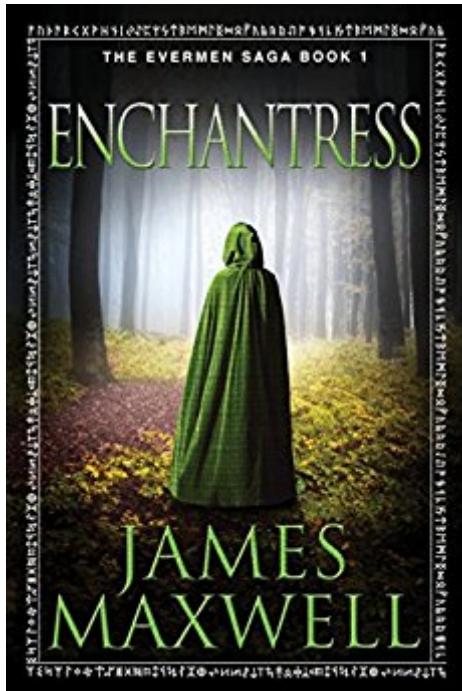


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Enchantress (The Evermen Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

An empire divided by magic. A nation on the brink of rebellion. After losing their parents in the last doomed uprising, two siblings will find themselves at the center of an epic struggle for power. When Ella witnesses an enchanter saving her brother's life, she knows what she wants to be. But the elite Academy expects tuition fees and knowledge. Meanwhile her brother, Miro, dreams of becoming one of the world's finest swordsmen, wielding his nation's powerful enchanted weapons in defense of his homeland. After Miro departs for war, the void he leaves in Ella's life is filled by a mysterious foreigner, Killian. But Killian has a secret, and Ella's actions will determine the fate of her brother, her homeland, and the world. Published in 2014, the highly acclaimed Evermen Saga is a worldwide bestseller. Revised edition: This edition of Enchantress includes editorial revisions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a veritable sea of absolutely terrible e-'novels', this stood out like a beacon. I didn't expect much from it -- it was free, it was self-published, and I've read countless free, self-published tales that butchered the very idea of fantasy (and sometimes, the very idea of writing). A third of the way through "Enchantress", though, I realised I was rabidly curious about how the book ended, which

was surprising in and of itself (normally, I struggle to finish free reads, because they're just that bad). Furthermore, I was furious with myself for not reading fast enough to get me to the next book (it's the first book in a trilogy) right then and there. It has been years since a fantasy world gripped me so thoroughly. Maxwell's magical, cultural, social, and political systems aren't hard to grasp, but they're very intriguing, and interwoven in a way that makes for an extremely compelling tale. The writing is a little stilted in parts, but I was still blown away by it -- and it's a debut novel. Damn these overly-talented people who bust out the gates with a winner. Magic isn't some ethereal presence in the world of the Evermen -- it's based on a physical substance, raj ichor (otherwise known as 'essence'), which needs to be refined from raw materials. The way the flow of essence is produced and controlled in the Tingaran Empire forms the backbone of "Enchantress" plot -- for once, there is no clear division between church and state and magehold. Instead, they all come together in a cataclysmic collision that sees the entire empire go to war, for all kinds of different reasons.

TL;DR: *Enchantress*, by James Maxwell, is a fantasy adventure novel that is somewhat well written but filled with cliches and tropes. Maxwell does a good job creating the world his story takes place in, but his story is all too familiar. The story itself contains more generic fantasy elements than any other book I've read, which makes for a familiar, but somewhat bland read: Orphaned kids? Check. The kids are incredibly proficient at magical and martial combat? Check. Giant war between a cedark and light • that the kids both play key roles in winning? Check. The list goes on and on. Mix in some half-baked familiar character personalities, and some (in my opinion) lazy storytelling, and you get what I would consider a very mediocre book. I will not be reading the remaining books in *The Evermen Saga*. I would not feel comfortable recommending this book, but I wouldn't ward someone away from it as if it were toxic materials either.

The Good:

1. The writing itself is done fairly well. Outside of one large editorial mistake, a few minor ones, and a few obvious pet phrases and descriptors, there was nothing unforgivably wrong with how the story was written.
2. The world building is done skillfully. The author presents you with fleshed out (but similar) cultures, religions, and a brief, but detailed historical record of the world. I believe that the world building is the major high point of the entire novel.
3. His characters aren't the most compelling or interesting characters I've ever encountered. They all fit neatly into one cookie cutter cliche or another.

Maxwell did throw a few curve balls at me with some of his minor characters that were of note. But even with his cookie cutter characters (hurray alliteration!)

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