



A Throne of Bones

Vox Day, Theodore Beale

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In Selenoth, the race of Man is on the ascendant. The ancient dragons sleep, the evil Witchkings are no more, their evil power destroyed by the courage of Men and the fearsome magic of the Elves. The dwarves have retreated to the kingdoms of the Underdeep, the trolls hide in their mountains, and even the most savage orc tribes have learned to dread the iron discipline of the mighty Amorran legions. But after four hundred years of mutual suspicion, the rivalry between two of the noble Houses Martial that rule the Senate and People threatens to turn violent, even as unrest sparks rebellion throughout the imperial provinces. In the north, the barbarian reavers who have long plagued the coasts of the White Sea sue for peace and beg for royal protection from the King of Savondir, fleeing a mysterious race of ravenous wolf-demons. In the east, there are wars and rumors of war as orcs and goblins gather together in unprecedented numbers, summoned by their dreadful gods.

But when the Most Holy and Sanctified Father is found dead in his bed, leaving the Ivory Throne of the Four Apostles unclaimed, the temptation to seize the Sacred College and wield Holy Mother Church as a weapon is more than some fallen souls can resist.

This book is currently on pre-order, and will be available in December 2012.

A Throne of Bones Details

Date : Published December 2012 by Marcher Lord Press

ISBN : 9781935929826

Author : Vox Day , Theodore Beale

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From Reader Review A Throne of Bones for online ebook

Millenia says

The author is a racist...

"Jemisin (a brilliant writer who is black) has it wrong; it is not that I, and others, do not view her as human, (although genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens), it is that we do not view her as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not.

misogynistic...

"Civilization is predicated on patriarchy... Feminism and civilization are ultimately incompatible. Female suffrage is directly related to the precipitous decline of the family and that the current declining peace and prosperity is directly related to that."

piece of scum.

Even if he wasn't a puny-minded dickwad, this book is another bloated, poorly-written, Tolkein-copying high fantasy rehash. I'd rather stick my arm in a *meat grinder* than read this. Disgusting.

Mark says

Aw, shizz. Someone forgot to delete the Toilet Paper shelf. In case you need a reminder, dear peoples of Goodreads internship, I give you this piece of fecal matter right chere.

Waves howdy to zee Pars Dat Be

Miriam says

Given the author's publicly-stated beliefs that "genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens)... we do not view her [author Jemisin] as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not... Unlike the white males she excoriates, there is no evidence that a society of NK Jemisins is capable of building an advanced civilization" it is difficult not to suspect that the "savage orc tribes" represent non-white people subjugated to the "iron discipline of the mighty Amorran legion." Notice how the "barbarians" who had previously been independent of "royal protection" come begging to be taken under the wing of the ruling class? I'm sure the slave owners who argued that their slaves needed to be taken care of would love that part.

[I had this book marked not-to-read with no review and it was deleted in the Purge, so here is an actual review. My hatred can be explicit rather than implicit if that's what goodreads requires.]

mark monday says

read the racist screed that this scumbag spewed out in response to a recent Guest of Honor speech made by non-white author N.K. Jemisin at Continuum in Australia:

"Jemisin has it wrong; it is not that I, and others, do not view her as human, (although genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens), it is that we do not view her as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not.

She is lying about the laws in Texas and Florida too. The laws are not there to let whites "just shoot people like me, without consequence, as long as they feel threatened by my presence", those self defence laws have been put in place to let whites defend themselves by shooting people, like her, who are savages in attacking white people.

Jemisin's disregard for the truth is no different than the average Chicago gangbanger's disregard for the law...

Unlike the white males she excoriates, there is no evidence that a society of NK Jemisins is capable of building an advanced civilization, or even successfully maintaining one without significant external support. Considering that it took my English and German ancestors more than one thousand years to become fully civilised after their first contact with an advanced civilisation, it is illogical to imagine, let alone insist, that Africans have somehow managed to do so in less than half the time with even less direct contact. These things take time.

