



Guardians of the West

David Eddings

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Garion has slain the evil God Torak and been crowned King of Riva. The Prophecy was fulfilled—or so it seemed. While the strange child Errand was growing up in the Vale of Aldur with Polgara and Durnik, showing only occasional flashes of inexplicable knowledge and power, Garion was learning to rule and to be the husband of his fiery little Queen Ce’Nedra. Eleven years passed.

Then suddenly the Voice of Prophecy cried out a warning: “Beware Zandramas!” Not even Belgarath the Sorcerer knew who or what Zandramas was. But Garion discovered hints in a previously obscured part of the Mrin Codex. Worse, he learned that the Dark Prophecy was still waging its ancient struggle against the Prophecy of Light. Again, great evil was brewing in the East. And again, Garion found himself a pawn, caught between the two ancient Prophecies, with the fate of the world somehow resting on him.

Guardians of the West Details

Date : Published March 1988 by Del Rey Books (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780345352668

Author : David Eddings

Format : Mass Market Paperback 438 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy

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From Reader Review Guardians of the West for online ebook

Jane Jago says

You'll have to wait until I'm at the end for a proper review.

Just two things.

Why is Garion so nice?

Why do I want to slap Polgara?

Matt Braymiller says

The second set of books detailing the adventures of Garion are both a bit deeper and a bit darker than the first set. Eddings came into his own with this pentalogy. The story we're presented with details the final confrontation between the child of light and the child of dark. Like the first set, we see the child of light's side of the story for the most part. the friendships from the first series are carried over and grow deeper in these books. I think this series and the one that followed, namely the first trilogy about Sparhawk and his companions, were the best that Eddings produced. I love the tone of this series. The first books focused on Garion coming of age. This series explores some more difficult themes and sees Garion grow a great deal. I especially enjoy the relationship between Garion and Zakath as their story unfolds through the remainder of the series. As I have said before when it comes to books I re-read, these characters are old friends, and I always enjoy getting to visit with them again.

Emily says

Disclaimer: THE BELGARIAD was the first adult fantasy series I read, in grade 5. I loved it so much I read them probably every couple years until 2 of the books literally fell apart. I wholeheartedly recommend them as an easy, fun intro-to-high-fantasy series. I only picked up the MALLOREAN at age 31--GUARDIANS OF THE WEST is #1 of that series.

Pros: same great characters, same great land, same great sorcery premise!!! And Eddings still has some of the funny left.

Cons: same great characters...getting older, dying, becoming even more caricature-ish than before. For someone who loves these characters, this aspect is very upsetting. Tons of realm-hopping--it was very jarring since travel used to be more spread out. Tons of recycled lines, description, jokes, plot lines.

At this point, I've read enough to keep going, but there were many times I wanted to put down the book. This series seemed like such a hollow money grab, but at the same time I have a lot of fond memories of the original series so I'm going to keep trudging along like a good Sendarian rutabaga farmer.

Llamageddon says

As someone who tends to try and finish entire series, I have to give David Eddings this much: His books are readable, if only borderline so.

If you want just the summary, here it is: Shallow characters, misogyny, nondescript environments, plot twists semaphored volumes ahead, not one unimportant element of the books, same jokes repeated over and over, and the author never lets anything go wrong, and thus my final rating for the series is 2.5 - if one doesn't mind the listed flaws, the books have some charm, as repetitive as its delivery gets across the ten volumes.

Regrettably, both Belgariad and Malloreon suffer from the same issues: Both books have utterly nondescript settings, with the cast always on the move from one location to the next, all of them "unique" only in so much as to show off the author's ideas, ideas that he likely never realized weren't really fully developed, and were completely full of poor cliches and tropes, and the numerous battles across all ten books are descriptions of how each character effortlessly dispatches a number of enemies without so much as a scratch, while making one of their few signature comments or jokes.

