



The Chaos Curse

R.A. Salvatore

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As Cadderly tries to find his way back to the Edificant Library, he is faced with several challenges posed by the Chaos Curse. Original.

The Chaos Curse Details

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From Reader Review The Chaos Curse for online ebook

Matthew Bane says

Thus ends the Cleric Quintet...

The book was on par with all of the others in the series in terms of quality (3 out of 5 stars). They are good stories that entertain the reader. There is nothing ground breaking or ill feeling in these stories.

As a series I enjoyed myself. I used these books as a kind of fun dessert, something that I read after reading a disappointing new author, or sub-standard new book. I'd go straight to this series knowing that I'd get a feel-good, uplifting hero tale that didn't involve anything too 'dark'. The heroes are fairly 'light' while the baddies are fairly 'dark', not really mixing the two. There were a couple good guys who turned bad and vice versa in the end but you kind of knew they'd become what they became from the story, or at least I figured it out.

This was my first Forgotten Realms Series and I think that I'll continue reading Forgotten Realms books as 'dessert' or 'between' books.

If you like Salvatore and the Forgotten Realms then go ahead and read this Quintet. It's not a bad series and you know what you're getting into already. If you've never read any, then start and see if you like them.

Lauren says

When I first began the series, I felt that Salvatore fell into a common writer's trap of overpowering the main character, to near god-like status. In many respects, I still feel that way, even though I recognize that he did make attempts along the way to temper that power.

The book picks up from the end of the last book, The Fallen Fortress. Cadderly, priest of Denier, along with Pikel and Ivan Bouldershoulder (dwarven brothers, one of whom aspires to be a druid) set off to find a way through to the old dragon's Feyrenn's treasure. Danica, the warrior monk and Cadderly's fiance, together with Dorigen, the repentant wizard, set off straight off for the Edificant Library, home to priests of both deities Denier and Oghma. Shayleigh, the woodland elf, goes with Danica and Dorigen most of the way to the library, then parts ways to return to Shilmista, her home.

Unknown to any of them, Kierkan Rufo, a branded, cursed and fallen priest of Denier, has returned to the Library before any of them, together with Druizel, the mischievous imp. Together they enter by way of the catacombs, seeking to liberate the Chaos Curse, held captive in a bowl of holy water by Cadderly's hand. Rather than releasing it, however, the bumbling Kierkan drinks the potion instead, then runs out vomiting all the way, in the hopes that the priests of the Library might help him.

As Kierkan is in the process of dying, the corrupt Dean Thobicus, leader of the Library, moves Kierkan into the heart of the building so that the priests may try better to heal him. What Thobicus fails to realize is that while Kierkan is killed by the potion, he is also, through its power, returned to an undead state as a vampire, the most powerful of undead creatures, and Thobicus' invitation gives the vampire Kierkan free reign of the Library.

So it is that Kierkan and Druizil set about desecrating the Library, converting some priests into vampires, and turning others into zombies, in the hopes of unleashing this army against Cadderly and his friends in the final confrontation.

In my eyes, the ending is tragic, even though it may be seen as noble. There is a loose thread left hanging considering the dragon's horde, and a number of characters have glaring blonde moments. In all, though, the book is well written, suspenseful and difficult to put down. I am a little foggy on how Kierkan manages to gradually desecrate the Library, yet the all-powerful Cadderly is either too stupid to try re-consecrating it, or lacks the power to do so (even if it is on a piece by piece basis).

Nevertheless, I highly recommend the book, especially to those interested in clerics, druids, and monks.

Patrick says

Better than book 4 but a rather odd addition to the overall series. Really the series could easily have finished at four as the main plot line was wrapped up - book 5 seems like a way to mop up some plot elements that didn't really exist!! That said I enjoyed the read and it follows the authors usual pattern of "not a great deal of plot " interspersed with as many battles as possible!!

