
Michael Moorcock

La Légende De Hawkmoon, Tome 4: Le Secret Des Runes (The History of the Runestaff #4)



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Le Secret Des Runes (The History of the
Runestaff #4)

Author: Michael Moorcock

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Description

The quest nears its end

As it is written: "Those who swear by the Runestaff must then benefit or suffer from the consequences of the fixed pattern of destiny that they set in motion." And Baron Meliadus of Kroiden had sworn such an oath, had sworn that Yisselda, Count Brass's daughter, would be his. On that day, many months earlier, he had fixed the pattern of fate; a pattern that had involved him in strange destructive schemes, that had involved Dorian Hawsmoon in wild and uncanny adventures in distant places, and that was now nearing its terrible resolution...

Insightful reviews

Mark: Another good read and a thrilling conclusion to this quartet of books.

In this one, Baron Meliadus conspires against King Emperor Huon and starts a civil war in GranBretan which decimates a lot of troops on both sides and leaves them open to Hawkmoon's triumphant return.

However, I'm getting ahead of myself a bit here.... we last left Hawkmoon making his way away from Amarehk in a sailing ship, headed back for Europe instead of heading off to Dnark to regain the Runestaff. They are attacked by sea serpents whose sole aim is to turn them back towards Amarehk and the city of Dnark. Along the way they meet up with the mysterious Warrior in Jet and Gold as well as another equally mysterious "servant" of the Runestaff - Orland Fank.

They get to Dnark and there find another of the GranBretan barons has made his way there with the express intention of capturing the Runestaff himself for the glory of the Dark Empire. Needless to say, Hawkmoon spoils his plans (calling on the services of the Legion of the Dawn once more) and gains the Runestaff - but not without the loss of the mysterious Warrior in Jet and Gold.

They return to Castle Brass and make plans to attack GranBretan, but before they can do so, the evil scientists have found a way to return Castle Brass to its normal dimension and plunge it back into war-torn Europe. Fortunately, most of the Dark Empire forces are otherwise engaged fighting on one side or the other in the civil war taking place in GranBretan centred on Londra. Hawkmoon and his allies make their way across the continent towards GranBretan and Londra for their final showdown.

Meliadus has by this time slain the King Emperor and is now fortifying his defences (although he thinks he has little to fear as Hawkmoon's forces consist of our 6 heroes plus about 500 soldiers from Castle Brass).

The evil scientists have also found a way to get the black jewel working again and it is only the power of the red amulet which sustains Hawkmoon on their final approach to Londra.

The final battle is bloody and not without casualties amongst our heroes (D'Averc, Count Brass). Hawkmoon does however call on the aid of the Legion of Dawn again and that takes care of most of the GranBretan forces.

Finally the battle is over, and Meliadus is killed, whilst Hawkmoon survives (with his beloved bride Yisselda).

As a finale to this series this book brings a nice conclusion although I didn't expect the enigmatic Warrior in Jet and Gold to get killed off as I had the sense that he appeared through a number of the author's books and tales of different worlds - perhaps he appears in other guises.

As I've said with a review of one of the earlier parts, this is epic heroic fantasy at it's best - it seems timeless and hasn't aged (I guess since it is set in a fantasy world, there is nothing really to date it around the time it was written - late 1960s). The evil Dark Empire are truly villainous and beastly and deserve their fates. Our heroes are suitably noble and righteous. There is a good mix of swords and sorcery/science with weird machines and devices brought into play.

On the whole, I thoroughly enjoyed this series - each book was relatively short and I guess nowadays, the whole story would have been contained in one long book (with the trend for 600-700 page fantasy novels these days).

Does it old it's own against modern fantasy tales (eg Game of Thrones)? To my mind, yes - although clearly not as intricately plotted as those books are, this is nonetheless very enjoyable - sometimes all you want is a good bit of heroic fantasy like this, rather than a ponderously long epic.

This has definitely set me in mind to read some more classic heroic fantasy such as this - maybe going even further back to some of the Conan stories - since I picked up a compendium of these fairly cheaply on the Kindle a while back.

Kenny: A pretty darned satisfying conclusion to the runestaff series, with Dorian Hawkmoon trying to battle against his fate and return home to castle Brass and his wife, but ending up taking down the Dark Empire.

I love that these 4 short novels tell a more epic tale than many modern doorstep series. Hawkmoon is a true hero who constantly rises to the occasion and overcomes terrible foes at the risk of terrible personal losses.

I'm still a bit miffed that we never know exactly what the runestaff is/does, and there are a lot of 'things behind the curtain' helping out Hawkmoon for reasons that are never quite clear - but it does add a nice sense of mystery.

I'm certainly going to consider more books by Moorcock in the future.

Jeremy: A quick and improbable end to a long and improbable story. "But, it's Fantasy. Don't the heroes need to overcome overwhelming, and often improbable odds?" No, they don't, but that's

not the point. The point is, ONLY read this series if you really don't mind crazy deus ex machina at every turn.

