



The Way Into Magic

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Having lost the prince to the madness of The Blessing, Tejohn and Cazia are the only people who know of his plan to retrieve a secret spell that might, just might, turn the tide of battle against the grunts.

But Tejohn's body is broken, and Cazia has been stripped of her magic. Worse, both are being held captive: Tejohn faces charges of treason in the lands where he was born. On the other side of the continent, Cazia is a prisoner of the Tilkilit queen, a creature with a desperate, deadly plan.

While they struggle for their freedom, The Blessing continues to spread across Kal-Maddum, their numbers growing more numerous as the human population shrinks. What had started as a race to restore an empire has quickly become a mission to save humanity from extinction.

The Way Into Magic Details

Date : Published January 13th 2015 by Radar Avenue Press

ISBN :

Author : Harry Connolly

Format : Kindle Edition 261 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Epic Fantasy, High Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Way Into Magic for online ebook

Jonathan Wilson says

Hate the cliffhanger ending but I already own the third book so it's all good.

Lou says

[I liked how Tejohns nearsightedness was introduced, but was disappointed in how it was 'cured' and not kept in the story. (hide spoiler)]

Vera says

The second book The Great Way trilogy, The Way Into Magic follows the two main protagonists as they journey toward their goals. It contains action, betrayals, narrow escapes, and of course, magic, and maintained the pace well, although at times I felt as if the journeys were going on for too long. I also was disappointed with the introduction of portals as a means of travel, although they are a mainstay of fantasy. In fairness, so far, they are used in an interesting, somewhat different way here. A good read. Looking forward to the third book.

Tasula says

This second in the Way Trilogy picked up where The Way Into Chaos left off, with what happened to Tyr Tejohn and Cazia Freewell. Tejohn is rescued by priests and sets out with a priest/scholar to try to find Prince Lars' uncle who might have a spell to vanquish the grunts that are overrunning the land. Cazia seeks to escape the insect Tillikit who have invaded the Qor valley. Tejohn has a much smaller part than Cazia, which for me was less interesting, because Cazia's part related 50% her efforts with Princess Ivy and Kinz to escape the Tillikit and the giant eagles and make their way west to Ivy's homeland, AND 50% relationship/trust issues among the three young girls (ages 12, 15 and about 18). This book was a bit too sentimental for me (first time I ever found Connolly sentimental). However, I still enjoyed it and need to read the next book to find out how it will all end.

Denise says

The middle part of this epic fantasy trilogy picks up from a couple of cliffhangers and ends with a few new ones. With Tejohn alone, injured and imprisoned and Cazia and her companions trapped by the Tilkilit queen, none of the characters who survived the first book is in a particularly promising situation at the beginning of this second part of the story, and many dangers lie ahead on the paths their quests take them. While a lot less deadly than the first book, this one is no less engrossing and hard to put down. Looking forward to the finale!

Jay says

These deserve to be made into movies. I'd love for my little half-sister-in-law to be able to watch the adventure and developing friendship of Catzia, Ivy and Kinz that we see here.

Alissa says

Nice continuation of *The Way into Chaos*. This is the second book of a trilogy, and it shows a bit since it's very focused on preparing the ground for the delivery of the final volume. However, I liked it very much on its own, easily immersing in Catzia's self-discovery journey and Tejohn's adventures. The pace is somehow slower, but the mystery behind the grunts deepens as the whole of Kal-Maddum, even several factions held too long under the thumb of the royal family and the infamous scholars, is finally realizing that the fall of the Empire may not be such a joyful occasion after all.

People end up suffering in times of upheavals, and the stage is particularly ripe for giving vent to old hatreds or full rein to petty ambitions and grand schemes, or simply for seizing the opportunity to overturn ancient prerogatives. But when, if, realization of the full scope of the peril dawns, it may be too late to influence the outcome. Against all odds, Tejohn and Catzia are determined to find the truth and a way to stop the invasion.

I really enjoyed the separate (yet connected) plotlines and the small, well-tended cast of characters, particularly the two protagonists, a one-time poet warrior and a teenage scholar daughter of a traitor, so different in age, experience, motivations and goals, but both unstintingly applying their talents to find a way forward.

"The best way to deal with a scholar—or wizard, or whatever these things were—was with a piece of sharp metal, expertly applied."

