



## His Conquering Sword

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**Following the events of *An Earthly Crown*, the jaran conquest of Rhui intensifies as rebel hearts simmer with conflicting loyalties**

Across Rhui, the jaran have been taking over towns and bending all non-jaran to the law of their rule. With Ilya Bakhtian in charge, the nomadic fighters are now preparing an assault on the royal city of Karkand. But within the campaign, another struggle looms. Ilya's wife, Tess, is not from Rhui, but from Earth, and her brother, Charles, is a duke of the empire that includes Rhui, even though he once instigated a rebellion against it. Still driven by thoughts of a human revolt, Charles travels to Rhui for key information about the past, hoping to bring back his sister—his only heir. Does she want to passively abide by either man's plan for her, though, and is any challenge to the ancient and mighty Chapalii realistic?

*His Conquering Sword* is the third volume of the Novels of the Jaran, which begins with *Jaran* and *An Earthly Crown* and concludes with *The Law of Becoming*.

## His Conquering Sword Details

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Author : Kate Elliott

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## From Reader Review His Conquering Sword for online ebook

### Talie says

Action packed - and you could happily end the series here. So much fighting in this one reduced my overall enjoyment.

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### Erin says

I'm way too lazy to review complicated sci-fi with such highs and lows it'll give you whiplash, but I *will* say that this title sounds like terrible porn.

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### Ana Barbuta says

This series continues to be good.

But I have a nag.

Spoilers.

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If Dr. Hierakis knows that interbreeding between Earthers and Rhuians is likely to cause the mother's death, why is she not telling all the Earthers about this? The actors are sleeping around, David is sleeping with Nadine, Diana is sleeping with Anatoly... There is absolutely no reason for this information to not be disseminated to everyone. Also, it sounds like women have some type of long-term contraceptive (Tess mentions a contraceptive patch on her arm), but men don't seem to have something similar. Why?

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### Vicki says

The follow ups to Jaran weren't as well read. Sigh.

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### Swuun says

The series continues to go in the right direction for me. In this part, choices both personal and political begin to have consequences, and the point of view characters mostly come across as both interesting and sympathetic, even when they're deeply flawed and do seriously objectionable things. That takes skillful

writing, and I really appreciate the breadth of perspective the story gains by it.

I also really appreciated that the love stories now aren't all as straightforward and happy in their resolution as Tess and Illya's romance was (and still is) - there is a lot of bittersweetness, a lot of good intentions with messy results, and while my heart aches for some of the characters, it also gets me incredibly engaged in how their lives will turn out.

But it's still strange and uncomfortable - and will probably never not be strange and uncomfortable for me - to deal with characters who not only kill in battle, but commit wholesale slaughter and destroy entire cities for no other reason than that they believe they have a right to do so. Every time I'm reminded that pretty much everyone I'm rooting for casually accepts that it's okay to conquer and destroy because of one man's divine inspiration (and another's long-term strategic planning), I have to kind of pause and put that all aside to move on with the plot. Because it's hard to justify what the jaran do in their war of conquest, and harder yet to understand why the non-jaran characters get behind the unification by force without more insight into what's really going on back on alien-ruled Earth.

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### **Milly Jones says**

I would give this an extra half star if the facility were available.

It's a decent book. Like its prequel, it has lots of characters to follow, which lessens it overall for me, though some might enjoy this ensemble approach. It gives a good conclusion to the prequel, but I still don't know why they were split into two books when it is clearly one story. Also, it felt a third of the book was just the story ending with not much happening i. The space of 18months. Overall the two books were disappointingly not as good as the opening Jaran.

That being said, I enjoyed the read, and will undoubtedly read the next instalment, so I can't slate it altogether! I did enjoy some of the new characters - Aleksi, David ben Unbuntu and Nadine being some favourites.

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### **Leseparatist says**

I don't know if I know how to discuss it without spoilers... It was a really strong volume, with some amazing worldbuilding and strong character arcs. All the same, after a great middle, the book sort of peters out for me, and then jumps over several important developments to deliver the ending. That didn't quite work for me, and neither did Vasil's arc, or Anatoly's. It would have been a four-star book otherwise, but the POV choice for the ending and its abruptness ruined it a little, for me.

It's interesting how strange Jiroannes is, stuck here. It's almost like he and everything connected to him is really from Crossroads universe, transplanted into Jaran.

(I love Nadine so much. I wish half of the book was about her.)

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### **Hilary says**

3 stars when I first read it in the '90s, closer to 4 stars now.

Tess is torn between her brother and her husband, her life with the jaran and expectations beyond Rhui, and the knowledge that some hard decisions lay ahead of her. How can she stay? Equally, how can she *not*? How long can Charles leave her to live with the jaran? Beyond even that, what's the impact of her presence - and how has she changed them already?

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### **Denise says**

The previous volume of this series seemed to be all set-up, so I thought surely something of substance would happen in this one, but no.

This is why I never started the Wheel of Time books.

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### **liz says**

I don't find the Earth characters very compelling. Their hand-wringing over the interdiction while seemingly helpless to keep themselves from increasing the Jaran's access to technology was simultaneously boring and the most realistic part. This series needed better editing for pace.

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### **Megan says**

This series keeps getting gayer as it goes along, which I am infinitely here for.

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### **Adobe says**

More epic SF about the Jaran (nomadic horse people on the planet Rhui) and the technologically advanced Earthlings (who are trying to infiltrate Rhuian culture without revealing their own off-planet identities) and the inscrutably alien Chapelli (against whom the Earthlings are rebelling and of whom the Jaran remain officially ignorant).

It's a big meaty book about culture clashes on lots of different levels, and it's as good as the previous two books (*Jaran* and *An Earthly Crown*). My favorite subplot was about the Jaran prince and the Earthling actress that he spontaneously marries. Neither has any idea of what the marriage entails, and they just can't communicate on a fundamental level, and disaster is clearly waiting in the wings...yet they just keep obstinately plugging along, unable and unwilling to perceive separation as the most merciful course. It's alternately sweet and wrenching; their concluding scene has all the external trappings of a fairy-tale ending

and the internal dynamic of a hard punch to the gut.

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### **Morgan says**

Really intriguing ethical arguments in this one. Sad parts that are very human and realistic. An easy read, as always!

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### **Li says**

Really a single story with An Earthly Crown - my cross-posted thoughts:

This is massively epic SF(F?) compared to the first book - the story has expanded massively in scope and implications compared to JARAN, which was very much Tess/Ilya's story. It's really a single story split across two books (An Earthly Crown being Part 1), and I spent a week or so happily buried in its pages.

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### **Kathleen says**

I am really enjoying this series. The writing is excellant and so is the charter development. I like the juxtaposition of pre-tech society and aliens and space faring society. The story line did not evolve too much in this book, but set the stage for the next one.

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