Being an educated, but ignorant savage, with no more understanding of what it took to build a new literature by "a bunch of bearded old middle-class middle-American guys" than an illiterate Igbatu tribesman has of how to build a jet engine, Jemisin clearly does not understand that her dishonest call for "reconciliation" and even more diversity with SF/F is tantamount to a call for its decline into irrelevance...

Reconciliation is not possible between the realistic and the delusional."

<http://fozmeadows.wordpress.com/2013/...>

scum!

Jason says

This book will surprise you. When you first read of a world populated by orcs, goblins, elves and humans, you will assume that Vox Day is recycling Tolkien and his imitators. You will be wrong. And pleasantly surprised.

Day brilliantly re-imagines ancient Rome with warlike neighbors including orcs, goblins and trolls playing the roles of nomadic mongols, marauders from Gaul, and more generally, the anarchy that threatened and eventually enveloped the Roman empire during its fall in the 5th century. Except Day's Rome also features magic. And a neighboring human empire that behaves much like feudal England. And a fading Elvish empire reminiscent of the Greeks. And interesting god-like villains who serve as agents of change, but may not be

villains at all.

How does Day make this bizarre hodge-podge work? I don't know. He just does. It probably helps that Day is a serious, adult writer who has published several major works on religion and economics. Fantasy novels routinely suffer from good ideas poorly executed by mediocre writers. Day falls in almost the opposite camp. The conceptual framework of his universe borrows heavily from history and existing fantasy themes, but Day's execution of the story is superior: the dialogue is sophisticated and entertaining, the characters interesting and likable, the plot twists smart and surprising.

This is not a "young adult" book. Roman political and military life were complex, and Day's faithful rendering of the Roman world may overwhelm fantasy readers in search of simpler tales. For those of us who love fantasy but hate mediocre writing, Throne of Bones is a treat.

Stefani says

Hell no, fuck no, not even if you paid me to read it. I don't care if someone else paid for this pile of junk, it would go straight in the shredder. No no and even more no.

Note: I added this part so that if I ever forget why it's on my DNR list, I will recall my feelings in this moment. I think I want to go vomit now.

Valen says

An articulately crafted & gilded piece of literature designed to vex its unbeknownst readers under a spell of evil, sexism, racism and so-call God-Loving Crucifying Hatred.. Disgusting.. What a disgraceful work of fantasy & waste of ink on paper..

Do not waste your time.

You're Welcome.

-V

Here's Why:

The Author Wrote This About The Author N.K. Jemisin, Who Wrote "The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms"...

"Jemisin has it wrong; it is not that I, and others, do not view her as human, (although genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens), it is that we do not view her as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not.

She is lying about the laws in Texas and Florida too. The laws are not there to let whites "just shoot people like me, without consequence, as long as they feel threatened by my presence", those self defense laws have been put in place to let whites defend themselves by shooting people, like her, who are savages in attacking white people.

Jemisin's disregard for the truth is no different than the average Chicago gangbanger's disregard for the law...

Unlike the white males she excoriates, there is no evidence that a society of NK Jemisins is capable of building an advanced civilization, or even successfully maintaining one without significant external support..." AND IT GOES ON ...

carol. says

Racist pig that calls black people 'savages.' No, not those ones. Not the ones that are all articulate and shit. The other ones, like the Chicago gangbangers. (Because those are the only options).

Ridley says

Looks like derivative fantasy with a Capitalization fetish.

Pass.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads says

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

Aaah says

I'd read somewhere that the author, unable to sell his work to a publisher, founded a publishing house to release his work.

Christ, but no wonder.

The book opens with a man (named, I shit you not, Ahenobarbus) studying a painting. In it, six men stand over a body sprouting seven wounds. Someone, concludes Ahenobarbus, had struck twice, it not occurring to him that, say, maybe one dude did all the stabbing and everyone else looked on. Ahenobarbus asks the dead man in the painting who it was; the man, being both dead and, you know, a painting, refrains from comment.

