



# **The Outlanders**

*David B. Coe*

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Protectors of the land of Tobyn-Ser, the magical Order of the Children of Amarid have discovered who is behind a rash of terrible attacks on their people -- invaders from Tobyn-Ser's sister land of Lon-Ser, where magic has been forsaken in favor of technology. When the Order threatens to shatter in indecision, it is up to a young mage named Orris to undertake a journey into the darkest heart of Lon-Ser to prevent yet another invasion. But lying in wait is a long-lost splinter of the Children of Amarid that will either save him -- or plunge the land into all-out war.

## **The Outlanders Details**

Date : Published October 1st 1998 by Tor Books (first published September 30th 1998)

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Author : David B. Coe

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# From Reader Review The Outlanders for online ebook

## Christian says

Re-reading this trilogy after many, many years, and I have to admit that although the POV switches to a different set of main characters, it was done fairly smoothly by Mr. Coe and the occasional glimpses of the main characters from the first novel help with this transition.

I also want to mention that I am rarely a fan of combining modern technology with medieval-style fantasy settings. If I wanted to read contemporary or sci-fi novels, I would do so. That being said, I have to admit that Mr. Coe presented the two aspects in a smart way and managed to keep me interested and reading on. He also managed to impress upon me the reluctance of the inhabitants from the "medieval land" to open their minds and borders to the more advanced technology. Very well done.

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## Elizabeth says

TBR

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## Joshua Palmatier says

I've just finished this book and I have to say that I loved it. After reading the first book in the series, The Children of Amarid, which is a fantasy, I was surprised to find that this book had many science fiction elements in it, which was unexpected.

It also caused me some concern before I got too far into it. I'll explain.

The series is essentially a juxtaposition of a science fiction society against a fantasy society. The first book dealt with the fantasy society, and the incursion of a group of people from the science fiction society in an attempt to destabilize the fantasy society. While the one is based solely on magic, through the use of bonding with hawks and falcons and owls and such, along with focusing crystals, the SF society is of course based on science with a heavy dose of fear for the unexplained magic. The SF society copies the magical devices using their science and then infiltrates the land, causing the conflict in book 1.

In book 2, one of the sorcerers from the fantasy society goes to the SF society with the intent to start talks of peace and instigates numerous changes instead. My fear when I first realized where the second book was headed was that there would be no realistic explanation of why the SF society hasn't already taken over the fantasy world. It's not like they're traveling through gates or some massive void that separates the two lands or anything like that. Instead, the two lands are connected by an isthmus. Trade overseas occurs on a daily basis, not only with the SF society, but a third society as well. As a worldbuilder myself, I found it hard to believe that such societies could live in such close proximity, without some significant barrier between them, and not have one of them overrun the other out of sheer greed. With the trade, they'd have to at least influence each other somehow.

But that isn't really addressed in the book. So there's a big suspension of disbelief required by the reader in

order to overlook that close proximity. Some of it can be explained by saying that SF society is so closely ruled by its leaders that its citizens could not venture outside the bounds of the city . . . but that's not quite enough. There's also mention of alot of "fear" of the sorcerers from those in the SF society, including those of high rank . . . but that also doesn't really satisfy me either because there's no real explanation for why they fear it so, especially after they've subjugated their own version of the sorcerers from their own lands.

But guess what? It doesn't matter. If you allow yourself to overlook this flaw, or at least this unexplained setup, and pay attention to the story and the characters, none of the rest of it matters. This was a great book, with characters I cared about and wanted to see succeed. And the story was well told and easy to follow. Having the sorcerer dealing with the SF society, and meeting new characters from the SF society that I grew to love, made up for any of my initial concerns about the worldbuilding. In the end, I turned off my inner writing editor (who brought up the concern in the first place before I'd even really started reading) and simply enjoyed the story as a reader. And it was a good story. In fact, I'd say that I enjoyed the second book more than the first in the series.

Now on to book 3. \*grin\*

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### **Troy Mason says**

The series really starts to pick up in the second volume.

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### **Lauren says**

Enjoyed this so much. This series is a wonderful addition to the fantasy genre.

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### **Katiecain says**

Loving the series, on the second book now.

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### **Dan says**

Series review on the first book of the series =)

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### **Arne says**

Little deviation from the previous book when writing style is concerned, nonetheless nice 2nd episode

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### **Siriusstar Desrosiers says**

I am glad this book was the second in the series. The political idiocy expressed by half the order would have driven me away before I had a reason to care. As it was I slogged through the politics, muttering about the short-sighted, childish stupidity of half the order, as well as the weak-willed ineffectualness of the other half.

There are some really great, intense moments here, however. I liked the highly unusual and very well done juxtaposition of a futuristic dystopian thriller with a medievaesque epic fantasy-something I have never seen before.

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### **Alejandra says**

I liked this book the story gets better

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### **Loreldonaghey Donaghey says**

I didnt' really read this. Total crap. Who recommended this one? Made no sense and lots of stupid stuff about bird mages?. Whatever.

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### **Melissa says**

Not as good as Children of Amarid.

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### **John says**

Review to come.

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### **Bryan Schmidt says**

Amazing follow up to CHILDREN OF AMARID. The first book was Jaryd's coming of age. In this book, Jaryd takes a smaller role as we get Orris' redemption story and a larger canvass of the conflicts between continents. Well done, compelling, and a great mix of fantasy and scifi elements.

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### **T J says**

Orris has made up his mind to help save Tobyn-Ser and his adventure to Lon-Ser is quite a read. The results are mixed and one will remember.

