



La misión del embajador

Trudi Canavan

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Como hijo del difunto Gran Lord Akkarin, salvador de la ciudad, y de Sonea, célebre maga negra de orígenes humildes, Lorkin quiere estar a la altura de este legado de heroísmo y aventuras, y dejar su huella en el mundo. Por eso se presenta voluntario para asistir a Dannyl en su nuevo cargo de embajador del Gremio en Sachaka, un país que sigue gobernado por crueles magos negros.

Cuando llega la noticia de que Lorkin ha desaparecido, Sonea está ansiosa por salir en su búsqueda, pero sabe que abandonar la ciudad le costaría el destierro de por vida. Además, su amigo Cery necesita ayuda. Casi todos los miembros de su familia han sido víctimas de asesinatos, los últimos de una oleada de muertes que asola a los líderes de los Ladrones. Y pronto Cery descubre indicios de que el misterioso Cazaladrones recurre a la magia...

Tal vez un miembro del Gremio obedece a un impulso justiciero para eliminar a los Ladrones uno por uno, o tal vez vuelve a merodear un renegado por las calles de Imardin. Pero esta vez posee un control absoluto sobre sus poderes mágicos... y está dispuesto a usarlos para matar.

La misión del embajador Details

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From Reader Review *La misión del embajador* for online ebook

Kells Next Read says

Hmm..what can I say about this read. This book dragged and bored me several times during my read, but i soldier on. Mainly because I wanted to see what had become of some of my fave characters from the previous trilogy. The struggle to stay focus was brutal!! The one upside to my pain was that the last quarter of the book picked up and was well worth all the brain draining I incurred. I'll have to hold up a while before I continue this trilogy.

Actual Rating 2.5

Nickey says

I was surprised to find myself struggling though this book. I have read seven other of Trudi Canavan's books and got through most of them within two or three days. This time it took me over a week.

I think the two main problems are that I read *The Magician's Apprentice* before this one and that Canavan placed this story twenty years after the *Black Magician Trilogy*.

Due to the circumstance that I knew a lot of the historical aspects of the story world from TMA it was very unnerving and almost boring to have Lorkin and Danyl slowly stumble upon bits and pieces of the same throughout the plot. It wouldn't have hurt the book to loose a good 100 pages in the beginning - that would have quickened the pace and given room to actual, new information.

The second, for me much bigger, problem was the time difference between *The Black Magician Trilogy* and *The Ambassador's Mission*. Before, most of the main characters were more or less my age - now they are suddenly twenty years older and they didn't exactly develop the way I would have liked them.

Sonea has grown timid and scared to do a misstep. I would have loved to see her explode and do what SHE thinks is right. She is still grieving over the loss of Akkarin and yet she lets the Guild decide to let Lorkin go without putting up fight. Where has all her fight gone?

Regin has turned nice. NICE? Hello?

And Cerry is old. Even he keeps pointing that out. Following a twenty-something around town chasing a murderer is fun and exciting - following a forty-something is just painful. It says a lot that still his plot arch was the one that I enjoyed the most.

Danyl hasn't actually changed that much, it's just that his quest for more research is rather boring to the facts mentioned above.

And newcomer Lorkin, I don't see much of either of his parents in him. Canavan had to actually point it out to her readers. All in all he seems shallowly written and I can't follow his decision making process at all. His behaviour just seems irrational.

I can only hope that *The Rogue* is going to be MUCH better.

Mike Finn says

A decade ago, when I read “The Magician’s Guild”, the first of the “Black Magician Trilogy”, I was filled with excitement. Young Sonea’s struggle with her new found powers, her attempts to understand and survive the upper-class world she was pushed into and the complex loyalties she had to navigate had immediate appeal and, although it was a long book, kept me eagerly turning the pages to find out what happened next.

For me, “The Ambassador’s Mission”, the first volume in the “Traitor Spy” trilogy, has none of the magic I found in the “Magician’s Guild”.

