



A Kingdom Besieged

Raymond E. Feist

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Plagued by rumour and instability, the Kingdom is losing spies in Kesh, disappearing - either murdered, or turned to the enemy side. Information has become scant and unreliable; but dark forces are coming. The Keshian Confederacy is assembling under an old enemy in new guise., and powerful magician Pug's youngest son brings new apprentices into the family. As the men of the West answer the King's call to muster, Martin conDoin - left as caretaker of Crydee Keep - is left with old men and young boys

A Kingdom Besieged Details

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From Reader Review A Kingdom Besieged for online ebook

Lily Malone says

I haven't read a new Feist book since the Serpent War saga, and this was on sale at Amazon AUS recently and I snapped it up. I enjoyed the drips of Midkemia history through those original stories of Arutha/Martin/Lyam and Jimmy The Hand.

I enjoyed this story, with the only parts that lost me being Samareena's story/encounter with the NightCaps who turned out to be Nighthawks. Other than that, the pacing was fine. I'd seek out the other stories in the series but probably only if they come on sale.

Laura says

3.5 Stars. This is the first in a series so by itself it doesn't lend itself to satisfaction. Once I complete the series I may come back to this first book and change my rating. So far it has been diverting but not amazing. Will continue on in the series and reassess.

Sasha says

Ah, I did it again. How does one continuously get into yearlong series without noticing? I'll tell you how: With the book saying it's a "no. 1 of the blablabla series" and having the gall to then on the inside show up FIRST rather than LAST with all the other books. I certainly wouldn't have picked this one up had I known there were whole sagas going on behind this. Maybe I should've noticed that "The Chaoswar Saga" as mentioned in the list of all the other sagas seemed to be a standalone yet had a number one in the title... So the book (not the author, though, I presume he had nothing to do with the design of aforementioned list in the front pages) already lost about half a star for me there. The other one and a half are from the rest of the book. And while I can appreciate that other readers have a wealth of information on characters that I do not, that doesn't mean I can't still be critical of the author's writing.

Alas, the book starts generic enough with a fantasy realm with humans, elves, demons and all sorts of creatures. It does feel very varied, if a bit overcrowded in that it seems like every supernatural creature you could fathom at some point or another has lived there. After getting acquainted with the map of Midkemia (I love it when the books have maps!), I must say it was very frustrating that the first chapter didn't feature at all in there. I was searching top to bottom to see if I've missed something until I later realized that the part about Child (the first main character introduced to us in this book) just doesn't take place in Midkemia for the most part - or at least not in that "plane", if you will. That said I loved the introduction with demons and an impending cataclysm of epic proportions. Fleeing from "The Darkness", demonkind is trying to outrun something they don't quite understand but know will kill them, should they linger for too long. Child is a newborn demon who, thanks to a loving mother manages to survive upon feasting on dead demons. She grows quickly but is not out of harm's way (view spoiler). We then make the acquaintance of numerous humans spread out through Midkemia (now at least the map does show where things are happening) with either connections to the throne or to Pug, a very strong sorcerer, who has dealt with demons in the past. Now especially concerning the family trees and Pug's past, it slowly dawned on me that I'm not reading the

start of a series but the end. Generations upon generations of similar sounding people and their contributions to one war or another did not really endear me to the novel, as it was more tell than show and at parts rather boring. I assume that by reading about those people from their perspective in the previous books might have helped, but as such it was not information that I lacked but a connection. I felt rather detached from the explanations of character X's great-great-grandfather all the way through the present. I suppose it was as much to introduce new readers as to remind old ones who did what in the previous books.

As Midkemia is divided in several kingdoms that are in the present of the book under unstable rule, it's no wonder that problems soon arise. A slow invasion from the south suddenly becomes very tangible when a huge force ships up to the West, where they are soon overwhelmed since they never expected to be targeted in the first place. Much of the strategy and motives behind Kesh (the invading party) is lost on me, though the reason why seems rather intriguing (view spoiler).

The elves are seemingly quarreling among themselves but will play a greater role as well, considering they have a variety of portals that connect to places that should better be left alone.

As the book closes the war is engaged in several places and includes pretty much everyone to some extent - which leaves a kingdom besieged, as the title suggests and a darkness rising that probably needs unlikely allies to defeat it.