Tejohn is not one for intrigue and manipulation, he is a great fighter, a commander with inborn authority and an able tactician but he is honest and straightforward. He has faced war and a most dreadful loss, turning his grief and fury into the desire to protect the Empire. Ironically enough, his position as royal tutor at court stems not from his fighting prowess, but from a song, written pouring all of his misery into his creation. With all his being, he'll do anything to stop tragedy from striking again, and stay true to his prince.

Catzia on the other hand is still searching for her life purpose. She has been fending off for herself in a palace full of scholars and resentful servants, carrying the burden of her surname but also being allowed the opportunities of a privileged upbringing. Always one to treasure her grudges, she has learnt to bide, to hide and protect herself, to think of others as enemies, to lie and deceive. Her only concession is the friendship of the other hostages and that of the prince, the son of the very same rulers her father has once rebelled to. Possessed of a budding talent, she will soon discover that, for a scholar, there is more to going hollow than to just be void of emotions....

If the first book focused more on Tejohn, the second one is much about Catzia, her reactions and personal development.

The story is filled with action too, and I particularly liked that the characters' behavior is very sensible. They

see, act, move and question things in a way I understand, and do not plunge headlong into peril just to prove they are invincible or something; of course they face plenty of obstacles and hazards, but I always appreciate characters who take seriously the business of staying alive.

Furthermore, the tale features an original mix of races, peoples and civilizations, with interesting reflections about culture clash and racism which add to the plot and give some clues about the invasion to readers and protagonists alike.

“To be extremely brave, a person ought to have no imagination at all.”

Needless to say, once I finished this book I seamlessly jumped to The Way Into Darkness.

Fin says

Sie kämpfen für ihre Heimat -
doch es geht längst um
das Überleben der Menschheit.

Die magischen Bestien, die das Imperium
um Peradain überrennen, scheinen unaufhaltbar.
Und nun ist auch noch Prinz Lar dem Fluch
erlegen und hat sich ebenfalls in eine Bestie verwandelt
wie schon so viele andere vor ihm. Nur Tejohn
und Cazia wissen von seinem Plan, eine uralte
Magie wiederzuerwecken und so das Blatt im Krieg
gegen die Monster zu wenden. Tejohn ist schwer
verletzt, und Cazia wurde ihre Magie entrissen.
Doch die beiden setzen alles daran, den Kampf um
das Bestehen des Imperiums voranzutreiben -
und verlieren dabei ihr eigentliches Ziel
aus den Augen ...

Besser könnte man den zweiten Band nicht zusammenfassen.
Zuerst möchte ich hier den Cover Designer ein großes Lob aussprechen.
Nach beenden des Buches hat dieses Bild so viel Sinn für mich ergeben,
es passt einfach ganz großartig und das ist eine Kunst!

Der zweite Band ist von der Seitenzahl her schwächer als der erste,
dennoch wird die Geschichte massiv vorangetrieben.

Zuerst das was mich so genervt hatte im ersten Band wird nun im zweiten
auf Seite 31 aufgeklärt "Tyr" steht für "Tyrann" nun ich rätsle immer noch
denke aber das es etwas in der Art ist wie Sir etc.

Gut ansonsten lies sich der Band flüssig weglesen, es gab die ein oder andere Stelle die recht lang war und den Lesefluss gestört hat. Von der Stärke her würde ich sagen, ein typischer zweite Band. Schwächer als der erste, da er die Grundlage für das Finale legt.

Das ist nicht unbedingt negativ gemeint, es gab einiges aus dem ersten Band das nun aufgeklärt wurde. Doch genau so viel liegt immer noch im dunkel. Nach wie vor ist nicht bekannt wer denn nun diese Bestien auf das Imperium gehetzt hat. Von unerwarteter Stelle erhält Cazia da einen Hinweis der die Sache noch spektakulärer und mysteriöser macht als sie schon ist.

Es werden einige Details aus der Vergangenheit von Cazia und Tejhon ans Licht kommen. Auch Kinz und Ivi kommen nicht zu kurz. Die Welt die Harry Connolly erschaffen hat ist äußerst Komplex und wie in der "echten" Welt gibt es auch hier verschiedene Völker mit unterschiedlichen Glauben. Die Mädchen gehören jeweils einem an und so treffen hier grundlegendes Misstrauen aufeinander und so müssen lernen sich zu akzeptieren und zu begreifen das sie nicht verantwortlich sind für die Fehler der Vergangenheit. Dieses wachsen an Zusammenhalt ist toll, man konnte richtig zusehen wie sie sich zusammen raufen mussten. Von einer Zweckgemeinschaft zu echten Freunden, die sich gegenseitig Beschützen.