It is well written. The ideas are thought through. The characters are as well drawn as in the previous books. Yet the book seems slow. It feels as if Trudi Canavan is thinking: “I have three thick volumes to tell this story, there’s no need to hurry.” Unfortunately, I was left thinking that, if they all go at this pace, I might never make it to the end of book two.

Perhaps it is that the Sonea is now older and more reflective, she has become part of the establishment, while Cery has become an old thief and the head of a family. Perhaps it is just the need to connect this book to the “Black Magician Trilogy” and its prequel, “The Magician’s Apprentice” but I found that I did not have the same passion for these characters and the challenges that they face.

In “The Magician’s Apprentice”, it mattered to me whether it would be Lord Rothen or the treacherous Lord Fergun who had power over Sonea. In “The Ambassador’s Mission” the death of the whole family of one of the characters barely created an emotional ripple.

As a generation-spanning, fantasy-saga, dealing with a complex world, this is still a book worth reading but set against the last trilogy, I found it disappointing.

Emmeline (The Book Herald) says

That world Building!

This book was huge, like nearly 600 pages...and for 600 pages it was non-stop action!

I loved this world building, I loved the idea of it too.

what I wasn't a ginormous fan of is the large amount of POVs.

That may be more of a personal issue but usually when there are more than a three person POV, I just get tired, but I'll go more into that in a moment.

LET'S TALK PLOT!

In this land is where magicians rule in guilds but those who are practitioners of 'black' magic are feared and nearly chained to their rooms.

Where Thieves rule and kill one another.

Where a boy seeks to live up to his father's hero status.

There is plotting in the darkness of that land.

Cery is a thief who rules the North, his family was assassinated, and suddenly no one is able to live without looking over their shoulders.

A thief-hunter wants to destroy them all and has killed many.

who is it or what is it?

Cery seeks the aid of Black magician Sonea and the two find themselves in a lot more trouble than they originally anticipated.

Sonea's son wants to live up to his father's heroic status as the one who saved the land.

He promptly decides to become the Ambassador's assistant to a turbulent land but finds himself a murder target instead.

He is rescued by a girl.

He discovers a wild magic unlike any he has ever seen.

what more will he discover?

okay so as a Fantasy this one was pretty good. However, I didn't really connect with any of the characters. It's extremely inventive and really ingenious, but the way it started made me feel like i was reading the second or third book rather than the first. I had to constantly remind myself what was what, therefore, the back of the book with the index page became my best friend.

The romance wasn't swoon- worthy to me. It's actually pretty minimal.

Not in the ways i usually liked but maybe that's because i didn't really *feel* invested in these characters.

Overall pretty good. The writing was good but I didn't have that Alice feeling of just falling into that world.

Have a go at it, you may enjoy it loads more than i did! :)

Stay awesome!

-The Book Herald

Maurinejt says

I enjoyed reading the continuing story of Sonea and company, but this book had major problems. The first and foremost being that it started in the wrong place. The Ambassador's Mission dealt with two plotlines: the tale of the new Ambassador (Dannyl) and his assistant--Sonea's and Akkarin's son, Lorkin--to the neighboring country that caused all the problems in the first trilogy. The second plot is the insidious corruption at home, of an irresistible drug that turns people to mindless addicts in a single dose, and a rogue magician hunting Thieves. The book should have opened with Lorkin arriving in Sachaka. Then tedious arguments over whether or not he should go, the persuading of his mother, and viewing of his friends' dangerous habits could be dealt with in a couple of memories. Ditto with Dannyl's flagging relationship with his beloved. Cery's story should have started when he asked Sonea for help, again avoiding chapters of useless buildup that wasn't aided by our witnessing it since Cery didn't either. Basically, half the book was wasted in minutia. Once it got going, Cery's story was very a leads to b, without many surprises or real suspense; Lorkin's story was much more interesting but unfortunately he is not. He has none of his mother's fortitude or his father's passion and mystery, he's just sort of there: immature and obnoxious, a typical guy.

This could change, I suppose. So all in all, I was disappointed but am still planning to read further.