The second failing is its characters - characters that are defined almost utterly by stereotypes - both racial, and gendered. As much as the books try to portray powerful women, ultimately, they are all frail, emotional beings that defer to men's decisions, and gush about dresses, babies, romance, while men do what needs to be done, and protect them, which alone is enough to ruin any chance of the books appealing to me - you can't have an immortal sorceress or a prophesized "Queen of the World" act like spoiled brats paralyzed to tears by news of a near-stranger's death who constantly nag the male protagonists to not drink alcohol, dress properly, and use courteous language, all while playing no role whatsoever in anything of any real importance. If this isn't enough to put you off just yet, the male characters are really not much better - none of them have any real personality.

The third failing, and the final nail to the coffin, is the simple fact that /nothing/ drives the plot of the books, and there is no tension whatsoever. The author telegraphs what's supposed to be plot twists books ahead, never introduces a single character, place, or element without (usually obvious) importance to the plot, and in the end, nothing the characters do matters, because the author simply never lets anything go wrong for more than a page, and in fact eventually codifies the whole thing as being the result of the overarching prophecy that drives both series, eventually even stating that the repetitiveness of the plot itself - down to the shitty jokes the characters keep repeating - is a part of it.

P.S.: The review applies to Belgariad and Malloreon both

Gav451 says

The second series of these books is the 'unloved series' it feels like to me. As a teenager I had consumed the first series voraciously and I loved every moment. The premise was cool, I liked the mix of characters and the magical system developed by the author just plain worked. It was all great. I thought and still think (and I am slowly re-reading the series again) that it is superbly written. Not in terms of a classic literary style but because it flows so smoothly. The pace is wonderful and once you get into it, it will not let you go. Hours can pass and you will not notice.

I re-read the first series over and over again.

I only read the Mallorean through once. That was a long time ago. Back then I thought it was the same again, that even the plot took too much from the first and I felt there was too much in the book that relied on fate as a plot device. The characters were following a prophecy that over and over again was too willing to intervene. The trouble with fate or god in a book is that it takes all the edge out of a story when there is a higher authority that can put all of it right.

This is my second read through.

I enjoyed the first book in the series more than I thought that I would. The characters are still very likeable and I was glad to see their return. It's like meeting a gang of old friends and asking them what they have been up to. The actual written style is still very fast flowing and the story rocks along. There are twists and turns I did not expect and, all these years later, I actually cannot recall what happens after the first book. There are a load of key moments in this book I recall but, racking my brains, I cannot recall what is to come next. That could be both a good thing or a bad thing, it might mean I have the joy of the unexpected to look forwards to or it might mean I have blocked out an awful previous reading experience.

I have a lot of time for David Eddings and this world he has created. During dark times of my life it was a place I could go for some happiness. This book is nicely written and while it will not win any awards is a fine read. There are tropes and plot devices that feel too familiar and I'm never a fan of every series being a world ending plot but despite all that this is a journey and am happy to be taking again many many years after I last took it.

I actually rated this as 3 stars and the start of the review. Having written it I'm moving it up to 4 just for the warm and fuzzy feelings it gives me.

MrsJoseph says

This is really a 3.5 star read.

And it's mostly a lot of milling around before the quest actually gets started.

As per usual, I have to ignore the implications of the casual (and mildish) misogyny.

No matter the issues I have with this series - THIS is the series (and the Belgariad) that get my reading mojo going every time.

Hilmi Isa says

This is not a first book of David Eddings which I have read. The first book was actually *Domes of Fire (The Tamuli Book I)*, part of *Sparhawk Universe*. Ironically, both books are sequels of the respective original series. The Domes was successful to persuade me to like Edding's writing. So does *Guardians of the West*. In fact, I like this book/series more than the Sparhawk Universe, as far as things go.

If someone says I should read *The Belgarion* series first, I would agree of it. Better to read *Belgarion* first, *The Mallorean* later. It's important to do so in order to better understand all characters and story setting. Many characters in the prequel are also there in the sequel. Plus, both series background and setting are inter-related between each other. Unfortunately, there are two reasons why I need to read its sequel first. Firstly, I'm too eager to read it. Secondly, because I still don't have *Belgarion* series, yet. However, of course, I'm looking forward and trying to collect and read the former series, and in the same time, doing the same thing on *Mallorean*. Well, I'll probably re-read this novel when I get my hand on both series in the future, hopefully.

