



## The Sons of Macha

*John Lenahan*

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A *Lord of the Rings* for the 21st century. Only a lot shorter. And funnier. And completely different.

The thrilling final part of the *Shadowmagic* trilogy.

## The Sons of Macha Details

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Author : John Lenahan

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## From Reader Review The Sons of Macha for online ebook

### Mikayla says

A great ending to the Shadowmagic Trilogy. Great series by Garth Nix. Can't recommend highly enough, especially to younger readers. Would also recommend the free podcasts too.

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### Mike says

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the first two books in this series on Podiobooks.com, so as soon as I knew this was coming out I preordered it from Amazon. I was very glad I did.

If you haven't read Shadowmagic, you should start there, because the three books form one continuous story. This one would benefit from a bit of a "Who are these people and why are they fighting?" refresher at the start, although to the credit of the author I quickly remembered who everyone was.

As I was reading through, I was thinking that the punctuation was a little rough, and I found at least one homonym error ("recanting" where he means "recounting"). For an indie book, the editing is good. For a small-press book, average. Imagine my surprise, then, when I reached the end and found it was published by Harper-Collins.

If you imagined very much surprise, dial it back, because Harper-Collins has by far the worst editing of any major publishing house. This is at least the fifth book of theirs I've read that's made it to my "needs-editing" shelf on Goodreads. Shame, Harper-Collins, shame. (Also, load the cover on Goodreads! Like a lot of Harper-Collins covers, it's not great, but it's better than the default Goodreads image.)

There's another language thing that has annoyed me throughout the series. John Lenahan shows signs of knowing a little Gaelic, and so he must know that "banshee" means "female fairy". Yet the banshees are one of the several tribes (along with imps, fairies, elves, brownies and so forth), and they are male and female both. It's a small niggle, but it bugs me.

I'll give this four stars for language, despite that and the poor editing, because Conor, the narrator, is consistently funny in a Spider-Man kind of smartass fashion. That gets him into exactly as much trouble as you would expect. "I know it's wrong to enjoy seeing a fellow human being suffer, but - you can't be right all of the time," he says at one point (demonstrating the ropy punctuation as well as the humour). And "If we made it out of this alive I promised myself I would buy everyone new underwear. If they were anything like me, they were going to need it."

The plot moves along well, no Chekhov's Gun remains unfired, and a lot of the time Conor wins by being smart rather than by fighting (which I always like). His woman troubles provide amusement and eventual resolution. We see triumph and tragedy, though I didn't feel strongly emotionally engaged by the tragedy for some reason (perhaps the lack of character depth I'm about to discuss). Four stars for plot, probably four and a half.

Even though I could easily remember who the characters were after a long gap, they were a little bit one-note. I didn't see a lot of depth in any of them, and there wasn't a whole lot of character change going on. There was also an inconsistency early on with Ruby's age. On one page she was described as a seven-year-old, and then a couple of pages later she was referred to as being twelve (which remained the line from then

on). I suspect a late change. She certainly talks more like a seven-year-old than a twelve-year-old to my ear. Three stars for character.

Finally, setting. The Land is a wonderful setting, with original touches like the talking trees with different personalities (some of them dangerous). The two magic systems are fun, and used imaginatively. I liked the nod to Roger Zelazny's Amber in the rune ordeal. An easy four stars for setting.

Again, if you haven't read the first book, do. Better yet, get it from Padiobooks, because the author narrates it with a wonderful gusto, and you'll get to hear how the names are pronounced.

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### **Dave says**

The finale of the Shadowmagic series does not disappoint. It was totally Fergalitious. Thank you, John, for writing such a wonderful trilogy.

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### **Agnes says**

Nice ending to the series. The series is a lot of fun, all the way. Recommended.

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### **Matt\_E says**

As with the first two books this is an amazing read. Am so sorry to see the end of these characters story but it was written very well and was one of the fullest endings to a story I've read in a while.

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### **Brian says**

A fantastic finish to a great series. If you're looking for a good epic fantasy without all the dreary questing and self-loathing, check this out.

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### **Kath says**

This series has been one of my reading highlights. It inspires, creates, and provides a unique view to fantasy lit. Thank you Mr. Lenahan!

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### **Suz Korb says**

A great conclusion to an outstanding series!

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## Lyfranka says

Wauw i loved this book!

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## Keely says

I thought The Sons of Macha was a strong finish to the Shadowmagic series. However, reading this one on Kindle after listening to the first two books as podcasts, I did miss hearing the energy and humor that author John Lenahan brought to reading his story. In this final book, Conor, his family and friends must protect the magical Irish fantasy land of Tir Na Nog once again from his wicked uncle Cialtie, who is hell-bent on fulfilling an old prophecy that he will once again be Lord of Castle Duir. Cialtie has some formidable new allies this time, including a wind wizard/god named Lugh, a shadow witch named Maeve, as well as his mother Macha, a.k.a. Conor's long lost grandma. Along the way, Conor makes a few trips back to the real world, notably to Connemara in the real Ireland, and he must also negotiate a hairy love triangle between himself, a mermaid healer, and spitfire Princess Essa. Conor is a bit of a joker, and this story is full of humor like the two previous books. However, it ends on a pretty intense, violent note, as the prophecy Cialtie is obsessed with gets fulfilled in an unexpected way.

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## David 23 says

It's really fun series and it finished with enough of the stories tied off.

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## T.H. Leatherman says

Oops!

Connor has finally accepted that the real world isn't for him. Not much a of a choice really. TV or live forever. Eh, who needs sitcoms anyway. Just one more trip to the real world to help his friend Brendan retrieve his mom and daughter. Unless of course, the FBI is waiting to nab him. Oops. Escaping back to Tir-na-nog, Connor comes face to face with his sadistic uncle. All the pieces are in place for the final battle between brothers. The armies of the Fairies, Imps, and Leprechauns against the Banshees and Brownies. The evil uncle has gruesome secret weapon. An ancient threat that if awakened, will spell doom for the Fairy army. All it requires, is the blood of a special innocent. Brendan's daughter.

John Lenahan takes us back to the magic land in the final book of the trilogy. Threats new and old combine forces to wrest control of this epic fantasy world. A wonderful world and unique characters make this a story well worth reading. A definite hit.

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## Shannon says

After literally YEARS of listening to this on podcasts as it was released bit by bit, it's finally done. I liked it

so much I bought the book. GREAT narrator (the author). Very engaging story with a lot of humor.

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### **Garrett says**

Glad I was finally able to finish the series.

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### **Angela says**

Another excellent read, and another book you just had to keep reading. Well worth reading all three in the trilogy. Will be keeping my eye open for other books by this author.

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