Again, it's hard to understand something that has 20+ books under its belt and is now wrapping everything up. That said, the world build did seem interesting, if somewhat generic. I would've liked to see more elf story (I did not understand at all how they are divided and even less why) or just more mention of them in the book. I would also have liked to see a map of Child's original birthplace, though I guess that would've been a very simple map. That said, how the portals connected to each other was and remains a bit of a mystery to me. I would also have loved to see more of Kesh and their perspective, as it was mostly shown second hand through non-Keshian characters.

As for characters, some of them are exceedingly bland. Feist just switches PoVs in the middle of a paragraph (not even a chapter) and introduces small characters, just to have them killed off within two pages (in and of itself not a problem, but happening several times it did become a bit annoying, considering I already have to deal with at least 10 "main" characters). The humans are mostly uninteresting though I did quite like Martin and especially Jim, had he had more screen time. The suspicion hinted at in the blurb in the back of the book concerning Pug's son Magnus was maybe a bit too subtle for me to catch up on. Both seemed rather uninteresting other than seemingly have lived through a lot. Amirantha on the other hand I really liked and would've loved to see more interaction with him and the elves. One of the few parts in the book that actually had me gripped. Adding to that are Child and Belog, two demons whose dynamic I rather enjoyed. Despite some of the interaction being again very tell and little show, I loved their relationship. (view spoiler). In general there were just too many characters in the book spanning too many places (a family tree in the back would've helped loads) that I feel some important characters were unduly left out while others were a bit overpowering.

All in all it was a pleasant read but sometimes very exposition heavy and with a lot of information I could not really connect to something. The varying PoVs and some quick character introductions seemed a bit pointless as were some of the chapters in general where I'd loved to see flashbacks rather than some silly dinner scene. It's unlikely I'll ever read through the whole sagas that came before this one and less so that I'll continue this saga with the lacking information that I have. As it stands, I give it 3 stars as the writing wasn't really convincing to me but the plot as a whole seemed promising as did the world build.

This Is Not The Michael You're Looking For says

A Kingdom Besieged is the latest book in the long-running Riftwar Cycle by Raymond Feist and the first in what appears may be the final trilogy of the story. Depending a bit on how one chooses to count, this is the 19th book in the primary series (which is subdivided into a variety of sagas), with an additional 9 related books (6 co-authored) retroactively filling in story gaps with alternate tales and points of view. Broadly speaking the primary series has generally declined in quality through time, with the first books being the best and the later books the worst. Happily, *A Kingdom Besieged* goes a long way to reversing this trend, as it is easily better than all eight books making up the last three sagas, and at times almost recapturing the magic of the first few tales.

A Kingdom Besieged begins about five years after the end of the previous book, *At the Gates of Darkness*. It's a broad tale of war and intrigue, although not a dense or difficult read. The story moves at a rapid pace, with a few twists and turns but nothing particularly shocking or surprising (I very early on guessed what was probably meant to be the biggest shock/twist in the story...I don't know whether it was telegraphed or I just got lucky). As with many other books from the series, it contains a mix of new and established characters as the primary drama starts to shift to a new generation. Many of these characters harken back a bit to the characters from the earlier stories (sometimes blatantly and deliberately), which is perhaps why they resonate so well. The ending is solid, without a blatant cliffhanger, but still setting up numerous plot threads to be tackled in the next two books.

One of the biggest problems with the last few books in the series (and particularly the previous book) was the lack of what I would call craftsmanship. It was not so much that the story and plot and characters were particularly bad, but rather that the writing and editing fundamentals were sorely lacking. In particular, there were numerous redundancies and gross inconsistencies (such as having the same character in two different places simultaneously) that simply showed sloppy writing, editing, and an insufficient attention to detail that detracted from the story. Thankfully, such inconsistencies appear to be largely absent from this book, allowing the reader to stay more absorbed. One craftsmanship flaw still remains, however, which is a tendency to redundancy. For example, in chapter 1, Feist writes

It was called the Magician's Tower, for once the Duke's ancestor, Lord Borric, had given it over to a magician and his apprentice.

In chapter 19 he writes

.....to the roof of the tower known as the "Magician's Tower" because it was where Pug and his mentor, the magician Kulgan, had resided deacdes before.

The text in chapter 19 is completely extraneous; he already explained where the name of the tower comes from. It's almost as if these chapters were written completely independently with no thought or bearing to how they fit together into a single book (this was not the only case of such repetition).

