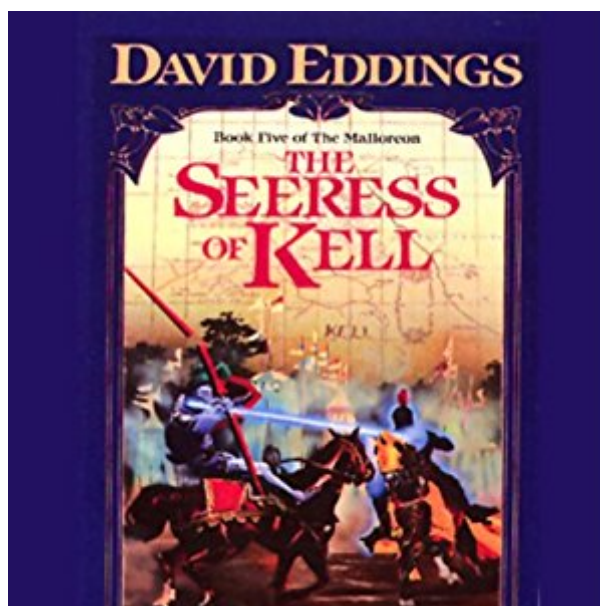


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The Seeress Of Kell: The Malloreon, Book 5



Synopsis

THE FINAL RECKONING Time was running out for Garion and his companions in their quest to recover Garion's infant son and heir. If they could not locate the Place Which Is No More, then Zandramas, the Child of Dark, would use Garion's son in a rite that would raise the Dark Prophecy to eternal dominion over the universe! Only the Seeress of Kell could reveal the site of that mysterious place--and that she could do only once Garion and Polgara had fulfilled an ancient prophecy in the mountain fastness of the Seers . . . Kell itself was closed to Zandramas--but her dark magic could force the knowledge she needed from one of Garion's party. She laid her traps and dispatched her foul minions, determined to claim the world for the Dark God. But Garion would let nothing stand between him and his son . . . Here is the epochal conclusion to David Eddings' bestselling The Malloreon, the culmination of an unparalleled quest across strange lands and among strange peoples--a magnificent fantasy of men, Kings, Sorcerers, and Gods caught up in the seven-thousand-year war between two ancient, opposing Destinies battling to determine the fate of all creation. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book 5 of the Mallorean Finally we come to the conclusion of the adventures of Garion, Belgarath, Polgara, and everyone they traveled with. While this is specifically the conclusion to the 5 book series "The Mallorean", this is really the conclusion to the story that began 10 books ago with "Pawn of Prophecy". In this book, Garion will reach the end of the road in the quest to rescue his

kidnapped son and also fulfil for the final time the prophecies that have been shaping his world for more than 7000 years. Garion is nearing the end of the quest and if you have read the previous nine volumes, you have an idea of what to expect. This is still lighthearted, simplistic fantasy and is fairly enjoyable to read. The Mallorean (and Belgariad) is an epic series of Good vs Evil, Light vs Darkness, and of Gods, Kings, and Men (not to mention women, but I meant humans). There is magic a plenty, an abundance of sword play, a long epic quest, humor, action, and drama. One can accuse this series (and Eddings) of telling the same story twice, as the plotlines do follow those of The Belgariad, just in a different location, but Eddings actually built that into the story so well that events are supposed to be repeating themselves. Rather than blatantly rip himself off, Eddings set up his world and the events in it such that some repetition is necessary. To be honest, if you are a fan of the Belgariad, you are likely going to have enjoyed reading through the Mallorean. The ending, though anti-climactic, is nice, pleasant, and a good way to say goodbye to the friends you have made over the course of reading 10 books set in one world dealing with the same set of characters.

It's with a sense of relief that I can finally turn to the last volume in this series. While the Mallorean is better written than the Belgariad, Eddings overplayed his hand in telling a story which is a derivative echo of its predecessor, and then using a repetitive architecture to expand the tale to five volumes. Had this series been whittled down to four, or even three volumes it would have been easier than on the reader. Belgarion, C'Nedra, and the rest of those on the quest for their kidnapped child must now follow the last steps in fulfilling the prophecy that will enable Cyradis, Seeress of Kell, to make the final choice between alternate futures. Two candidates exist for the God who will replace Torak - who was slain by Belgarion in the first set of books. Errand, who has been in the care of Polgara and Durnik, will stand for Belgarion, the child of light, and Geran, Belgarion's own son is Zandramas's offer. If Geran is chosen darkness will fall and Belgarion will face having to kill his own child. They voyage first to Kell, then to Perivor, and finally to Korim where the last clashes will be fought. There is a complex set of requirements to be fulfilled before Cyradis can make her choice, and Zandramas is intent on making sure that there really is no choice. Tense times come as Belgarath solves the last puzzles just in time and they find the altar in the place that is no more. Seeress of Kell is noticeably better paced than Sorceress of Darshiva. It doesn't really bog down at all until after the choice is made, when Eddings proceeds to take 80 pages to wind down the tale in epilogue. Again, it's not Eddings writing ability that is at fault, but his inability to know when to stop.

This book actually began 9 volumes ago when Eddings first published the first book in the series 'The Belgarian.' This book, number ten and the final book, is the last of the five book series 'The Malloreon.' If you read this work, or if you are anticipating reading this work, you will have to plow your way through the first nine books in order to understand what is going on in this one. None of the 10 books are stand alone reads; truth be told. Now there are two kinds of readers of Eddings; those who absolutely hate this entire series and those who love it. I happen to be one who loves it and have actually read all these novels...well, I am embarrassed to tell you how many times I have waded through all these books but it has been a lot over the years. These books, for me, are a bit mental candy and I use them to clear my mind between other reads. This is easy for me to do because I have them practically memorized...who, had I done as well in school with my text books! Now this is the final book in the five books which comprise the Malloreon - yes, at last, the epic tale has been told. Even I, who love these books, always give a sigh of relief when I have finished this one. You see, 'The Malloreon' which by the way is better written than 'the Belgariad,' (in my opinion), is merely a retelling of 'The Belgariad,' with a few changes here and there just to keep the story going. That is okay with me but it drives some readers up the wall. Now these books, all ten of them, are extremely flawed in many ways. On the other hand Eddings has broken a lot of ground for the writers of epic fantasies that came later.

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