Tammie says

For a finale of a series, this book is vastly anti-climactic compared to the previous installments. It felt like Salvatore lost steam mid point and dragged out the story's plateau, unsure of how to end it. And when it did, the ending felt forced and hurried, and it was basically an antithesis to everything he worked hard to establish in the first four books. Oh well.

Scott says

The last book in the Cleric Quintet and the end of our adventures with Cadderly.

Everyone is back in this one - Danica, Ivan & Pikel Bouldershoulder and of course the best character in the books - Percival.

In this book we've got everyone returning to the Edificant Library to find it overrun with vampires and zombies (no spoilers here so I won't say too much more) but yeah, we've got a Forgotten Realms book here so we've got vampires and zombies in an epic fantasy tale.

There's battles and life/death which all leads up to an epic conclusion to the story.

Loved it.

Loved the characters, loved the fights, loved the plot and the pacing.

Really really good.

Recommended highly.

Emilio says

An alright ending to an alright series.

Erik says

As a whole this series was very good for it's type, much better than many of the Drizzt novels. Good characters and decent plotlines the Cleric Quintet is entertaining.

The major flaw is a lack of true suspense. Cadderly grew immensely powerful over the course of book three and only grew in his abilities. The outcome of the story is never in question, only which of his allies might not see the conclusion is ever truly a question and that is fairly formulaic.

The Chaos Curse itself was entertaining. I always manage to forget how devastating vampires can be in Dungeons and Dragons based stories. I do not care for Druizil as the puppet master imp, and he is often put into his place by his "puppets." Rufo was entertaining as the final "big bad evil guy" but was missing the true personal touch that Aballister brought. Rufo was a buffoon who desired Danica and did not really care for his friend Cadderly, I did not see him as a credible threat. Dean Thobicus on the other hand could have taken that same role and been more threatening due to his perceived power.

All in all, I recommend this series to anyone interested in the Forgotten Realms or Dungeons and Dragons based fiction.

Amiranus Romanus says

I'll just review the whole Cleric Quintet series here.

Overall rating: 2.5

First things first, this is not a book, this is a D&D campaign. So much so that you can clearly see the moments when the characters rolled a natural 20 or natural 0.

As a D&D campaign it is quite entertaining, but as a book, well.. Even the detailed fight scenes become repetitive at some point (which, again would be great at the playing table). Although it's pretty fun when you're like "Hey! I know that spell!" :D

SPOILERS AHEAD

Some things I liked about this book is its depiction of different PC classes. I never quite understood the Druids' aversion to the unnatural until I read the Canticle. The clerics are also well represented, though I still dislike them in their rigidity.

Cadderly, by far, was the most infuriating character. He started out as bright and inquisitive adventurer, a cleric more by upbringing than calling. And by the end of the last book he had fully transitioned into a fanatic believer.

TL;DR A nice D&D campaign story to listen to, but I'd not waste my time reading it

Michelle Raven says

Stars: 4

One of the better in the series. :)

Geoff says

This is the fifth, and final book, of The Cleric Quintet, and the story of the Deneir worshiping cleric "Cadderly." This book is probably the darkest of them all, as many people get killed off. "Rufo," the ever present pest, this time decides to swallow the Most Horrible whatever. That is the lethal poison, that has been harassing the library for the last five books. As a result, he becomes a super vampire, and takes over The Edificant Library. So a holy place has been desecrated, and the undead and now rule the holy library. And the story is Cadderly trying to rescue the church.

It was an enjoyable story, as were all of the five books. And this is a nice series, if you want to read about another character than Drizzt, by Salvatore.

Kiersten says

(Argh—I cannot escape vampires! They turn up everywhere! I was not happy that they were the main fixture of this book.) Overall, a neatly suspenseful story (although *this parenthetical part is a spoiler* all the drama around Danica's supposed death is ruined because the author gives away in an earlier book that monks can achieve physical suspension. And Cadderly wasn't at all freaked out by finding the apparently dead body of his fiance).