I need to admit that my knowledge on writing concept of fantasy novel is very limited. The genre is not my most favourite. However, typically, it involves an adventure by main character/protagonist (or a group of them) in completing a task bestowed upon them. It's like going from *Point A* to *Point B*. Usually, this is the main theme fantasy. In the *Guardians*, prior and during of *Point A* (in order to go to *Point B*), there are lots of events which may relevant or not with *Point A*, based on one's perspective. So, several small stories or sub-plots emerged before we arrived at the main storyline or plot. Same thing also is encountered in *The Domes*. This feature is maybe applied to all series authored by Eddings. Looks gibberish and boring, but, it made reading more interesting, at least in my opinion.

However, there is one main aspect which distinguishable between *Guardians* and *Domes*; description of battle. In *Guardian*, it's more vivid than *Domes*. However, the description is still generic, albeit interesting to read.

David Sarkies says

The heroes are back for another grand adventure

15 July 2012

Well when I was younger and had finished the *Belgariad* I was thrilled to see that Eddings had decided to continue the story of Garion and his friends in a brand new adventure. However as I look back now I sort of ask myself what is the point. The evil god Torak had been slain, Garion (now *Belgarion* as he is a sorcerer) has been crowned king of the west, and he has married Ce'nedra, imperial princess and destined wife. They have also had a child, so should it not be that they now live happily ever after at peace. Apparently not because there is a whole new continent to explore, and more evil brewing in the east.

Hold it, hadn't the evil god been slain? Well, yes he has, but as it turns out he is not the only evil god out there, and it also seems that *Belgarion* is not the only person who has had a prophecy written about him. It seems that there is an opposing force to *Belgarion*, a child of the dark, and this child has decided to kidnap *Belgarion's* child for whatever wicked purpose is in its mind.

Personally, I feel that one should get to a point in writing an epic and then, once finished, move on the bigger and better things. I am not necessarily talking about Pratchett, who has created a world and has then proceeded to write a multitude of stories set in that world, or Tolkien, who wrote an epic, and then returned to his world (or at least his children did) and released a lot of unpublished works set in the world's historical foundations. Pratchett has a lot of characters in his world, and many of them are only minor players in some books (such as *Death*), but in others play a major role, and even then the stories are complete in themselves. Tolkien had been developing his Middle Earth since serving in the trenches of World War I, and pretty much all of these stories occur before the events of *Lord of the Rings* (while there is a lot of background material, the story ends with *Lord of the Rings*, and there is no 'gee, that was popular, let us create another series with

a new and bigger evil').

This is what Eddings has done, and in a way it is a little disappointing. I did read all of this series, and when I was a spotty teenager I really did enjoy them, however I pretty much stopped following this author at the end of the Mallorean, despite him writing further books. The same was with Feist: I read the three books of the Rift War Saga and that was about it. I started Daughter of the Empire, but put it down after the first chapter and have never really returned to it. Who knows, maybe one day I will, but in a way it is unlikely. I did go back to read the expanded and revised Magician, however once again, I thought to myself 'I have already read this book, I really don't want to do so again'.

Narilka says

I thoroughly enjoyed the start of this series reread. I sure have missed these characters.

Guardians of the West is the first book in *The Malloreon* by David Eddings. This is the sequel series to *The Belgariad* so as long as you've read that, you'll know all the players involved and basically what to expect from the series since the story follows the same formula.