Francesco Manno: <http://panopticonitalia.blogspot.it/2...>The rune magic is the fourth ebook (and accordingly the final) of the saga of Rune Magic Michael Moorcock, released at the British marketplace in 1969 through Lancer Books less than the identify "The mystery of the Runestaff"; whereas it's excessive in Italy basically in 1978, because of the writer Longanesi. This final novel within the sequence (as good as others) should be cataloged fable / sword and sorcery / myth technology / clockpunk, even though offers precise parts that make it tricky to harness it right into a unmarried genre. Commentators this day wouldn't hesitate to name grimdark fantasy. The Black Empire that now has conquered all of Europe and the center East, subjugating the entire populations of those states and implementing the guideline of terror. despite this, Britain cannot take advantage of a interval of calm because the Baron Meladius, fed on by means of a wish to kill Dorian Hawkmoon and win absolute power, weaves a plan to overthrow the Emperor Huon, because it considers it loopy and not able to govern. Meanwhile Hwkmoon rationale is to make a protracted trip around the ocean to come back from his cherished Yisselda, yet his send is attacked by means of a few sea monsters that lead him to take safe haven in Dnark, who learns to be manned via the spirit of Rune Magic. The collection of Michael Moorcock is to inform us the tale within the 3rd person, during the standpoint of Dorian Hawkmoon and that of Baron Meladius. As within the past volume, the writer dwells in highlighting the mental profile of this character, highlighting his perfidy and his unbridled ambition. And this pov permits us to have additional information at the socio-political scenario of the Empire Black. First of all this country is governed with an iron dictatorial regime and the inhabitants has a subdivision in Orders (castes). every body needs to put on mask of animals, which point out either the extent reached by means of an individual in the social scale, is a specific army unit. There are many: mantis, heron, wolf, snake, dog, pig, fly, vulture, falcon, and so on ... merely with no caste (considered pariahs) have the ideal to teach up with no them. At the head of the social pyramid of england has the Emperor Huon, an immortal being like a withered fetus that has reigned for almost thousand years and that lives inside a sphere containing the milky liquid. He has absolute power, he lives within the throne room and is defended via hundreds of thousands of infantrymen of the order of the mantis (to whom additionally belongs). Britain, as I stated simply now, has succeeded in many years to win all through Europe and the center East, due to the complex applied sciences built by way of its scientists, led via Kalan Order of the Serpent, that not anyone has been capable of counter. between them I remember: the thopters flying, flamethrowers, desktop intelligence and a cannon exploding eco-friendly spheres corrosive. Another section of nice worth is given through the architectural description of the palaces of London during which energy is exercised by way of the hierarchs of the Empire Black. studying the pages in terms of such structures could be projected in those darkish and weird places, the place they devoted acts so much execrable and residential to the main abject debauched. Nevertheless, the economic climate of the heritage performs a basic position the magic, as in events of maximum threat the Rune Magic intervenes to alter the events, with the intention to behavior Hawkmoon to satisfy his destiny. the tale additionally participate scary monsters like titanic reptiles and elemental spirits. After having defined the entire strengths of the novel, I nonetheless need to become aware of that the plot is beautiful user-friendly and it turns into relatively effortless to appreciate what's going to be

the realization of the saga. Furthermore, the writer turns out to have misplaced a number of the the teeth that had characterised the 1st volumes of the series. In any case, i'd warmly suggest the analyzing of The rune magic and besides the entire saga, provided that for the weather of originality that's proposed to be a special paintings of its kind.

Traummachine: After and lengthy and hazardous journey, Hawkmoon and corporate simply are looking to go back domestic to fortress Brass for a bit R&R. yet NOOOOOOOOOO, that frustrating Runestaff retains attempting to boss them around! The final booklet within the Hawkmoon quartet eventually unearths extra in regards to the mysterious Warrior in Jet and Gold, ultimately brings a few answer to the issues with the evil empire of Gran Bretan, and at last finds anything in regards to the Runestaff itself. I say "finally" simply because regardless of the low web page count number this has felt like fairly the epic trip throughout Europe and among a number of worlds. This 4th ebook makes it abundantly transparent that Hawkmoon has no say within the matter, he'll meet his destiny. whereas that concept takes on a truly fatalist tone in Stephen King stories (Pet Semetary, anyone?), during this story Moorcock simply makes the lives of his characters more uncomplicated after they provide in and trip the wave of predestination. it truly is a strange tackle things, and it felt clean and fun. Very solid stuff, i am unhappy to haven't any Hawkmoon in my close to future. Well, with the everlasting Champion, who knows...

Mike (the Paladin): The (somewhat tragic) crowning glory to the Hawkmoon "History of the Runestaff" series. The everlasting Champion Cycle is one in every of fantasy's vintage sequence in addition to Zelazny's Amber series, the Wizard of Earthsea, and some others. and that i imagine it belongs there, do not leave out them. This booklet ends or completes the "first" Dorian Hawkmoon series, and leads to a manner that (if you are like me) will ship you racing to discover the second one (Castle Brass) series. good written and for it truly is brevity and plot pushed type strangely moving. solid book, solid sequence and leads right into a moment strong series. Enjoy.

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