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King's Champion



Synopsis

After decades of peace, war is threatening the Kingdom of Avranche. Its old foes are stirring, in a new alliance with darker powers. Black wings bring death and torture in the night. Owain, former King's Champion, hears rumors of sorcery. Visiting the grave of his sword brother, he stumbles into a deadly raid, and uncovers coded orders for a larger plot. The kingdom's enemies know Owain is now their greatest danger. He must race against time to find and deal with them before they deal with him!

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Customer Reviews

This is an enjoyable fantasy, and a creditable first effort in the genre. Grant's dialogue style, here, is somewhat archaic, stilted and formal, which works in context. I did feel, however, that the speaking style of all of the characters was fairly indistinguishable, and I hope that the author rises to the challenge of differentiating his creations' voices as he continues in the genre. The plot is straightforward, but the interest in the characters, and their fates, is more than sufficient to keep one

reading. It's a bloody tale, and the author, while he doesn't revel in gore, pulls no punches. As always, Grant's writing style has a slightly "vintage" feel to it - a nod to the greats of the '30s through the '60s. It's subtle, but the pacing and the formality have a comfortably familiar feel that differs from most modern authors.

Good straightforward story. Good action and battles.

It breaks no new ground as a standard user of fantasy tropes, but it's a good read, and rewards the time spent reading it. It certainly allows for, but does not require a sequel (or may even be the beginning of a series). If there are sequels, I certainly would plan to buy them.

In my opinion, this is Peter's best yet! Looking forward to a sequel.

This book is mostly very good, and then, suddenly, it's not. The first 90% or so of the book works very well; Peter Grant's tightly written and compelling descriptions of traveling and fighting in rough country see to that; the worldbuilding is decent, too. For example, both sides use magic for surveillance; Grant shows us the strengths and weaknesses of this "technology" and uses it plausibly in the story. Unfortunately, what was otherwise a very enjoyable book finishes with a deus ex machina ending in which the machine seems to run mostly on handwaving. I was so disappointed by the ending that I almost gave the book two stars; three actually feels overly generous despite the strength of the first 90 or 95% of the book.

The story is fast-paced, in a world where honor, magic, and bravery rule, the main character is an old warrior who is called back to service by his sense of duty. A visit to an old friend's grave starts the action and it takes off from there! Peter has captured the spirit of classic fantasy. His world an excellent one with descriptions of people that populate this new world, yet allow the reader to use their imagination. It's definitely recommended for anyone who enjoys excellent stories about honor and bravery, written in a straightforward manner that keeps the reader interested until the last page.

The story is well-paced, with action punctuating an immersive narrative through a world where honor, magic, and bravery rule the day. The main character, Owain, is an old warrior who is called back to service by his sense of duty to the kingdom. He confronts an ancient evil that he thought he

had defeated decades earlier, and works to restore the protectors of his land. Grant brings his outstanding writing to this new genre, and he has captured the spirit of classic fantasy. He doesn't dwell on descriptions, but does an excellent job of drawing out the lands and people that populate this new world. King of the Champions is an easy, enjoyable read that grabs you and won't let go. If you can put it down, it will keep you thinking until you pick it back up. It's definitely recommended for anyone who enjoys excellent stories about honor and bravery.

I wish I had the skills to write the review this book deserves. This novel fires at all levels. When I read Fantasy this book achieves what I desire most. I was amazed in what a rather short book by Fantasy standards achieved. Totally engaging plot and characters. It sweats the small stuff such as logistics without being boring. There is wisdom throughout and virtue is a dominant theme. There is redemption and sacrifice. So much to love. Previously I had read only his two Westerns, a genre I don't normally read, and was impressed. This simply blew me away. I had never considered some of the commonalities before between Westerns and Fantasy, but I see this better now. This is a great book which I will certainly re-read.

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