Several years have passed since the Child of Light and Child of Dark met to decide the fate of the world. A time of peace and prosperity has come to the Kingdoms of the West. The child Errand finally knows what it is to have a family when he goes to live with Polgara and Durnik in the Vale of Aldur. Garion and Ce'Nedra have settled into married life and their roles of ruling the island nation of Riva and work to produce an heir. The Prophecy has been fulfilled. Or so everyone thought. One fateful night the Orb burns red and the Voice gives warning: "Beware Zandramas!" No one is sure who or what Zandramas is though it quickly becomes apparent that the Prophecy is not done yet. Garion once again finds himself in the middle of the struggle between Light and Dark with the fate of the world, and his family, resting on his shoulders.

This was a wonderful comfort reread. I have read these books so many times that it is like returning to old friends, even all these years later. I remember how much the first half of this book used to bother me with how slow it is. This time I found I didn't mind it at all going through the background information, catching up on everyone's lives in the years that have passed. I was a little sad to see some favorite side characters pass away. I am also reminded of just how annoying I find Ce'Nedra now. Thankfully she doesn't feature as prominently as in past installments. The story is still quite enjoyable and just as much fun as it was when I first read it.

Slobodan says

Guardians of the West by David Eddings takes place 3 years after the anti-climatic ending to the *Belgariad* series. The first half of the book follows Errand as he moves to the Vale to live with Polgara, Durnik and the legendary but mischievous sorcerer Belgarath. The characters are fleshed out here much more so than in the second half where the action picks up and the story seems to be heading towards a retelling of 'The Belgariad'.

The old prophecy that everyone had been waiting for and had lasted for a few millenniums before Garion completed it by defeating the god Torak seems to have only been step 1 in saving humanity! We are now

faced with a new prophecy that basically claims Torak was never the final boss and all that dying and killing was a precursor to more swashbuckling across the continent by our heroes. The book also ends with the gang heading out for Nyissa which is exactly where the gang landed in book two of the Belgariad series!

If you liked The Belgariad you'll probably enjoy Guardians of the West, but it may feel a little repetitive for some.

Sotiris Karaiskos says

After the pentalogy of Belgariad David Eddings returns to his imaginary world for the beginning of another epic story. The question I was worried about when I started reading is, of course, what is left to be done from here in our story. In this cases there is always the fear that the author will look for the easy solution of repetition and recycling of the same ideas, unable to find original. Initially it seemed that fear to be confirmed since the beginning of this story is much like the begining of the prior, as it is about a child growing up on a farm away from the dangers that may threaten his existence but then the story goes on other paths and to the worries that concern our heroes that have grown up.

What dominates the whole book is, of course, the humorous writing that we have encountered in the author's previous books. The evolution of the plot allows him to make the most of his sense of humor. The main issue in the first half is the difficulties of married life and the difficulty of governing a Kingdom. The first issue leads us to extremely witty dialogues about gender relations and various humorous episodes, which mainly concern our beloved couple of Garion and Ce'Nedra. Their relationship, of course, is tested but with the help of their good friends and with the maturation of time they somehow manage make up. The second issue again leads to humorous episodes and interesting dialogues as the Garion faces the stubbornness and aspirations of the his most powerful subjects and forced to find imaginative solutions to be able to bring things to a balance and still find time for his beloved so that she does not feel neglected.

All that are good but I admit that from some point on all this humorous mood becomes a bit tedious, fortunately, however, things after the middle are getting more serious. A new threat emerges outside of Garion's realm, while dark forces inside it bring even more disturbance. At the same time prophecies appear to be fulfilled and others appear to speak about a great conflict between good and evil. The facts come one after another and sometimes one comes in conflict with the other leading our heroes to right and wrong paths, while this unspecified threat, this new enemy that they must face make his move and brings great anxiety thus creating the setting for an extremely interesting story that continues in the next books.

In a few words, this story starts quite relaxed, I would say very peacefully, but it continues very vigorously, and in the end the intensity reaches its peak in an action-packed finale. So we start very well, we meet our beloved heroes again and wait for the rest of the series to live up to the expectations of this very interesting first book.