E. Brough says

I hate writing poor reviews, but I was very disappointed by this book. The BMT shares joint first place in my top fantasy series, and I was so looking forward to this.

The characters are all flat and insipid - even those who were previously exciting and well fleshed-out; the constant references to the previous trilogy were irritating (I read that trilogy several times already and I read it again before I read this book, I don't need to be told every single thing that happened in it!); the quality of the language itself was poor as well, like it was written for a very young child.

All of the faults I found caused me to give up about two thirds of the way through, something I rarely do. I really wanted it to be good, because I know Canavan is capable wonderful, beautiful things - she is one of my great writing inspirations - so I'll wait for her next series. Perhaps this world is too 'lived in' now, so I'd like to see a book set in a different world; worldbuilding is something she really excels at.

Nicole says

Zwanzig Jahre sind seit den Ereignissen in der Trilogie „Die Gilde der Schwarzen Magier“ vergangen. Auf Wunsch der Gilde hat Sonea nur einem einzigen Magier das Geheimnis der Schwarzen Magie offenbart. Doch sie ist nicht glücklich mit der Wahl, die die Gilde dafür getroffen hat. Kallen ist zwar ein ehrenhafter, aber auch ein harter und zu schnell urteilender Mann. Vielmehr sorgt Sonea sich allerdings um ihren Sohn. Lorkin hat gerade die Abschlussprüfung hinter sich gebracht und brennt jetzt darauf, sich zu beweisen. Daher begleitet er den Botschafter der Gilde nach Sachaka, wo den Magiern Kyralias immer noch unzählige Gefahren drohen. Und tatsächlich verschwindet Lorkin eines Tages ohne ein Wort der Erklärung. Sonea ist beunruhigt, doch sie kann sich nicht einmal an der Suche nach Lorkin beteiligen. Denn in Kyralias Unterwelt tobt ein Krieg, in den auch Magier verwickelt zu sein scheinen – und der alles, was in den Jahren des Friedens aufgebaut wurde, gefährdet ...

Ein schönes Wiedersehen mit Sonea, Cery und Rothen und Dannyl, wobei auch neue Charaktere eingeführt werden. Nicht ganz so stark wie die Vorgängerreihe hat es trotzdem Spaß gemacht, wieder in diese magische Welt einzutauchen.

Ian says

You can also read this review at [Another World](#), (The Fantasy & Science Fiction Book Blog).

There is an adage which teaches us that, “you should never go back”. This saying is usually used in reference to romantic relationships, but perhaps it should also serve as a warning to authors wanting to revisit past glories. Though the temptation to do so is, of course, perfectly understandable. Returning to the scene of a previous triumph no doubt seems like the safe and easy path to take; but how often does it turn out not to be the case? Certainly, *The Ambassador’s Mission*, provides a perfect illustration as to the wisdom of the

words, “you should never go back”.

I cannot fault author, Trudi Canavan, for believing a sequel trilogy to her most successful work would be a win-win proposition. The Black Magician Trilogy was well received by critics, and loved by many readers; earning her a legion of fans. A return to the Allied Lands, twenty years after the events of the previous trilogy, to revisit an adult Sonea in a new adventure, sounds like an exciting prospect. Though I had certain misgivings (which I'll address later) about the book before I began reading, nothing could prepare me for the disappointment that awaited in this first instalment of The Traitor Spy Trilogy. I am not someone who is prone to indulging in hyperbole, but The Ambassador's Mission is a failure in every conceivable way.

So what went so drastically wrong? Well let's start with the most glaringly notable problem first. At no point during the book is the narrative in any way engaging; a criticism I never thought I would ever level at Canavan's writing. Though actual boredom didn't quite settle in, the story is so ponderous that extra effort was required to keep turning the pages; all in the vain hope that something of significance would happen. (But it didn't.)

