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The King's Traitor (The Kingfountain Series)



Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal bestseller. Against all odds, Owen Kiskaddon grew from frightened boy to confident youth to trusted officer in the court of Kingfountain and watched its regent, Severn Argentine, grow ever more ruthless and power-mad. Robbed of his beloved protector, his noble mentor, and his true love, Owen has anticipated the day when the king he fears and reviles, yet loyally serves, will be toppled. Now, as Severn plots a campaign of conquest, the time has come to take action and Owen's destiny demands that he lead the strike. Ordered to incite war with a neighboring kingdom, Owen discovers its beautiful, reclusive ruler, whose powerful magic might even exceed his own. Together they mount a daring plot to overthrow the corrupt monarch, crown the rightful heir, and defeat the prophesied curse threatening Kingfountain with wintry death. But Severn's evil is as bottomless as the fabled Deep Fathoms. To keep his ill-gotten throne, he'll gladly spill the blood of enemies and innocents alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jeff Wheeler took an early retirement from his career at Intel in 2014 to become a full-time author. He is, most importantly, a husband and father, and a devout member of his church. He is occasionally spotted roaming among the oak trees and granite boulders in the hills of California or in any number of the state's majestic redwood groves. He is the author of The Covenant of Muirwood Trilogy, The Legends of Muirwood Trilogy, the Whispers from Mirrowen Trilogy, and the Landmoor Series.

Let me start this review by saying that I am not one to give a five star rating lightly but I genuinely feel like this book deserves it. I will try to keep this spoiler free. This book continues the story of Owen Kiskaddon, seven years after the events of the Thief's Daughter. The story this final book tells is a lot heavier than the previous two installments and features many adult themes, most likely because Owen himself is an adult in this book as opposed to a child or a teenager. There are themes of loss, heartbreak, regret, hopelessness and betrayal, but there are also incredible elements of compassion, redemption and love. The characters in this story have grown and progressed in an organic and believable way, each one of them maturing and developing qualities that are both interesting and realistic. That's the great thing about the way Wheeler designs characters, there is no such thing as a one dimensional character in his stories and this character-designing talent is especially crucial in The King's Traitor. The plot moves along at a steady pace and the suspense and intrigue never relent. It's full of exciting twists and turns that as a seasoned fantasy reader I genuinely did not expect. Many times throughout the book I feared that the story would go down a cliché plot path only to be pleasantly surprised as I was proven wrong. As for the writing style itself it is immaculate as always. There's never an awkward sentence or misplaced word; every sentence really feels like a work of art. I feel like the perfect end to a story is one that makes you sad that it's over but happy that you got to experience it and satisfied with the way the story ended. This final book left me with that bittersweet feeling in a way that few stories have. If you have read the first two books of this series, you HAVE TO read this last book.

I discovered the author Jeff Wheeler and this series which includes The King's Traitor by accident. I love it! This book is a page-turner, as are all the books in this series. I also liked the Queen's Poisoner. I especially like that I can be assured there isn't a lot of swearing and/or sex situations. Let the story speak for itself--which Jeff Wheeler is a master at doing. Highly recommend for adults and teens. I can't wait for more books from him.

It's a shame other sword and sorcery authors couldn't handle the genre as well as Jeff Wheeler. Even Robert Jordan managed to get some character development into his epic (even if it relied excessively on misunderstandings for dramatic tension). Too many authors today are grinding out multi-volume quick-reads based on the following formula: intrepid hero (accompanied by one or more colorful compatriots) faces implacable evil and impossible odds; hero wins; in next volume hero faces even more implacable evil and even more impossible odds;

hero wins; rinse/repeat. The Kingfountain series stands apart, despite the confusing history and the puzzling "Fountain" character. The telling details in developmental scenes lend texture to a story that rumbles along without much concern for the reader. The quirky characters (noble, venal, innocent, etc.) keep the reader engaged. And finally, for me, the editing is adequate (sorry, but that's high praise in this genre).

There is so much to say about this series, but I don't want to spoil anything for those who are still deciding on their purchase. What I will say, aside from "Buy it!", is: I was so surprised at how things play out for Owen, slightly disappointed at first being that I had my allegiances to certain characters and plot progressions. But in the end, it just made my heart swell with hope and dread for the possibilities for these characters. I can't wait to read what comes next. I purchased the first three books all at once and saw, after I began the first one, that there were three others to come. I'm embarrassed to admit that I rolled my eyes and said aloud, "What could it possibly take six books to say?" I'm an avid reader but like to read everything, so I don't want to spend too much time wrapped up in one genre. But I have to say once I was immersed in the world of Kingfountain, I never wanted to come up for air. My husband is thoroughly annoyed. I spent three days reading the e-books every free moment I had and listening to the audio books most of the times in between. When I wasn't reading it I was thinking about it and trying to hurry back to it. I can't remember the last time I fell this deeply into a story. It reminded me why, aside from the need to get out of my head at the end of a stressful day, I fell in love with reading. I just want to say to Mr. Wheeler how grateful I am for the experience and how beautiful it is to read about the innocence and purity of first love from a male perspective. Any man that can write about those things and make them so relatable has to be one heck of a husband and father. Your wife is lucky to have you, as I'm sure you are to have her. God bless.

So hard to put down. The intrigue, the plots and twists and turns, worthy of a Game of Thrones. I loved the Wizr set and how it threaded through the story and how the characters ended up. Mercy with backbone. Thrilling indeed. I highly recommend this series.

The story, the characters, the setting, the winding plot together wove a spell to bring me real tears of joy, appreciation, and understanding on several occasions as the story concludes. This is a very powerful love story...the power of that love come from the character's patience, sacrifice, forgiveness, honor, respect and mercy...choosing these ideals when it would be so easy to choose

their opposites. I become so choked-up on several occasions, that my throat hurt deeply. So my regards and gratitude to you Jeff Wheeler for weaving so much truth and goodness into your work.

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