Μετ? την πενταλογ?α του Belgariad επιστρ?φουμε στο φανταστικ? κ?σμο του David Eddings για την αρχ? ?λλης μ?ας επικ?ς ιστορ?ας. Το ερ?τημα που με απασχολο?σε ?ταν ξεκ?νησα την αν?γνωση ε?ναι φυσικ? το τι μ?νει να γ?νει απ? εδ? και π?ρα στην ιστορ?α μας. Σε ποιες περιπτ?σεις υπ?ρχει π?ντα ο φ?βος ο συγγραφέας να αναζητ?σει την ε?κολη λ?ση της επαν?ληψης και της ανακ?κλωσης των ?διων ιδε?ν μη μπορ?ντας να βρει μ?α πρωτ?τυπη συν?χεια. Στην αρχ? φα?νονταν αυτ?ς ο φ?βος να επιβεβαι?νονταν καθ?ς η αρχ? αυτ?ς της ιστορ?ας μοι?ζει πολ? με

την αρχή της προηγούμενης, φορτώντας να παιδί που μεγαλώνει σε να αγρόκτημα μακριά από τους κινδύνους που μπορεί να απειλούν την παρξή του, στη συνήθεια, όμως, ιστορία πηγάζει σε άλλα μονοπτία και σε ανησυχίες που απασχολούν τους πρώτους μας που έχουν πια μεγαλώσει.

Αυτή που κυριαρχεί σε όλο το βιβλίο είναι φυσική η γεμάτη χιούμορ γραφή που συναντήσαμε και στα προηγούμενα βιβλία του συγγραφέα. Η εξήλιξη της υπέθεσης του δίνει, μάλιστα, δυνατότητα να αξιοποιήσει στο πακρό την αίσθηση του χιούμορ που διαθίγεται. Το κύριο θέμα στη μεγαλύτερη διάρκεια οι δυσκολίες του γάμου βού αλλά και η δυσκολία της διακυβέρνησης ενός Βασιλείου. Το πρώτο θέμα μας οδηγεί σε εξαιρετική πνευματώδεις διαλόγους για τις σχέσεις των δύο φίλων και σε διόφορα χιουμοριστικά επεισόδια, που αφορούν κυρίως το αγαπημένο μας ζευγάρι του Garion και της Ce'Nedra. Η σχέση τους βέβαια δοκιμάζεται αλλά με τη βοήθεια των καλών τους φίλων αλλά και με την ωρμανση που φέρνει ο χρόνος κ'πως τα καταφέρνουν. Το δεύτερο θέμα ξανά μας οδηγεί σε χιουμοριστικά επεισόδια και ενδιαφέροντες διαλόγους καθώς ο Garion ρχεται αντιμτώπος με την ξεροκεφαλή αλλά και τις φιλοδοξίες των πιο ισχυρών υπηκόων του και αναγκάζεται να βρει ευφύναστες λύσεις για να μπορεί να φέρει τα πράγματα σε μια ισορροπία και ταυτόχρονα να βρει χρόνο για το τάρι του ώστε να μη νιώθει παραμελημένο.

Ωραία όλα αυτά αλλά ομολογώ τι από κ'ποιο σημείο και μετά όλη αυτή η χιουμοριστική διέθεση γνεται λίγο κουραστική, ευτυχώς, όμως, κ'που μετά τη μση τα πράγματα σοβαρεύουν. Μά να απειλή εξυφάνεται ξω από το βασίλειο του Garion εν σκοτεινές δυνμεις στο εσωτερικό του φέρνουν ακμα περισσ'τερη αναστάτωση. Την ίδια στιγμή προφητείες φάνεται να εκπληρώνονται κι εμφανίζονται άλλες που προαναγγ'λλουν μά μεγάλη σύγκρουση ανάμεσα στο καλό και στο κακό. Τα στοιχεία ρχονται το να μετά το άλλο και πολλές φορές το να αντικρούει το άλλο οδηγώντας τους ρωές μας σε σωστό και λ'θος μονοπτία, την ρα που αυτή η απροσδι'ριστη απειλή, αυτής ο ν'ος εχθρός που πρέπει να αντιμετωπίσουν κ'νει την κ'νησ' του και τους φέρνει μεγ'λες στεναχ'ρίες, σ'νονοντας 'τσι το σκηνικό για μά εξαιρετική ενδιαφέρουσα ιστορία που συνεχίζεται στα επ'μενα βιβλία.