Overall, I found this book to capture much of the excitement I remember when first reading the earliest stories 25 years ago and for the first time in quite awhile I am actively looking forward to the next book to learn what will happen next.

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

The end of the Riftwar world is nigh, and I feel an odd mix of relief and elation. I think the series may be ending with a lot of repeating elements, having been dragged on a little too long... but at the same time, it

has been nice to come “home” to the author that sparked my love of fantasy.

I already like the Chaoswar Saga better than the Demonwar Saga. It took a while for things to get going and for all the “players” to be reintroduced, but once it did, it had my interest. Feist included an interesting POV from a creature in one of the demon realms, adding a nice bit of perspective to the overall story, which I’m excited to see develop. Overall, A Kingdom Besieged was enjoyable, containing enough nostalgic elements to keep me interested, but not enough to knock my socks off.

I do have a few critical thoughts about these later works, especially concerning character development. Some of the text practically screams with Feist’s desperate desire to stay relevant and a live up to all the great characters he’s written in previous books. Unfortunately, I think he’s going about it the wrong way – instead of taking the time to develop strong new characters, he shamelessly name-drops. He’s trying to build them up by emphasizing how similar they are to their predecessors, but only succeeds in paling them by comparison, at least in my mind. Here’s a badly paraphrased example:

“Oh, you’re a son of the Duke of Crydee? And an archer to boot!! Look how amazing you are! Why, I’d say you have all the skill and bearings that your great Grandsire, Martin, had. Do you remember how amazing he was?? Splitting-image, I tell you!”

And he doesn’t do this just once, but with every new prominent character we meet. It doesn’t help matters that many of these characters are actually descendant from original characters. I admit I’m at the point where I no longer remember (or care) which generation we’re on.

So, despite a decided quality drop in these later books, I still think (at this point) the series is worth finishing, but the final verdict will be told with the last two Chaoswar books. If you haven’t started this series yet, **here’s my recommended reading order:**

Riftwar 1 & 2 [2] Loved #1! The first 100 pages of #2 is a struggle – keep going!
Empire [3] Loved!
Riftwar 3 & 4 [2] Loved!
Kronador’s Sons [2] Loved!
Serpentwar Saga [4] Loved!
Riftwar Legacy[3] Didn’t like...
Conclave of Shadows [3] Loved!
Darkwar Saga [3] Liked.
Demonwar Saga [2] Hated!
Chaoswar Saga [3] The jury is still out...

The Riftwar Legacy is a side trilogy apparently based off of a video game. It lacked the sophistication of the other series and had no particular relevance to future books (that I can remember, anyway). I’d skip those. If the Chaoswar ends well, it MIGHT be worth suffering through Demonwar... I’ll let you know lol. ;)

Via The Obsessive Bookseller at www.NikiHawkes.com

Other books you might like:

Theft of Swords - Michael J. Sullivan

Furies of Calderon - Jim Butcher

Sorcery Rising - Jude Fisher

Assassin's Apprentice - Robin Hobb

Bob Milne says

It has been an astounding 30+ years since Raymond E. Feist first introduced us to Pug, Tomas, and the other heroes of Midkemia in *Magician* (broken into *Magician: Apprentice* & *Magician: Master* in North America), the first book of the *The Riftwar Saga*. I can vividly remember devouring all three books of original trilogy back in high school, and I still count it as one of my favourite series.

I, of course, went on to read the *Krondor's Sons* duology, along with *The Empire Trilogy* - which had the added bonus of introducing me to Janny Wurts. I drifted away from Midkemia after that, however, having found that the opening chapters of *The Serpentwar Saga* were too sparse, too militaristic, too far removed from the core characters, and somehow lacking in the sense of magical epic-ness that made the first saga so compelling.

When I heard Feist was working on the story of the 'final' *Riftwar*, I knew it was time to catch up, to re-familiarize myself with the world, and see things through to the ominously titled *Magician's End*.

That brings us to *A Kingdom Besieged*, the first book of *The Chaoswar Saga*. Much to my delight (and relief), reading this opening volume was very much like revisiting old friends. The same 'epic' sense of storytelling that I remembered was back, along with my old friend Pug at the forefront, once again a major force to be reckoned with. Feist does a superb job of casually recapping the prior sagas, bringing up details in conversation, or reflecting on past events in the character's thoughts. He never info-dumps or delays the story, just slowly and naturally brings the world and the reader back together.