This overtly melodramatic broo-ha-ha leads to this exchange, where "a noble prince of the Church" named (God help me) Giovannus Falconius Valens (somehow not dressed like a plague doctor) walks in.

Cue our first piece of rotten dialogue:

"Holiness." Valens kneeled and kissed the sacred ring of office that adorned his right hand.
"How may I be of service to you in this...unusual setting? I was surprised when Father

Hortensius said you wanted me in the vaults. I half expected to find you knee deep in dust and relics. Are you well? I saw Gennarus Vestinae led the evening mass."

"I am as well as any man with twelve years more than his allotted four score and ten may hope to be, my son." Ahenobarbus led him to the painting. "What I require of you at the present is your eyes. I suspect they are better than my own. This picture here. When you look at the man who has been struck down by the others, what do you see."

If you read that in one breath, congratulations.

This rot takes a turn for the hilarious when Valens manages to have his eyebrows in two positions simultaneously:

Valens frowned, and his eyebrows momentarily rose.

Do it. Frown and raise your eyebrows.

Valens (Falconnius!) studies the painting, catching a few interesting facts about it. This leads to Ahenobarbarastreisand's first bout of amnesia, the first of the amnesia-riddled plot-holing in this godforsaken book:

Valens took a candle and used it to peer more closely at the victim's face. "The likeness is uncanny, especially when the limitations of Mariattus's primitive technique are taken into account."

Ahenobarbus smiled. "Of course you would recognize the brush. How does a poor monk come to know so much of art and culture?"

And how does this "noble prince of the church" reply?

Valens shrugged slightly. "I fancy myself an ascetic aesthete, Your Holiness."

So I guess he's more of a *noble prince* in the *figurative sense*.

Anyway, that leads to this bit of inanity:

Valens set the candle down. "If I may hazard a guess, I should venture to say this is *Excessum Inmortuus*. No, I fear my memory fails me. *Decessus Inmortuus*. Painted sometime around the year 185 Provitatus for a noble of the Severan house. It came into the possession of the Church after the fall of Andronis and the establechement of the Republic. I did not know it had been removed from the vaults. Had I know, I would have come to see it sooner. It is a joy to behold."

"You have a prodigious talent, my son."

The book calls him out on his insane comment, because criticism is not a talent. This leads to a beautifully surreal moment which sets the tone for the book:

"Mariattus had a prodigious talent. I am merely blessed to appreciate his skill."
"Even so."

Or, in other words:

"You are talented."

"I am not. But he is talented."

"Yes. Even though he is talented and I agree that you are not talented, you are talented."

That's the logic that underlies this book. It doesn't *have* to make sense. But we'll put it in there because Day wants it. So on and on and on.

It's a clumsy effort. The exposition is a real drag, the prose is about as interesting as dry paint, and the storytelling is frequently a self-parody. You'll get the idea after reading the preview on Amazon; it's sufficiently long.

I discovered the author's blog a few days after finishing this book. It's certainly candid, and, for precision, at least, much better than *A Throne of Bones*. But the truth is between the lines: all the times Vox Day insists he is extremely intelligent, for example, emphasise his extreme insecurity towards his intellectual capability, and this is reflected in the desperate Christian scholarship in the book, mixed with bigotry.

His pseudonym, used without irony, is derived from *vox dei*, Latin for "the voice of God"; the author's real name is Theodore Beale; he's the son of felon Robert Beale, who was convicted for tax evasion. There's a slight Dunning-Kruger effect at work here; Day isn't an idiot, but he *is* a washed-up troll, and behind the mask is a sad, sad man with average intelligence and a penchant for racist, misogynist ideology who is capable of writing nice-sounding but inane (and completely reprehensible) nonfiction that doesn't translate well into good storytelling.

In short, it turns out he's a Nazi.

And because everything's a victory to the deranged, he measures his success through (I, once again, shit you not) page views, bragging the 40,000 views (wowww) he gets. He lives for the fact he has comments (by a band of followers, but also by outraged victims), and keeps himself in the center of attention again and again by rationalizing his own bigotry.