Με λ'γα λ'για αρκετό χαλαρό ξεκινεί αυτή η ιστορία, πολύ ειρηνική θα λέγα, συνεχίζεται, όμως, πολύ δυναμική και στο τέλος η ν'ταση κορυφνεται σε να φιν'λε γεμάτο δράση. Οπ'τε πολύ καλή ξεκιν'με, συναντ'με ξανά τους αγαπημένους μας ρωές και περιμ'νουμε η υπ'λοιπη σειρά να δικαι'σει τις προσδοκ'ες που αφήνει αυτή το πολύ ενδιαφέρον πρώτο βιβλίο.

Vinay Keerthi says

I haven't read a fantasy fiction novel in over a year. I thought I'd lost interest in the genre, a sad thing because I want to be a fantasy fiction novelist.

I'm glad I decided to give this a go on my Kindle Touch.

I generally forget characters from books I've read. Even if I've enjoyed the books, I forget characters soon unless it's an exception such as the Wheel of Time, Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter.

I'm surprised that I recognised the names in this book despite having read about them last only 6 years ago.

I read Belgarath the Sorcerer and Polgara the Sorceress last. I think they're the best books in the series. I'd not started Mallorean because I've heard bad reviews of it, and I wanted to leave the series with good memories.

Yet, I'm glad I read this book. I read so little lately that any reading is a welcome change. The characters are

familiar. There's a lot of clichéd stuff, and the nations are set into stereotypes, something that is deeply rooted in this series. Racism must have been a favourite topic for the Eddingses.

I enjoyed the running around, I wish this book had more Beldin, he's the best of the lot. I wish there was more of the Twins too. I love Aldur's followers, and I even miss Zedar.

I'm gladly going ahead to the next book tonight.

Cheruv says

[What happens usually to people already old and sick when you cover a couple of years? Alas, King Rhodar, your fatness bit you in the arse mate... Characters I was kind of fond of died. This is not necessarily a bad thing though. (hide spoiler)]

Mark Austin says

With Lord of the Rings under my belt, I was hungry for more of this 'fantasy' thing I'd discovered. Enter the Belgariad. I consumed the two five-book series in a few months, getting in trouble in school for reading when I should have been paying attention (I either didn't care or had already done the homework for whatever it was they were teaching while they were teaching how to do it).

When complete, I read the whole series again in half the time. Then again in half that. The half-lives continued until I read all ten books in slightly over a week then put them down forever as I drifted into the Shannaras.

My copies of the books have long since wandered away; it would be interesting to read them again as currently all that remains in my memory are tiny snippets of demon summoner duels, walk walkers phasing people through stone, a pair of thousand-year old wizards tinkering in the affairs of nations, a feisty love interest, and the usual hapless teenageish boy that somehow ends up the hero of these things.

Sam says

This is the follow on series from the Belgariad that returns to Garion, Polgara and friends finding them enjoying a quiet peace following the defeat of Torak. A peace that is not to last it seems as a new prophecy indicates that their battles are far from over. Once again Eddings characters jump off the page in a slow burning story that pushes each character to their limits. Apart from Aunt Pol of course, who is her usual stoic and practical self and Belgarath who is as calm and collected as ever. I can't wait to continue with this series.

Lel says

The gang are back! I Was so glad that there was more from the characters in the Belgariad series. These series seems to carry on straight from the last book and again the child of dark and the child of light are destined to meet to decide the fate of the world. You would think that this would be boring and just a re hash of the first series but you know what? I don't care. The world that Eddings creates and the characters that he

fills it with are just amazing. I find the books really easy to read and at the same time really engaging. Would recommend this series to pretty much anyone.