There's a lot to like here, not the least of which is the story of Child, the rather unusual demon who grows in both stature and power, all the while approaching a level of sophistication that's almost human. It's not clear what role she will have to play in things, whether she'll offer salvation from the darkness devouring the land, or prove to be a harbinger of the end-times, but she's a compelling character. In fact, she just may be the most chilling character I've encountered in an epic fantasy, a character with the potential to destroy the world . . . along with the intelligence and cunning to know precisely what she's doing and why.

Similarly, the reintroduction of Pug into world affairs is a welcome addition to the story, acknowledging the tragedies that have come before and gently, politely, respectfully resolving them. His relationship with his sole surviving son is an interesting one, especially given the dark pact he made with the future in the original saga, but you can't help but hope Feist will find away around demanding the ultimate sacrifice. More importantly, Pug seems ready to take a role in world affairs once again, which promises to set up some interesting confrontations, but also ensures the possibility of survival for Midkemia.

What I appreciated most about the story, however, is the novelty of Kesh's plans for conquest. Feist has done conquering armies before, both human and inhuman, and done a solid job of directing battles and armies in ways that make logical sense, but which still manage to surprise. Here he takes things in an entirely new direction, introducing us to armies that are designed solely to make landfall and send the residents scurrying for cover. Rather than press the advantage and invest themselves in siege, however, the armies simply hold their ground while the refugees they've collected are set loose to colonize the land. This is not a conquest by swords, pole-arms, pikes, and magic spells, but one by spades, hoes, shovels, and farming. This is not a war of attrition, but a simple matter of displacement.

It's not year clear how all these events will converge, what role the elves will deign to play, or just how much the Pantathians (surprise!) are responsible for, but it's clear that change is in the air. It's a next-generation Riftwar, with grandsons and great-nephews stepping up to take the place of their heroic forefathers, guided by the continuity of Pug. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and am glad I decided to revisit Feist's world. On to At the Gates of Darkness next.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

R Bartel says

A Kingdom Besieged was my first introduction to Feist's novels. The author makes a huge assumption – that I have read his previous books. This assumption is revealed in the fact that he spends almost no time introducing his characters. By the middle of the book I had to assume that if I didn't know who someone was, they must have been brought forward from an earlier series. Since this book is touted as “book one” of a new series, I felt tremendously disappointed. I then researched Feist's writing history and discovered, yes indeed, these were recurring characters from his previous books.

Now the question was whether or not I wished to read all twenty-seven books that preceded this one – even though this is touted as “number one in a new trilogy” – just to figure out who is supposed to be a good guy and who's the bad guy. By the middle of the book I got tired of guessing, and besides, I was bored to tears by the unrelenting passive voice. Life is much too short to bother with such a book or with an author who has so little respect for new readers.

Kim says

To me this book felt like a well needed return to form for Feist. The Demonwar saga was a let down for me but this, the start of the end, really got things back on track.

The action was good and varied, Pug wasn't wallowing so much and started to seem like himself again, the story of Child was great and the pieces are all moving into place.

There were some negatives of course. The amount of characters is starting to get confusing, especially with Feist's love of naming them the same thing. I need a full family tree to wrap my head around it.

Tomas was missed. He is a good character and at least should have had an appearance.

I'm glad Feist is getting back on track and I'm looking forward to seeing how this epic series ends. With the twist at the end of this book I'd say it will be very interesting.

Vasya says

From the Magician: Apprentice to this title that I'm sure Raymond E. Feist made an incredible journey for its

readers, but sadly I have only read his Riftwar Saga and Krondor's Sons. I have to say that, after reading this, I am sure that I haven't made a bigger mistake in my reading experience.

I fell in love with Magician: Apprentice on first sight. Ever since that first sentence, ever since that first scene with Pug, I was gripped with the whole world of Midkemia and Televan Feist created. But I had a slight problem that I didn't know how to deal with - coming to the third (or fourth, depends on how it's published) book in that first series, I started disliking his work because it tended to go toward sci-fi fiction of which I am not an admirer. And while that problem was not repeated in the two books in the Krondor's Sons (at least if you try really really hard to imagine that it was all because of magic) the characters of Boris, Pug, Tomas, Arutha and Jimmy could not be so easily duplicated, and I didn't feel as good as when I read Magician.