Perhaps some of the lack of engagement can be attributed to the plot; or should I say the plots? As there are two distinct, and apparently unconnected, plots running throughout; each one with its own sub-plots. This goes some way to explaining the lack of focus in the narrative, as Canavan tries to give both storylines equal time, hence the constant jumping back and forth between them. But the book would have been better served if the plot involving Sonea's son Lorkin, was relegated to minor sub-plot status, if not completely excised from the story completely. Focussing on Sonea's story; assisting Cery track down the rogue magician responsible for the assassinations of several leading figures among the criminal underground known as The Thieves, would have made for a more compelling read.

Much of my dissatisfaction with the narrative could have been mitigated to some extent, if I felt invested in any of the main characters, which brings me to the most disappointing aspect of the book; poor characterisation. This was very surprising because Canavan is usually so adept at creating such distinct and memorable characters for her stories. On this occasion, however, the exact opposite is the case. The newly introduced characters, who hadn't featured in The Black Magician Trilogy, are so nondescript that (with the exception of Lorkin) I was never able to remember their names, let alone anything else of consequence about them.

Even the returning characters, whom I was already familiar with, were shadows of their former selves. In particular, I was less than impressed with the depiction of Sonea. You would assume that a character would have undergone a significant amount of development over a period of two decades, yet Sonea seems very much like the teenage girl that she was in the previous trilogy, not the forty year old mother of an adult son that she is supposed to be in this book.

I suspect that a lot of the problems present within this book are the result of the author's decision to write a trilogy at all cost, even if the story she had in mind doesn't warrant three books. It certainly seems as though the main culprit for the lack of any truly significant moments during the story, was the desire to save everything of interest for the third book. Which explains why The Ambassador's Mission feels very much like an overly long prologue. And never in my life have I ever encountered such an abrupt ending to a book. Upon reaching the end of the final chapter, only to turn the page and be greeted by an epilogue, I was utterly convinced that my copy of the book must be missing at least a hundred pages. It actually took several minutes to accept that this was not the case.

It's hard to believe that all these issues I had with the book, are in no way related to the one thing I had

misgivings about before I began reading. With half the story taking place in the land of Sachaka, I was concerned that learning too much about its people and culture would have the effect of de-mystifying the Sachakans. After all, one of the main reasons why they seemed to represent such a threat in The Black Magician Trilogy was that so little was revealed about them; they were a mystery. While The Ambassador's Mission does indeed de-mystify the Sachakan people, it proves not to be as detrimental as I had feared, given how flawed the rest of the book is.

In summation, book one of The Traitor Spy Trilogy is a very disappointing affair. For readers who are not pre-existing fans of Trudi Canavan, there is little here to warrant reading the rest of the trilogy. But she has earned enough good will from me that I shall finish reading the next two instalments. Although I am now beginning to wonder if Canavan will prove to be a one trick pony, if not an actual one hit wonder.

Ranting Dragon says

<http://www.rantingdragon.com/the-amba...>

Trudi Canavan is an Australian author best known for her Black Magician trilogy starring Sonea, a slum child hunted for using magic reserved for the higher classes. The Traitor Spy Trilogy is set 20 years later with Sonea as one of two Black Magicians in the Magicians Guild and is limited to Guild grounds and the Hospices that offer free healing throughout the city. When the Magicians Guild is opens to all magic-users, tensions arise because of old prejudices between the classes. Meanwhile a drug that is so addictive that it can't seem to be healed away even from Magicians whose bodies normally fight any kind of disease.

Without reading previous novels Canavan drops enough of the history that you won't feel lost or confused at any point in the novel.

Assassins in the Night

Lorkin, Sonea's son, has graduated and is unsure of what he wants to do with his talents. An opportunity comes up to travel as an assistant with Ambassador Dannyl to Sachaka, a land where those who are Magicians are only Black Magicians and the culture is strongly tied to slavery unlike his homeland. Lorkin wants to research the history of magic in order to find something that will help Kyralia, during which he wakes up to an assassination attempt and flees with the slave that saves him.

