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The King's Traitor: The Kingfountain Series, Book 3



Synopsis

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

After reading the first two books in the series, *The Queen's Poisoner* and *The Thief's Daughter*, I was so excited to read *The King's Traitor*. It did not disappoint! I loved reading more about Owen, and how the story of his life unfolds. He has a very strong sense of loyalty and duty. These values are tested and strengthened as his character moves forward after his love, Evie, married another at the king's bidding in *The Thief's Daughter*. King Severn has become more and more ruthless and the entire kingdom is threatened unless something can be done to stop him. Mr. Wheeler has a

wonderful way of describing the places, the people, their styles, clothing, and everything else. In my mind I can see all the places they visit in the book, and they come alive like additional characters in the story. The story is full of surprise twists. I also loved the hints referring to the legends of Arthur and Merlin, as those have always been some of my favorite stories. In this book I was able to both laugh and cry for Owen and other characters, and even though I loved reading it, I didn't want to finish the adventure. To me it's a sign of a very good book when I can't put it down yet I dread reading the last page because the story will be over! Thankfully, it sounds like maybe we'll get to check in on Owen later again in future books. I hope so! I recommend this for any and all ages. I'm looking forward to my 11 year old grandson starting this series.

As the final book in the trilogy, again, shifting forward in time with the lead characters to date, *The King's Traitor* tackles ideals, morals, and how individuals interpret them. As an example, we again see Owen's interpretation of loyalty and the moral struggle that blindly adhering to any ideal can result in. It's hard to be objective at such times, as Wheeler does such an excellent job of testing your individual viewpoints. A symptom of great writing is one that leaves you uncomfortable with the path a character chooses, and Wheeler creates several circumstances where I struggled with the outcome but acknowledge the character's rationale. On the brighter side, some secondary characters are brought to the forefront and developed nicely. The fast pace continues as events unfold and you get a deeper sense of the kingdom through excellent detail exposition. Overall, there are fewer surprises remain in the direction the story takes and some scenes feel almost diversionary. Overall, the story leaves you contemplative but slightly less satisfied than the first two books in this excellent trilogy. However, Wheeler alludes to the possible resurrection of the Foundation stories with a generational jump, which is already setup to be a fascinating tale assuming the conflict appears genuine. Overall, a great story and a must read for any Wheeler fan.

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 have really enjoyed *The Kingfountain* series, enough to purchase books 2 and 3 after borrowing the first one. Sometimes the dialogue in a story that is set in a different place or time seems anachronistic, but I felt the characters genuinely communicated - with each other and with me, the reader. Jeff Wheeler skillfully weaves the Arthurian elements into his story. I especially love the decent morality portrayed among the main couples...so rare in most current fiction!

If you enjoyed the first two books in the series, this book does not disappoint. It's a total page turner, full of the heart-wrenching, I-want-to-harm-the-author plot twists and cliff-hangers that you can expect from Wheeler. :-) Thankfully, the fantastic trials are **ALMOST** evenly countered with the good, and you find yourself hoping for a happy ending for your favorite characters. I can't promise it's the ending you're dreaming of, but I can promise that it is a journey worth taking. What a gripping end to the trilogy, but hopefully not to the world of *Kingfountain*!

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