



The Malloreon, Vol. 1: Guardians of the West / King of the Murgos / Demon Lord of Karanda

David Eddings

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Discover the magic of The Malloreon—David Eddings's acclaimed series, the sequel to his bestselling The Belgariad. Now the first three Malloreon books appear in a single volume, taking us on an epic quest across strange lands among gods, kings, sorcerers, and ordinary men. It is a gripping tale of two ancient warring destinies fighting a battle of good against evil.

Garion has slain the evil God Torak and is now the King of Riva. The prophecy has been fulfilled—or so it seems. For there is a dire warning, as a great evil brews in the East. Now Garion once again finds himself with the fate of the world resting on his shoulders. When Garion's infant son is kidnapped by Zandramas, the Child of Dark, a great quest begins to rescue the child. Among those on the dangerous mission are Garion and his wife, Queen Ce'Nedra, and the immortal Belgarath the Sorcerer and his daughter, Polgara. They must make their way through the foul swamps of Nyissa, then into the lands of the Murgos. Along the way, they will face grave dangers—captivity, a horde of demons, a fatal plague—while Zandramas plots to use Garion's son in a chilling ritual that will make the Dark Prophecy supreme. . .

The Malloreon, Vol. 1: Guardians of the West / King of the Murgos / Demon Lord of Karanda Details

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From Reader Review The Malloreon, Vol. 1: Guardians of the West / King of the Murgos / Demon Lord of Karanda for online ebook

byAx says

Nebbia emozionale

Confermo quanto scritto per la saga di Belgariad: notevolmente scorrevole in ogni sua parte. Questo è il pregio che ho riscontrato in tutto il tomo. L'unico.

Il viaggio, gli eventi, le caratterizzazioni, lotta tra male e bene, be', mi hanno lasciato indifferente di un'indifferenza sconcertante. L'autore si diverte a raccontare, si vede, ma ha giocato tutte le carte che aveva a disposizione per rappresentare il suo divertimento, e nulla più. La trama è ricca di eventi senza nerbo, si seguono i protagonisti più per assuefazione che per passione, accompagnati da una nebbia emozionale non indifferente. Nessuno spunto di riflessione leggermente inserito neanche quando ce ne era l'occasione. Lo consiglio a chi vuole intrattenere il tempo (se ne avete da gettar via). Lo sconsiglio a chi vuole viverci un viaggio.

Maddy Lanslots says

The main argument given by Eddings readers against the Malloreon series seems to be that it is the same story as the Belgariad: something is stolen, after which Garion, Polgara, Belgarath, Durnik, and some others go on a quest to try and retrieve it. On the way, they encounter (and overcome) a lot of different problems, meet new people (some of whom join the group in their search), and learn things along the way - about sorcery, magic, politics, relationships, and any other topic you could probably think of.

For me, that is what I like about the Malloreon - although that could just be me. Every time I finish a good book series, I find myself sad at the fact that I won't see these characters again in a different story and that I won't know what happened to them after the series ended. In the Malloreon, that is exactly the information we get - with a similar, yet new adventure on top of that. I loved reading about the characters from the Belgariad at a point later in time, seeing how they grew up and in which ways they are the same, how relationships have evolved and young people matured.

Aside from all that, the new characters introduced are great in my opinion (especially Velvet, who is a personal favourite of mine) and really help the story along. The plot is interesting, even if it reminds the reader a lot of the Belgariad, and I never found it predictable despite that fact. Of course things can be said against these books - can't things be said against every book one could possibly think of? - but both the Belgariad and the Malloreon series are personal favourites of mine and I am very much enjoying reading them again.

Nicci says

Eddings does not hide the fact that this book is pretty much the same as the last. However, I love the characters & a new-ish & very intriguing one has been introduced & will guest star in the last installment of this series & I can't wait! The characters we already know very well are stagnant. However, another character

who is not new but wasn't known too well in the first series is blossoming.

Brian Grefenstette says

Unfortunately, David Eddings basically repeats all of the themes of the Belgariad in the Mallorean. We experience the same conflict, but with characters that have grown since the first installment. He cleverly (or obviously, take your pick) covers himself for the repetition by virtue of a plot device (you can read it yourself), but it's a little thin. Overall, it's still a very enjoyable read and takes you much deeper into the lore of the world that he's created.

Paula says

An oldie, but a goodie. This is a favorite of our household and what better to read when you are recovering from major surgery? Love, love this book.