Schade war die es in diesem Band nicht's über Lar zu lesen gab, er ist mir richtig ans Herz gewachsen. Auf einmal legt er dieses kindliche ab und ist König, dass war eine unglaubliche Entwicklung, ich fiebere dem letzten Band entgegen und hoffe ganz fest das Tejohn und Cazia es schaffen Lar zurück zu holen und die Welt zu retten :)

Alles in allem, ist es ein gelungener zweiter Band mit den "typischen" Schwächen. Aber aus Erfahrung weiß ich das der Finale Band nun ziemlich beeindruckend werden wird :) ich bin da ganz zuversichtlich. Es gibt noch so viel was aufgeklärt und enträtselt werden muss, da kann nichts schief gehen.

Diese Reihe ist für Fantasy Fans zu empfehlen, es war für mich eine Willkommene Abwechslung zu dem Glitzer und Glamour Fantasy ;) Aber auch nicht so brutal wie man anderes. Es ist eine tolle Reihe mit liebenswerten Charakteren, die wunderbar schrullige Angewohnheiten haben. Eben wie richtige Menschen, dass macht es zu etwas besonderem.

Todd says

Well, that was bracing. I suspect that the shortness of this book could have been padded a bit, but it really was an excellent story, so such complaints are a bit petty on my part. I started on the third book right away, so obviously this was not any real issue.

Clare Farrelly says

Though there was a LOT of violence, the story was clean. The world is really cool, and the main characters are now on the list of some of my favourites. The supporting characters are quite good too. The book is tense and page turning (as far as an audiobook can be called page turning anyway). I really enjoyed the story and can't believe I had never heard of it before, audible recommended it based on other things I had bought. Also what a horrible cliffhanger!!!!

Meme says

Jesus Christ ! Cliff hanger to Cliff hanger ! The book 1 cliff hanger left me craving this one and boy did it deliver. The character growth was awesome ! The pacing was fast. The lines were hilarious - "Can you bring me to visit one of your gods?" killed me. And the cliffhanger ending. Mr. Connolly - you are a cruel cruel man and we love you for it. On to the next one.

Anoop Menon says

One of the best books i have read this year ; Harry Connolly is an excellent story teller. This is an Awesome epic fantasy.

I have finished reading all the three books and can see endless possibilities for this series to go on and wish to see the author gives us more of that. His fantasy books can be likened to that of Brian Stavelly's or even Brandon Sanderson. To end it all Michael Kramer has done a awesome work on the audio books... Loved this series

Lindsay says

The middle entry of the series, but still a satisfying one.

The first book left both Cazia and her companions and Tejohn in pretty nasty situations but resolves both handily and relatively believably. The menace of the Blessed grows apace, and it's hard to think that anyone is going to be able to do anything to stop them. The Blessed are such an insidious concept for a fantasy villain, and they're only the front end of the threat that the whole of the world is facing.

Tejohn is competent as always, but this one is Cazia's book. All three of the young girls, Ivy, Kinz and Cazia grow immensely throughout the book, but are still written true to their ages. There's lots of naivety on the part of Ivy who is only 12 and Kinz and Cazia bicker like the teenage girls they are even though all three develop deep relationships between them.

Like the last one, the main characters are in major new situations at the end of this one. Looking forward to seeing how it all wraps up.

Carl says

Grateful am I to have all three books of The Great Way on hand so I can start the next as soon as the previous finishes. All too often the middle book of a trilogy is filler, but not here. Things happen! Decisions are made! Lessons are learned! There is biting and magic and things I will not spoil. Also, why are you still reading this review instead of reading the book? You could be reading the book right now! I am doing you a terrible disservice by keeping you reading this instead of the book. Please forgive me.

A favorite quote:

"... let out a tiny meep of fear. was not brave, she just didn't want to feel humiliated."

Christine says

Continuing on where the first book left off, The Way Into Magic is fun, fast, and complex. It's the first time in years I've finished a book in a single day.