Murder Most Foul

Cery is a Thief from the previous novels who now has a wife, two sons and an estranged daughter. He attends a meeting with the new head of the Thieves Guild, a man he doesn't know much about except that his name is Skellin, who asks him to find the notorious Thief Hunter who has been killing off Thieves. When he returns home he discovers his family has been murdered and he suspects it's the Thief Hunter who may be a magician. He enlists the help of a former friend, Sonea, and together they try to find the Thief Hunter.

Flat-lining

While I feel like the novel was solid, it felt a bit average. It was neither bad nor was it really good. The

worldbuilding was strong and I'd like to see more of the world. I found the hunt for the Thief Hunter to be engaging and the mystery of it was the best part of the novel. Cery and his companions were the most interesting and fleshed out, on the other hand, Lorkin's escape lacked suspense and his romance with his fellow escapee lacked substance. He seemed to fall in love with the woman for no real reason and she with him. It may have felt differently if I'd read the previous trilogy but I felt Sonea's characterization was weak as if the author relied on the previous novels to supply most of her characterization. She always seemed to be reacting to the circumstances she was in rather than taking charge. Overall *The Ambassador's Mission* was a fun, light read that felt like a set-up for later events in the story.

Sequel-ity

The book has a strong ending that brings some closure in the Thief Hunter being discovered, but also creates questions that make me interested in the sequel. The "end" of Lorkin's storyline also had a strong resolution, but his future, both with the romantic interest and with *The Traitors* is unclear. It definitely creates more interest in the sequel and is one of the best parts of the book. I think the next book is going to be even better because it doesn't suffer from being the first novel in the series with all of the set-up.

Why you should read this book?

If you're looking for a traditional light fantasy I think you'll enjoy *The Ambassador's Mission*. Beginner fantasy readers or readers who've read *The Black Magician* trilogy will also enjoy the book. If you're looking for something different or deep though, I think you'll be a bit bored.

Coligne says

Quello che mi piace, dei romanzi della Canavan, è che, pur facendo parte di una saga, sono tutti più o meno autoconclusivi. Era così per i tre libri della *Black Magician trilogy*, ed è vero anche per questo primo capitolo della sua nuova trilogia.

Ciò, in un panorama che ormai impone come la norma le trilogie -o anche saghe più lunghe-, in un rincorrersi di "arrivederci alla prossima puntata, è un bene. Ogni tanto può far piacere leggere un libro, e al momento di svoltare l'ultima pagina, poter dire: bene, è finito. Non trovarsi interrotti nel bel mezzo della narrazione, con ancora la parte migliore a venire.

Oh, certo, non è completamente autoconclusivo, alla fine la Canavan ci apre a nuove prospettive, che andranno a svilupparsi nel prossimo libro, ma le trame aperte all'inizio del libro alla sua fine raggiungono una conclusione, piaccia essa o meno.

Trame che potremmo riassumere a due: Da una parte la caccia al Mago fuorilegge, il *cacciatore*, tra le stadié di Imardin, che vede protagonista Sonea; dall'altra tutta la parte ambientata a Sachaka, con il rapimento/fuga di Lorkin -il figlio di Sonea- ed il conseguente tentativo di salvarlo da parte di Dannya.

La Canavan sceglie quindi di seguire due strade, Con Sonea si rifugia nel porto sicuro dei vecchi, collaudati personaggi, che opera nell'altrettanto familiare capitale Kyraliana. Mentre Lorkin rappresenta la novità, sia perché è un personaggio effettivamente nuovo, sia perché le trame che lo coinvolgono si svolgono tutte a Sachaka, terra finora poco esplorata (se non nel prequel alla saga, dato alla stampe -in Italia- lo scorso anno, ma in misura marginale rispetto al qui presente tomo).

Devo dire di aver apprezzato maggiormente la parte con Lorkin protagonista. Non che Sonea sia divenuta un brutto personaggio, ma la sua avventura sapeva di già visto, quasi l'autrice avesse voluto inserire quella parte come un "porto sicuro" nel quale rifugiarsi nel caso Lorkin non fosse piaciuto...