Jeremy Preacher says

Omnibus edition, books reviewed separately below:

Guardians of the West:

This is such an oddly structured book, and yet it's easily my favorite of the entire ten-book series. The whole first section is just a gentle, peaceful refresher of what all of Our Heroes have been up to since the events of the Belgariad that I find it immensely relaxing, and the middle section, covering Garion's exploits as King, is equally soothing in an episodic sort of way. And then bam! the last third of the book is All Action All the Time, and serves as the lead-in to the whole narrative arc. I can understand if people found this volume boring unto death, but I like it rather a lot.

King of the Murgos:

The first half or so of the book tends towards the tedious - it's a rehash of Queen of Sorcery to the point where the characters are remarking on it. (The fact that Eddings made this into an actual plot/worldbuilding point is sort of clever, I guess, but given the fact that his entire oeuvre consists of the exact same plots/themes/characters, it comes across as retconning rather than planning.) It is a trifle more grown-up, though - the violence isn't nearly as underplayed, and the villain does some pretty horrific things, if always offscreen.

The second half, involving the titular King, works much better. If you can ignore the problematic implications of the pervasive race-as-destiny assumption, Urgit's story is unexpected and rather delightful, and while it doesn't really undercut the core "the slanty-eyed people are bad" premise, at least they become rather more human than they were. The various adventures are entertaining enough that I was mostly able to block out some of the gender-related twitching, and while the ghouls rang particularly false - just needed to move that section along, huh? - it remains a solid entry in the series.

Demon Lord of Karanda:

Demon Lord is a rather disjointed book - there are several episodes that don't really hang together in theme or narrative drive. None of them are bad in themselves, really, they just don't come together to make anything that feels like a stand-alone volume. Definitely a middle book.

Berry Muhl says

Everything I said about the Belgariad applies here. The story is more complex, although it follows a similar outline (a fact which is addressed in-story, by way of pointing out how the Prophecies cause events to repeat until the future can resume). The characters are as rich, and their interactions as witty, as before (although some of the repeated jokes do become a mite tedious after the 20th iteration). We get much less King Rhodar here, so Prince "Silk" Kheldar takes up the slack in the comic-relief department. Eddings' style becomes a bit more gory in this series, and romance becomes more outre, marking this as a somewhat more adult-oriented pentology.

Sebastien says

Je ne sais pas si vous le saviez mais je suis un fan des suites et des crossovers. Quand on annonce un "sequel" d'un film ou d'une série ou de quoi que ce soit, ça m'attire tout le temps (sauf si c'est produit/écrit par un auteur/producteur graine à ti-budget). J'aime revoir les personnages, j'aime qu'on nous rappelle que les personnages secondaires ont une importance eux aussi, surtout quand ils prennent même plus de place. La seule chose, il est rare qu'une suite est aussi bonne que l'originale. Même que je crois qu'en général, l'original gagne toujours.

Cette suite ne fait pas exception à cette règle. Cependant, on est pas loin. Les deux premiers ouvrages de ce recueil sont carrément à la hauteur de ce qui s'est fait de mieux dans la Belgariad. Guardians of the West nous démontre comment Belgarion règne sur les terres et s'arrange pour garder la paix. Comparé à Pawn of Profecy (le premier de la Belgariad) ce roman est beaucoup plus rapide et on se fait un bonheur de revoir d'anciens amis qui ont évolué et qui ont maintenant soit des nouvelles responsabilités en lien à la dernière guerre et d'autres qui n'ont tout simplement pas changé.

Dans King of the Murgos on se fait introduire le nouveau continent de la Mallorae et on y rencontre le personnage que j'ai trouvé le plus cool de la Belgariad mais qui fut laissé pas assez longtemps: L'Empereur des Angaraks. On le voit interagir et même participer à l'aventure, ce qui a été pour moi un cadeau qui m'a fait chaud au cœur. Je voulais en savoir plus sur ce personnage et je me fait donner le tout sur un plateau d'argent. En plus de nous introduire à de nouveaux personnages qui sont eux aussi très intéressants.

