



The Eye of the Hunter

Dennis L. McKiernan

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A thousand years had passed since the Eye of the Hunter last glared in the heavens. A thousand years since the immortal Elfess Riatha brought word of the prophecy to the Warrows Tomlin and Petal with whom she had leagued to hunt down and defeat Baron Stoke, one of the most evil beings to ever stalk the lands of Mithgar. The price of Stoke's doom had been a beloved companion's life, the two plunging, locked in combat, down an icy chasm which had sealed shut the ring of eternity. Now the comet known as the Eye of the Hunter again rode Mithgar's skies, and the creatures of darkness once again ravaged the lands, heralding the imminent return of their dread master, Baron Stoke. And now five brave souls must answer the call of prophecy: Riatha and the Elf called Aravan; Gwylyly and Faeril, last in a long line of Firstborn Warrow descendants of Tomlin and Petal; and one other, one restored to them from Death's chill grasp...

The Eye of the Hunter Details

Date : Published August 1st 1993 by Roc (first published 1992)

ISBN : 9780451452689

Author : Dennis L. McKiernan

Format : Mass Market Paperback 603 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Eye of the Hunter for online ebook

Jeff Crosby says

I began this novel a number of years ago, reaching as far as chapter 9 or 10 at least. However, I was reading the paperback edition and I gradually lost my way. I now realize this was one of the early casualties of my slowly failing vision. Now with an ebook copy, I am returning to Mithgar.

McKiernan's world is fun and one of the better extrapolations of Middle-Earth. I like his characters and stories. However, his stories could do with a little judicious pruning. For that reason, I expect this project to take multiple months.

I am not quite stalled, but progress is slow.

Craig says

This is certainly one of McKiernan's best tales of Mithgar, with a large cast of sympathetic characters and a complex and detailed plot. It's excellent high fantasy, and perfect for Tolkien fans.

Jason says

Emotional and well written.

I have loved this authors writing since I started reading fantasy. Tolkien was my first but Dennis McKiernan made me fall in love with genre. This is a tale of vengeance with a philosophy about the battle between good and evil. This has darkness this has light and with the way he writes it makes you think. I am glad I reread this and it made me fall in love with Mithgar all over again.

Danielle Cart says

Okay, so I had to reset rating for this book from five stars to three because the last time I read this book I was an emotional pre-teen who had a sick obsession with high fantasy, and I can honestly say that if nothing else, my reading tastes have... broadened.

So my biggest complaint, as an adult? The unnecessary addition of a descriptor for every character in every mention until halfway through the book. I understand what his intentions were - considering there are other books whose events influence this one, so I think he was trying to use it to build or reinforce backstory? But ... Come ON. "The golden-haired, silver-eyed Elfess turned to her black-haired, amber-eyed companion and smiled." This writing style was also indicative of high fantasy in this era, so grain of salt has been added.

My other big complaint is the archaic writing in general - tons of 'thee' and 'thy', and outdated sentence structures that have a lot of unnecessary commas. For instance: "Yet the following morn was fair, and as [omitted] and [omitted] readied to leave [omitted city], neither [omitted] nor [omitted] would accept any coin, saying that [omitted]'s barding had paid for all." On its own this sentence isn't difficult to follow, but

imagine it couched among four or five of its brethren, all equally comma'd.

Still, the story itself has merit, the characters are generally well-written, and I remember it reducing twelve-year-old me to tears for days after I put it down.

Christine Jones says

Sadly, I have had this novel for many years and have struggled to read it many times. This time I was finally able to get past the beginning. Part of the problem was that I read it out of order of the others, and part of the problem was the way the beginning was written. I had to get pretty far in to realize why I was having the problem. This is one that it is better to read in an appropriate order. However, I did enjoy it. Another of the author's great High Fantasy novels. A fun read.

Mónica Ruiz says

This book was one of my best childhood memories. Somebody lent it to me and I have remembered it since. All my life trying to find it, or hoping for a new edition. Finally got it in a book market a couple of years ago.

In my opinion, the finest, purest epic fantasy. A book that I'm very happy I found, because I would love for my children (or any body else's) to read.

Dane says

This is one of the books that made me fall totally in love with Fantasy novels. I found both the author and the story so believable that I was totally absorbed in the book. I have read this book so many times that I've had to replace it twice, and I still laugh and cry along with the characters. If you don't read any other fantasy novel, make sure you read this one.