Werehare says

2/10

[Recensione dell'intera serie]

Non è attivamente demente come tanti altri suoi colleghi, e questa è la fine dei suoi pregi. Solito polpettone rimasticato fino alla nausea, straripante di dei e mostri puzzoni e palle di fuoco ed eroi maschi bianchi etero cis come neanche una partita di D&D, tenuto insieme da una prosa goffa e inforigurita (pur se non mancano momenti ironici), zeppa di virgole tra soggetto e verbo. Garion è il classico Gary Stue che insegna a tutti a fare tutto, Ce'Nedra la classica mogliettina mordace e il resto del cast neanche me lo ricordo più - ma mi ricordo perfettamente l'atmosfera sciovinista che trasudava da ogni pagina, la fiera dell'ottusità e dello stereotipo confezionata in pratiche lezioncine morali da prendere e portare a casa. In più, l'intera trama procede grazie a una serie di coincidenze opportune e di parallelismi con la serie che la precede, una fiera del culo pesante che i personaggi stessi fanno notare ad alta voce (!), per la serie: volevo pagarmi il mutuo sulla quinta casa con il minimo sforzo possibile perciò ho copiato tutto ciò che potevo e, quando non avevo di meglio, mi sono addirittura copiato da solo.

molly says

4.5 stars

NON SPOILER TERRITORY !!

AMAZING

The Mallorean is the sequel to the Belgariad, David Eddings most popular fantasy series.

It was so fun to be back in this world, to see all the characters we knew and loved, all grown up. It was so cool to see the friendships rekindle, years after the events in the Belgariad. This instalment seemed more lighthearted and fluffy than the original series, and over all more simple to follow, especially since we now know more about the world and the different cultures and people.

Thankyou David Eddings for letting me see some of my favourite characters again.

SPOILER TERRITORY!!!

A lot happened in this book, I mean a lot !!!!!

We see Errand, Polgara, Durnik and Belgarath back in the Vale living their little lives in a cottage. Spending the seasons tending to their crops and Durnik building fun little playgrounds for Errand to play on. It's so adorable!!!

And Garion and Ce'Nedra in the West!!! OMG Ce'Nedra was adorable, she still had her little spunk in her that made me absolutely fall in love with her during the Belgariad.

When little Geran was taken i was like "AHHHH I WANT TO SEE A MINI GARION". That whole chase after him was ridiculous, the squad the Belgariad was on the case, tracking down the Bear-Cult. But then when we think everything is going to end well, we find out the baby was taken by to damn snake people!!! Bloody hell!!!

Can't wait to read book two!!!!

Jonel Boyko says

How does one describe fantasy? Hints of the medieval with a dash of something magical and an epic adventure that will take you to the ends of the earth. Eddings definitely embodies that with this series launch. He had me captivated from cover to cover.

The variety of different lands that we visit and peoples we meet are all equally well developed and easy to get to know. These lands come to life in a vivid manner that is the perfect backdrop for this epic tale. This novel is character intensive throughout, especially at the beginning as we get into the story proper. The plot is still action and adventure intensive and we get to know the characters as they're being themselves.

The characters in this novel are a lot of fun. They had me laughing left, right and centre while taking me on an epic adventure. I love how vivid each of these individuals was. I enjoyed my time with each of them, well, most of them anyways. Ce'Nedra's was childish and annoying throughout. Her whininess kind of ruined the story for me at times. Conversely, Silk was absolutely priceless. Every time that he walked onto the page I knew that something amazing was going to happen. I absolutely loved getting back with the characters from the Belgariad, yet this novel is set up so that readers can easily dive into this spin off from here.

Eric says

Like most sequels, The Mallorean is not as good as its predecessor. But, also like most sequels, it is nice to catch up with the familiar characters you fell in love with in the original.

Although the story-line is similar to the first series (to the point that the protagonist points it out at one point in conversation), the adventure is still just as much fun.

Anyone that loved the first series (The Belgariad) will find this series a worthwhile read.