So I gave up. Not on Feist entirely, but I just kept postponing reading his other works until eventually something totally took my attention away from them, and having this book in my hands (not literally, but you know what I mean) made me realize just how much I missed out.

True, most of those characters I admired so much in the Riftwar Saga are dead, because this happens a few generations after those first steps were made. Pug is there, but he is not a little boy anymore in search of adventure and approval, he is a magician so burdened by his knowledge that I sometimes perceive him as an old man, way beyond Kulgan's age. But my problem with this book was that it relies too much on the information of the previous books.

I am short of knowledge. I figured out why the ending was so dramatic, I remembered what it means, because I've already read something of the history of Midkemia, but there were so many places and so many characters mentioned that I knew nothing about, the I was left very confused. Even though I could make some connections, this is not a recommended first read if you are not familiar with Feist's entire Riftwar Cycle (which means that I'm about nineteen books in the minus). It is first in the smaller series of Midkemia, but I dislike that it couldn't be a stand-alone novel, because to figure out everything (and believe me, Feist did an excellent work by having a hidden meaning behind every word spoken and every action taken) you need to read everything that happened before. I like works that are set in my favorite worlds, but not at the point that they're so interconnected that I can't understand a book before its predecessors.

Aside from it, the storytelling was amazing. I was always left a little awed by the formerly planned details of the plot, by stepping so lightly into the character's skin while he/she's the focus of the attention, and I was not disappointed here. Martin, Hal, Jim, the elves, the Black Caps, Child, the whole political scene which is present but doesn't smuggle the whole adventure of it all, nothing disappointed me.

I loved the way how it all came to be, how the plots for the invasion become unveiled, how the whole adventure began. And even though so much of the whole story is revealed, I know that there is something greater that is going to be revealed in the next book. And then again something greater in the one after that one. It's the way Feist works, and the complexity of everything makes me want to read it over and over again.

The characters are not overbearing. There is a perfect symmetry between the complexity of the story and that of the characters, because they unveil themselves slowly with every page turned. Nothing is crowded as sometimes may be the case in this type of fantasy, and Feist did an excellent job in balancing all the main parts of the story.

And what more do I need to say, except that I am anxiously awaiting the next book, and furiously searching

for my library or credit card, to get on with the books that this one reminded me of? I recommend it to all epic fantasy lovers, because it definitely won't disappoint.

This review was based on a digital ARC received via NetGalley.

Veronica Morfi says

The darkness is coming...

If you are a fan of epic fantasy novels, knights, battles, kings, queens, magicians, elves and everything related to them this is a fantasy world you'll love.

The story of Midkemia started 26 books ago and still worth waiting every single book. In this 27th book the Kingdom is threatened by the empire of Great Kesh. Spies from both the Kingdom and Roldem are disappearing or turned to the enemy side. And when Jim Dasher, an agent from both the Conclave of Shadows and the Kingdom tries to find out what is going on he discovers an old enemy is still alive. The Padathians, yet again, are playing a mysterious role in the new war that is threatening the Kingdom.

While we learn about the Keshians moving against the Kingdom we meet new members of the con Doin family. Martin is the middle son of the duke of Crydee and as the men of the west answer the King's call to muster, he is left to guard Crydee Keep. Everything seems quiet until an invading army shows up at their doorstep and all hell breaks loose.

Another brilliant thing about this book is that for the first time we get to see the demon realm. We realize that demons are not as different from humans as we originally thought and we follow a pack of them who is trying to escape the Void that is starting to cover the realm destroying everything that it touches.

Filled with heroic battles, magical sceneries, romance and chivalry, this book is the first one from the Chaoswar Saga, the last known trilogy of Midkemia, but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone that hadn't read the previous books.

Feist is, without a doubt, a master of his kind and can keep even the most demanding readers hooked on every book.

Miss Mobarez says

Fairly interesting plot...I like the concept of the book but the plot is too slow I assume.

Blodeuedd Finland says

The fifth riftwar is about to start. Pug and the Conclave have been searching for demons for a few years and have not noticed that something is happening. And since I love Pug I am always happy to see him, and I

hope there will be a lot of him. But he is also very sad since he lost his wife and son, and because of all the others he has seen die since he has lived so long.