In effetti, se invece di dedicare tanto spazio ai vecchi personaggi avesse dedicato quelle pagine ad

approfondire la società Sachakana, sarebbe stato meglio.

Secondo me, infine, avrebbe dovuto curare meglio la caratterizzazione dei personaggi. A volte i loro comportamenti stridevano con quanto mostratoci di loro fino a quel momento.

Ad esempio Sonea, all'inizio sembra voler muovere mari e monti, per salvare suo figlio; per poi contraddirsi alla fine, quando accetta la decisione del figlio di rimanere con le sue "rapitrici" troppo facilmente, quasi con stanca rassegnazione. Non è da lei questo, e stride in maniera netta con tutto quanto ha fatto e detto in precedenza, riguardo suo figlio.

Crazyjamie says

In reading terms, I think I owe Trudi Canavan quite a lot. I say that because the Black Magician trilogy was the first set of books that I read away from the truly mainstream series such as Harry Potter. From the Black Magician trilogy I went on to Age of Five, and from there my reading really took off. So I very much see Trudi Canavan as the first author that wasn't in some way pushed on to me by public perception (not that I resent Harry Potter for that, but the distinction is important). What's more, the Black Magician trilogy remains one of my favourite fantasy series, and as such it was with significant anticipation that I started to read the Ambassador's Mission, the first in the sequel trilogy to the Black Magician trilogy.

The Ambassador's Mission is set 20 years after the end of the Black Magician Trilogy. Sonea is a Black Magician within the Magician's Guild, but with black magic still illegal in the country, there is a further magician within the Guild who has been trained to the same level. Thankfully a lot of familiar faces return, with the likes of Dannyl, Rothen, Regin and Cery all playing significant parts in the new story. Of the new characters, the most notable is Lorkin, Sonea's son. The plot of the first book sees Dannyl and Sonea traveling to Sachaka in search of answers to questions surrounding the history of the Guild and Imardin in general. Back in the city itself, thieves are being murdered by a rogue magician, and Cery attempts to track the rogue down with the help of Skellin, the most powerful thief in the city.

The trademark characteristic of Canavan's writing is that she manages to write adult novels that are incredibly accessible to all ages, and the books set in this world have also had the added bonus of being suitable for a wide range of ages as well. I am happy to say that the Ambassador's Mission continues this trend, with interesting characters and easy flowing dialogue. It's the sort of book that you can become absorbed in and feel like you are involved in rather than simply observing from a distance.

The real joy of this book is seeing how the familiar characters have evolved in two decades, and in this regard the book certainly doesn't disappoint, but the new characters are worthy additions to the cast as well, and give the plot a sense of freshness. There is no element of repetition in terms of plot here; despite familiar characters, the book constantly feels like it is treading new ground and building on the story from the previous series.

The only criticism that can be aimed at this first book is that it is not quite as dynamic as other standout fantasy books. The magic system is simple and doesn't provide standout entertainment by itself, and whilst there are some good action sequences, set pieces and twists, the book feels a little lightweight overall. This is especially so when compared to the likes of the Black Prism, which is another first book in a trilogy that I read recently. However, it remains an accessible and enjoyable read in the classic Canavan style. It also sets things up in an intriguing fashion for the next book, so if you are a Canavan fan, this is essential reading.

Ithlilian says

The Ambassador's Mission is much better than The Magician's Apprentice, but nowhere near as entertaining as The Black Magician Trilogy. The plot can be summed up as follows: someone is killing thieves, and Lorkin goes for a long walk in Sachaka. The characters are nowhere near as dynamic and interesting as they were in The Black Magician Trilogy. Cery is old and worn out, Sonea is tepid and uninteresting. Lorkin isn't any more exciting than anyone else. If this book was written by anyone else I don't think I would have finished it, but Trudi Canavan has something that I like. It may be the large amount of dialogue, the magic, or the guild environment that kept me interested in this novel, but I'm not sure if I will be continuing. There isn't much reason to really. There are power gems that may be important, and some foreigners that are dangerous, but it's just not enough. There is no sense of urgency or danger, everything is just blah. If you are a fan of The Black Magician Trilogy give this a try to brush up on your favorite characters and revisit the world, but don't expect it to be as exciting as the original trilogy.