Là où ça se gâche un peu c'est dans Demon Lord of Karanda. Voir même un peu avant. Rendu à cette partie on voit très bien que les auteurs (he oui ils sont deux même s'il n'y en a qu'un sur la couverture) n'essaieront pas de modifier la recette qui les ont fait devenir riches. Le groupe, formé de puissants héros fera le tour du continent pays par pays avec une présentation de tous ceux-ci avec l'idéologie de chacun. Dans la Belgariad ça faisait rafraîchissant et ça faisait du "worldbuilding", dans ce livre là ça fait carrément réchauffé et fade. Pourquoi, car cette fois-ci les auteurs ont passé de façon évidente moins de temps à bâtir le continent de la

Mallorae. En plus chaque jour du voyage est quasiment traité avec les dialogue qui commence à un moment donner à faire "on sait pu quoi dire faque on va parler de tout et de rien". Oui sa démontre c'est quoi de jaser quand on va à l'aventure, mais dans Demon Lord ils auraient pu coupé.

Je crois que les auteurs ont trop voulu (à moins que ce soit les éditeurs) que la série fasse 5 volume comme la première série. Donc ils ont du faire du "filling" pour combler les trou et le manque de préparation avant d'écrire une suite qui avait la même recette qui donc aurait dû demander la même préparation. Au moins la fin du roman rattrape ce problème et nous raccroche à l'histoire.

Donc pour moi c'est une bonne suite, qui n'est pas à la hauteur de la première mais qui s'en approche assez pour dire que c'est aussi un "Must" à lire. Alors comme disait l'annonce de chip "betcha you can't just read one".

Maymuna says

Quite a good series so far, lots of surprises and new characters, also old characters coming back to play a more formative role in the story. The writing style has definitely improved. I'm torn as to whether this, or the Belgariad are better, but I guess I still have two books left to figure that out :-)

Spazfungus says

Sequel to the best farm-boy-saves-the-world series. Said boy has grown up, unfortunately his wife's character hasn't and remains an annoyance for much of the series. Luckily my favorite oily efficacious eunuch plays a much larger role and is a constant source of amusement.

Matt says

The Mallorean Series (5 books) follows the same characters in the Belgariad series, one of my all time favorites. While this series is fun to read, it is basically a 'remake' of the previous series. Events are so similar that even the characters notice it. This is explained in the series, but can be somewhat monotonous. Still, I enjoyed reading them.

Kieran says

I read Edding's novels with great relish when I was much younger. His characters were easy to engage with and the plot moved with swift pace through various exciting scenarios. Best of all was his great attention to detail in the creation of his fantastical world. It was, as one of my first introductions to fantasy a primer in how magical and strange civilizations are built off and grounded from the real world.

I did however despise his characterization, while some of the minor characters were interesting: Silk, Mandorallen and Barak for instance, his protagonists quickly became clear stereotypes instead of effectively

building upon their archetypal bases. Belgarath as the mentor and Garion as the Child of Light are most clearly guilty of never quite becoming more three-dimensional rather than just filling in roles to serve the overarching plot. The female characters, and in particular Polgara and Ce'Nedra were also extremely irritating, as they were to all intents and purposes identical in both speech, beliefs and customs. The only thing that would allow one to differentiate from Eddings's irritating women was their appearances and names. This became more and more apparent as the story slowly progressed into the later novels as neither of these characters (and particularly Polgara) showed absolutely no evidence of change in character, instead remaining as, vain, annoying and shallow as when they were first introduced. As a primer or first reader in fantasy The Belgariad, and The Mallorean are excellent introductions to the genre, for their obvious use of standard tropes that make the fantasy genre distinct from others, but it won't offer readers' much beyond that.

Elaina says

Very good! Here was a little repetition of the plot, but I loved being with all the characters again! I can't wait to read the next volume!

Chris Van Dyke says

Even my seventh grade self found this sequel to the Belgariad to be laughably self-derivative, and seeing that Eddings is perhaps the poster-child for derivative fantasy to begin with, that means this book is about as un-original as it gets. Its the same characters, the same setting, and (this is when the snickering comes in), the same plot. The fact that the characters themselves are aware of this (at one point, one of them asks "It feels as if we've done all of this before") doesn't help, as the in book explanation is just overly defensive on Eddings part (some crap about an unbroken, mystical cycle, having to break some pre-historical curse of dark gods etc. etc.) I was only 12, but I still could see bull-shit when I saw it.

Daniele says

Questo volume contiene i primi 3 episodi della saga dei Mallorean: I guardiani della Luce, Il re dei Murgos e Il signore dei Demoni.

Ritornano i protagonisti del ciclo di Belgariad in gran spolvero.

Ho sempre trovato Eddings uno scrittore di facile lettura ed in questo caso voglio sottolineare che si tratta di un complimento.

Bello, divertente a volte scanzonato... Un pò come tornare in quel vecchio locale dove il divertimento e la buona compagnia sono assicurati. Mi sono divertito.