The other characters in this book are Martin and Hal conDoin, sons of the Duke of Crydee, and they will play a big part in things to come. They are young men, ready for adventure, but at the same time not ready for all the responsibilities. We also meet James Dasher, or Jimmythehand as he wanted to be called when younger because of his famous relative. A spy that tries to figure out why Kesh is attacking the kingdom. All these characters just bring me back to the first Riftwar and it's a great feeling.

There is another character, Child, who wanders the demon realm and kills and grows. And then at the end there is such a twist and I never saw it coming. She sure is an interesting character.

This book has the beginning of a war that is going to be devastating for the West. There are also some politics and a lot of spying going on. And the question about how Kesh put it all together without anyone knowing. Then we have the question about why the demons are fleeing their realms and what the Darkness is. Something bad is coming and it will not stop. And at the end of the book something big happens that had me stop reading and smile. It's not something good, actually it's really bad, but it's a great plot, and I can't wait to see what happens.

Conclusion:

Ok, so I have not read all the books. It seems I missed the 4th Riftwar, but did it matter? Not really, I could jump in and was soon up to speed about things going on. It's a new series and sure it builds on the other books but it can stand alone. Though there are all these little things and if you really want to know then you should at least read the first Riftwar saga. Fans will not be disappointed, as always, great fantasy.

Rating:

I had fun :D

Rebecca Burke says

Superb read with the NLS audiobook to follow along with while you read. Exciting plot that piques and keeps the readers interest.

Ian says

Another page turner, obviously, when is Feist ever not?

Spoiler alert (so don't read on if you haven't read the book yet) : I have to comment on the demon thing... at

first I was like "what is going on with Child?", and then later I was still like "what is going on?" I mean I knew it was going to be an important part of the story but come on! This is Feist and I want content with Pug and The Conclave and Thomas! Meanwhile, I did enjoy meeting the new characters from Crydee, gotta love going back to the roots.

By about the middle of the book I was over it and became interested in Child. I had been short on patience but I should have known! This is what I love about Feist! I know the book is not solely about Child, the demon. There is a lot going on and I am only focusing on the demons because it illustrates that Feist is one of those authors who know what his readers want. When Child and her archivist/buddy/companion become Miranda and Nakar..... what can I say! I wasn't in tears (although I expect the scene in the next book when they reunite with Pug will) but I did feel a smugness (Thank you Feist!) and a warming of the heart. (because Nakar is back and it wasn't the same without him)

So why a 4 star and not a 5 star review? Simple. I want more. Feist has been and will probably always be one of my most favorite authors but I read this book in about 6 hours. I hate to complain but a 30 dollar book? 6 hours? You might say "Slow down then" I would say right back that Feist's books have been less pages in each one and bigger print in each one. Now I might be exaggerating out of frustration but it sure does seem like less and less. I am not a slow reader, and no I don't skim at all, and yes I read a lot of books, and no Feist will not get 5 stars from me until he steps up and presents me with a book (and I hate to say it because I love his work so much) that is something other than an airport read.

That being said I will surely buy the next 30 dollar book, and the next, and the next. I grew up on Feist and will always be a huge fan. Keep them coming, I love you Feist!

Alexander Draganov says

Another excellent epic fantasy by Raymond E. Feist. As he begins the final trilogy in the long-running Riftwar series we see again old friends and villains and meet new heroes. After centuries of peace, the Empire of the Great Kesh attacks the great Kingdom and Crydee, the city from which the great Magician Pug and the mighty Dragon Lord Tomas are from is again under siege. And a young conDoin, a distant ancestor of the legendary Prince Arutha, must protect his people. In the same time, spy nets are falling apart as mysterious new player is destroying them, while in the realms of Demons a new terrible enemy appears... This is an ambitious fantasy tale, with many characters and sub-plots, but it truly seems the beginning of the end in the grand Riftwar Cycle. While ancient forces of Good and Evil return in Midkemia, a final battle with the most horrible power in the history of the Universe is coming soon...

I can't wait for the next installments in the trilogy, but I know that whatever happens, I will be sad to see the final ending of one of the beloved series of my childhood. In fact, the ending of this book made it so marvellous to me, as it made me remember days long gone, when I was a student and was running from school to read what was and still is one of my favorite fantasy tales.
