understand, or think reasonable, her lousy treatment of Simon for most of the series. Why did he love her? Her character was great in book one, book two her and Simon were separated for all of it, and this one, she was reunited with Simon around 35% and was just mean to him..cold..until the near end.

She pushes him away in a most hurtful way, intentionally, because she didn't feel worthy of him after she gave herself to Aspitis. It is understandable, her reasons, but more should have been done to show her feelings, at least to the reader so we don't hate her. I mean this author writes pages and pages of details about the environment, and actions yet when it comes to emotions, he just throws out crumbs.

Her actions were cruel and unrealistic IMHO. His reaction to finding out about her lost innocence was realistic. He was pissed, and rightfully so. Especially after he admitted to being in love with her. So now they are distant emotionally (AGAIN) with each other, until she finally realizes what an ass she was and that she loves him. They don't reconcile until 97% and she never once apologized for treating him so shitty nor explained why she did. Ok she did save his life in the end, but Geeze, she blows him off and doesn't go to see him when he was recovering from his wounds?

But, they did end up together, married, King and Queen. Totally in love. Lets just say the execution of the romance could be vastly improved.

I am glad that Josua does finally love his woman whose name I can't spell. And I am also glad Simon remained innocent for Miriamele even though she didn't deserve it.

Now I got that off my chest.

Overall, romance aside, the story was fantastic, and I still loved it.

Safety: Blood, gore, violence, torture. Sex off camera not detailed with Simon and Miriamele. No cursing.

Romance peeps: Aside from what I mentioned above. Simon Kisses another girl while drunk and the slut Sithi Aditu kisses him "like a lover" but he has no feeling for her. But of course Miriamele had already screwed Aspitis so you can't blame him and it was before he even knew if Miriamele was even alive. No other women interaction outside of that occurs except with Miriamele.

Once Miriamele comes back and Simon sees her, neither are with any other person except each other.