I feel hugely sorry for Kieran Rufo. I was hoping he'd get redeemed before the end, and instead he 's subjected to a gruesome demise. Also, a note about the ending: the drama and emotion is largely ruined if you've read Passage to Dawn in the Drizzt series, and there were several loose ends that didn't get patched up.

This was definitely my least favorite book in the quintet. I probably would have enjoyed it more were it not for the fact that the ending was ruined and if I wasn't so frustrated with the current craze of vampires in fiction.

Alex says

The last book in the cleric quintet. It was a pretty good read, but not as exciting as some of the others in this series.

First, the series score: Overall Series rating: 4 stars. This was a fun, albeit cheap, trope-filled fantasy read.

For a book series centered around non-fighter characters (i.e. a cleric and a monk), there's a surprisingly high proportion of battle scenes. This series was about 2/3 battles, 1/3 exposition. That's totally fine, but it makes it particularly fluffy.

This book in particular was fine, although I'd like to make some spoiler-laden observations-- these aren't required reading unless you just finished this book, too:

(view spoiler)

Anyway, all told, you can't ask too much of it-- it's a fantasy book, and it's a fine read, if a little flawed.

David Williams says

Cadderly has fought many battles against the forces of Castle Trinity and has been victorious. Now it is time to return to the Edificant Library. He dreads the return because he knows that his return will cause a split among those in his order. He has grown too powerful and is in favor with his god. The hierarchical structure is not happy with this. Little does he know that a much worse fate awaits him.

The fallen priest Kierkan Rufo has returned in secret to the Library. He has been convinced by the imp Druzil that the answer can be found in the Chaos Curse. Rather than simply uncovering and releasing the curse Rufo drinks it. The result is to turn him into a vampire of tremendous power. Now Rufo sets out to bring down the library. Some will join him, some will oppose him, but none can stop him. Can Cadderly and his companions defeat this evil, or will it destroy them?

This is the last book in the Cleric Quintet. This is one of the best Fantasy cycles out there. The battle of good in the face of nearly unstoppable evil rages in this book. The ending is amazing and caps off this amazing quintet. Highly Recommended.

Tony says

3.5 stars, the young inventive scholar-priest Cadderly faces off with his ultimate nemesis - the chaos curse personified, drawing to a startling conclusion!

Being the last book in the series, it's interesting to reflect on how all the characters, major and minor, evolved from the first book. Many of the Edificant Libraries residents take sinister turns, while Pikel, the dwarf-druid, and Danica, the monk, achieve the highest tiers of their respective classes.

Salvatore usually has a deeper theme running in each of his novels. In this one, he touches on what it means to love; it adds a little bit of fuel to the tale but it's far from a love story.

This story is ultimately about Good (manifesting in Cadderly through the power of his god, Deneir) vs Evil (a concoction of the lower planes called the chaos curse.) There are plenty of vampires and zombies, but not overloaded with boring random encounters.

The conclusion has a bit of a surprise and is very well-fitting, consistent with the characters' personalities, yet also revealing how much Cadderly has grown throughout the entire adventure.

It's hard to make a complete recommendation for the whole series, but if you have the time and patience then read all 5 books; if you're just looking for some quick background on Cadderly then *Night Masks* and *The Chaos Curse* were the best.

Daniel says

R.A. Salvatore's books are extremely juvenile, more so than many books published in the 'children's' or 'young adult' fields. But, by and large they are diverting, entertaining reads, and Salvatore over time has honed writing such pulp to a fine skill. I recall loving this series of Cadderly novels when younger. I still enjoyed the character now, he is the most complex and interesting 'good guy' that Salvatore has created, whereas his 'bad guys' are more routinely captivating. This series began enjoyably, then the middle books rather bored me overall as an adult. The final volume, however, drawing things to a close and delivering finally a villain that at least for a moment seemed dangerous to the invulnerable super-hero type protagonists. I'll probably read the remaining Drizzt novels I own from Salvatore, but then call it quits. Certainly not worth keeping any of these to read again though.