Monica says

It took me a while to get into this novel, and though the plot was entertaining I never really connected with any of the characters. I plan to read more by this author in the future, and hopefully some of her other series will appeal to me more.

Mjhancock says

Ambassador's Mission is the first book in Trudi Canavan's Traitor Spy Trilogy, and it takes place about two decades after her previous trilogy, the Black Magician. A lot of the characters are carried over between the two series, but if you haven't read the first one (or you're just very forgetful, like me), it's fairly easy to establish who's who. The plot quickly splits in two, with Sonea becoming embroiled in uncovering a plot to kill the city's head thieves while her son gets into diplomatic intrigue in a neighboring country. There's a lot to like here. Canavan pulls off the dual plots rather well, and manages to transition her protagonist from the single young woman in the first series to a middle-aged (or close to) mother in this series without losing the core of what made Sonea an appealing character to begin with. On the downside, one of the plots takes a turn where the reader is all but screaming at the protagonists to stop being idiots. And, more importantly, it's hard to shake the feeling that very little has happened by the book's end. Rather than resolve any of the major issues, it's more like everyone's been moved into their places for the next book. It's understandable, given this is the first book in a trilogy, but a little disappointing.

Allison says

I was really disappointed in this. I've loved Canavan's previous work - she's one of my favorite authors! But something went wrong here. It was just so incredibly boring. There's not enough that's new, but instead a lot of time is spent explaining how things have changed from 20 years ago, or rediscovering the past that has already been explored in the *Magician's Apprentice*. I think Canavan would have been better off building a

whole new world with new conflicts and magic rather than re-hashing a world and characters that I already know and love.

What *is* new is the character of Lorkin, but I really can't tell you much about him. I don't feel that he is well-defined enough, although I hope that improves in the next books. There is so much reminiscing about the past by return characters that we don't get a clear enough sense of the present and why we should care about it.

I mainly just felt nostalgic for the days of the Ichani invasion, and felt like I was having sumi with my old friends from the war, chatting about how times have changed and feeling sad that they haven't turned out better after all that effort. I can't believe I'm writing this - I had such hopes for this sequel!

There are really two distinct plots in the book. One is Lorkin's adventures in Sachaka. Apparently he wants to find old magic for some reason, but I don't really feel his excitement or know why it's important enough to him to risk his life going there. He just seems to want a grown-up adventure and a chance to prove himself. The unasked-for adventures that he gets should be a lot more exciting, but the gripping, engaging aspect of the previous books is missing.

The other plot sticks with Cery and Sonea in their separate spheres in Imardin. It's sort of a murder mystery, but it's hard to care because you're mainly getting the characters' inner dialogue on what's changed in the last 20 years, or speculating about how a situation could go 3 different ways. And there's not nearly enough magic to help make up for it - what there is is just incidental, like opening and closing doors, and some levitation. I think I've made my point by now - it just really dragged.

Can I also say that Sonea being an overprotective mother is not what I want to read about? That's the main addition to her character in this, other than the fact that she's been stuck in the same restrictions for the last 20 years. She really needs to move on from the past and find a way to gain the trust of the Guild so she can do more than work in the hospices. I expect (hope) that what happens in the rest of the trilogy gives her a way to do that, and to let her son be an adult. In other words, I'll have to go ahead and read the rest of the trilogy and hope it gets better. It's too late to turn back now.

Honestly, what's missing is the one person who can't make an encore appearance. No wonder it's so lackluster - all of the true mystery and the reason for everyone's existence is gone. The best character EVER leaves a gaping hole.

I am now more upset than ever that *The High Lord* ended the way it did. It could have had a way happier ending, everything resolved to some degree and - finished. Complete. I could have been so happy. Why? Why?

I WANT MY OLD BLACK MAGICIAN BACK!!!!