None of this means he can write a good novel, and *A Throne of Bones* is inane.

I picked it up at a bargain bin for 10p; I wish I hadn't bothered. It goes from being clumsy-but-interesting to boring, boring to terrible (in a way that Tommy Wiseau fans would appreciate), and then quickly delves into *Star Wars Holiday Special* levels of awfulness.

Day, if you read this, I want you to know:

It wasn't that I'm not up to your standards of intelligence.

It was that your book sucked.

Ron says

An ambitious high fantasy mash up of *Wheel of Time* with Republican Rome. Day's style compares favorably with Tolkien--better than Jordan. (Hopefully he will not let himself get so carried away with his storytelling that he fails to finish his story.) Lacks the brooding sense of ancient evil of *The Lord of the Rings*, but the reader feels it coming.

While a working knowledge of Roman history and Latin are helpful, the story gives enough detail to drag in the tyro. Day dumps the reader straight into the story, filling in back story only as necessary. Good job.

Nice map. Doesn't show well on a digital reader.

Manages to portray the grit and horror of combat and the infighting and betrayal of politics with sufficient finesse to not offend regular readers of epic fantasy.

Too large a cast with too much hopping from one to another. And, while some events are coincident, others seem disjointed and out of step. My worst criticism is that the story just stops, rather than ends. While Day left many threads loose for to tie into the next volume, the skein he leaves the reader is a bit too tangled.

Looking forward to more.

Erika says

If there's one thing to enjoy about racists and bigots these days, it's that they're often more than willing to tell you allll about how how dumb they are to actually believe the "alternative facts" they believe. The following is why I wouldn't read this book if you paid me:

A speech given by the author in response to a speech by Black author NK Jemisin (more info [here](#)):

"Jemisin has it wrong; it is not that I, and others, do not view her as human, (although genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens), it is that we do not view her as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not.

She is lying about the laws in Texas and Florida too. The laws are not there to let whites "just shoot people like me, without consequence, as long as they feel threatened by my presence", those self defence laws have been put in place to let whites defend themselves by shooting people, like her, who are savages in attacking white people.

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Being an educated, but ignorant savage, with no more understanding of what it took to build a new literature by “a bunch of bearded old middle-class middle-American guys” than an illiterate Igbo tribesman has of how to build a jet engine, Jemisin clearly does not understand that her dishonest call for “reconciliation” and even more diversity with SF/F is tantamount to a call for its decline into irrelevance...

Reconciliation is not possible between the realistic and the delusional.

After reading that, one can only imagine how asinine this book is, as well as any others he's managed to write.

Simon says

I will never read this book. And this is why. Its author writes, concerning the African-American writer N. K. Jemisin:

"Jemisin has it wrong; it is not that I, and others, do not view her as human, (although genetic science presently suggests that we are not equally homo sapiens sapiens), it is that we do not view her as being fully civilized for the obvious reason that she is not.

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This is an author behaving badly.

See Ceridwen's review for a great discussion of this.

[PLEASE FLAG THIS REVIEW, SINCE IT DEALS WITH AUTHOR BEHAVIOR AND NOT THE CONTENT OF THE BOOK.]

Bookwraiths says

Epic fantasy in the classic mold. No politics or alt-right philosophy present at all.

Having heard about Vox Day's political views, I went into the read expecting at least some of those philosophical views to bleed through into the writing, but there really wasn't any of that. At all. rather, *A Throne of Bones* was a straight forward epic fantasy centered upon a Romanesque Empire and a certain prominent family having to deal with struggles against warring goblins and heated rivalries from other families within the empire. There was a touch of magic mixed into the narrative and a bit more Christian faith, but the main focus was on a growing conspiracy within the Empire and some issues with the elves. It was not a bad story by any means, but it was rather slow developing, which eventually caused me to put it down and not return. I might go back to it in the future, because I was already 58% in when I called it quits.