Ignacio Senao f says

El grupito de cuatro con venganza personal cada uno hacia Stoke. Irán en su búsqueda por todo el mundo, utilizando algunos capítulos para narrar el pasado que marco este venganza de cada individuo.

No me recordó a El señor de los anillos, ya que lo comentan mucho su parecido. Si es cierto que utiliza nombres clavados como "El bosque negro" y cosas así.

K. Axel says

When I first read this book, I wrote the following inside it; *"It is fun to see how you can take our 'boring' world and make it inhabitable by mystical beings of myth and legend - it absolutely makes it more interesting"*

to live in our world!"

This is one of my all-time favorite Mithgar stories! Why? Well, it just has cool characters, a real group of unlikely friends who journey across the entire world and has wonderful and exciting experiences. I think we see most of the world in this one...

I highly recommend this one for fans of Tolkien, yes, I said it. Mithgar is in the tradition of Middle-earth, and that is not a bad thing. Mithgar is familiar, but holds enough new stories and secrets to make it interesting.

Carl says

Wow, everyone else rated this so well. To be honest, I never finished this, and last time I tried was years ago-- I'll guess '99, but I think it was earlier. I gave my big critique of McKiernan on another of his books, but will mention here that I'm willing to have my mind changed-- honestly, I'd like to enjoy McKiernan's work-- but even this novel, written much later than his first works (when you'd think he'd have learned a thing or two), felt very poorly written. I'll try to work up the nerve to try again one day, but honestly, I was so depressed about the poor quality that I'd rather not go through it again (why is it that Fantasy gets so many bad writers amidst the few geniuses? It seems like things are much more balanced in sci-fi). Like I mentioned in my other review, it could be that I was in a particularly critical phase at the time, and it could also be that insecurity about my own writing had me overreacting. Maybe I'm picky, though I've found myself to be less picky than many. It could be that there are others who are equally disgusted with, say, Robert Jordan, and I actually enjoyed his novels, and began them around the same time that I started moving into this critical phase (though I had to abandon Wheel of Time because it was taking too long to continue-- and now he's dead! Argh!) I know there are also those who complain about the slower parts in Tolkien, such as the initial buildup in LOTR before anything actually happens, but at least then the prose is a pleasure to read-- I never found myself bothered by the leisurely pace-- who cares about action when you have a world to explore!

Anyway, I apologize to those who love McKiernan and will gladly listen to reasons why I should try him again.

Jeff says

I am a fan of Mithgar and as such I have yet to come across a Mithgar book I didn't like. Of course some are better than others and it's been a while since I read this particular book, but it is an enjoyable story and time well spent.

GUS BUS! says

This is possibly the best book I have ever read. It actually made me cry when one of the characters (not telling who) died. It had fantastic action scenes and wonderfully developed characters and two romance side stories. The elves home land was wonderfully thought out and the bad guy is one of the worst out there. Just writing this review makes me want to read it again.

Robby says

A good read

If you like epic fantasy this is a good one to have. This book has it all, laughter, suspense, and oh yes tears.

Christian Freed says

This is one of my favorite McKiernan books. A little long and with some unnecessary parts, but the tale is great and well written. It is a story of revenge, undertaken by several races and features a handful of well known characters. McKiernan writes with an easy style that makes it easy to read. Plus, this is a stand alone novel. No need to read further.

Jeff says

I FINALLY finished this book. The basic story was great, no qualms there, it was full of excitement, danger, all that good stuff. But the book was WAY WAY WAY to long. The author kept swerving off on side stories or the characters would go on these epic journeys that lasted FOREVER and it was like the author was trying to describe every single step that they took. Also there was all of these philosophical rantings in the middle of everything (did I mention that this book was way to long). I kept losing interest in the story. Finally the author tried to do way to much in the story. He had fifty subplots going all at the same time. Now I don't mind a little background noise in the story but half of the time I had to remind myself, "OK what is the main story here?" The only thing that kept me going was that a friend recommended the book so I made up my mind to read the book and the main story line was really good. I think if the author would have cut out all of the other "stuff", (about 2/3rd of the book) and kept to that story line this book would have been one of the most exciting that I have ever read. Anyway if you have read this book, or are reading it, or will read it I would love to hear your take on it.
