



Elvenborn

Andre Norton , Mercedes Lackey

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In this long-awaited new novel in The Halfblood Chronicles, fantasy greats Norton and Lackey tell the enthralling story of the reclusive elvenlord Kyratian, who emerges as a hero in a world torn by politics and war. When his cousin, Aelmarkin, tries to prove that Kyratian is unfit to run his estate, the plan backfires, and soon Kyratian, who doesn't share the venal, greedy nature of his cousin, finds himself with more power than he ever wanted.

Like his father before him, Kyratian has always treated the humans on his estate like servants, instead of enslaving them as other elvenlords do. His father's legacy also leads Kyratian to learn ancient military skills long since lost to elvenkind through the carelessness of the elvenlords. Kyratian's rediscovered knowledge piques the interest of the current elvenlords, and soon Kyratian finds himself appointed the new commander of the army, to the relief of his ruling peers.

For the sons of the most powerful elvenlords, the Young Lords, have rebelled against their fathers and are waging war. But by taking advantage of both the privileges of his new command and the help of some unexpected new friends, Kyratian finally gains the resources to embark on his own, personal quest--resuming his father's search for the Great Portal, the magical doorway through which the original elvenlords entered this world.

As war rages between some sons and fathers, Kyratian searches desperately for his own lost father, hoping to uncover not only the mystery of his disappearance, but also the secret behind the origin of elvenkind.

Elvenborn Details

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Author : Andre Norton , Mercedes Lackey

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From Reader Review Elvenborn for online ebook

Lissibith says

As with the second book in this series, this one distinguishes itself from the first by introducing a new character who I found far more interesting than those we were given in the first volume. In this case it's Kurtian, an elf with the unlikely hobby of drilling his humans in military maneuvers. And as with the second book, this one is at its best when indulging in the unique perspective brought by this new character.

In a great many other respects, this book is competent but not great. The plot makes sense but isn't terribly surprising nor terribly tense. The characters aren't totally flat, but do sometimes seem to slot into trope-ish slots and venture very little out of them. Add to that how the end makes it feel more like this is the first part of a two-parter rather than an independent book in its own right, and this became an unsatisfying but not technically disappointing read.

Karen says

Loved as a 'tween...well this one was later.. loved as a college student. ;)

Randi says

So, I'd read this trilogy when I was a kid and remember REALLY enjoying it. This time around, though, I kept peeking at the end page number and wondering if I'd missed a fourth book all those years ago. It ends quite suddenly, tied up in a neat little package (except for the overwhelmingly encompassing arc of the tension between Elvenlords and Wizards which was simply dropped) with THIS book's (and in a way the last book's) main opposition disposed of.

The introduction of and focus on the new character is confusing simply because he seems to be an afterthought. Even those characters familiar with the Lords hear his name and tend to think, "oh, him? He's some crazy recluse. Never really think about the guy." However, it is enjoyable to have a fresh perspective that isn't solely antagonistic.

But again, the sudden end: disappointing. Overall story: good.

lyybravo says

Let not this cheesy cover fool you! Published only a few years before the legendary Andre Norton died, this is the final episode of a trilogy started long ago. For those tired of immortal, wise, nice elves, this is refreshing - the elves are the bad guys. Altogether a nice, relaxing read. I'd recommend the whole Elvenbane series for any fantasy/scifi lover.

Kara says

In the fantasy genre there are two types of elves.

The first type are short, tend to wear lederhosen, love to sing songs as they hang around workshops or gardens, are very loyal and diligent, and often have an amusing accent and amusingly odd shaped noses.

The second type are tall, thin, pale, and gorgeous, well dressed, good archers, very good at magic, and very well assured of their high ranking social status.

The Halfblood chronicles take the second type of elves to a whole new level. In this series elves rule a Middle Earth type setting. Elves are the masters, humans are the slaves, and intelligent, magic wielding, talking dragon live in secret, worried about exposing themselves to the magic the elven kind wield.

For the most part the elves treat humans as animals, but they also like to make harems of the prettiest humans. They try and regulate human breeding, because a human with human magic combined with an elf with elven magic results not in a doubling, but a squaring of magic, but occasionally a half-breed escapes their purges. The pot revolves around a half elven / half human who as born and managed to elude death. She was raised in secret by the dragons, and wrecks havoc on the elves when she comes of age.

A fun read for when your in the mood for some trashy fantasy.

Allison says

Loved these books & still so disappointed we won't get to read the final book.

Barry says

Most of the story is about an Elvenlord that treats his slaves as servants, and becomes involved with the wizards and Dragons during his search for his long lost father. Good story that involves the other characters into the story in various parts. A book that I will read more than once.

Victoria says

I suppose I came to this third book in the Halfblood Chronicles with quite a bit of anticipation. I read the first two books in the series a long time ago, and it was only recently that I saw that the authors had continued on. So, I brushed the dust of my original copies and re-read them so that I would be up to speed for this third volume. And while I enjoyed this addition quite a bit, I think the 2nd book, Elvenblood, remains my favorite of the series. What nettled me the most about this third book was the rather open ending. Though a fourth book was originally planned, to tentatively titled "Elvenbred" with Andre Norton's unfortunate death, it seems rather unlikely that the book will ever be written, let alone released. This knowledge certainly put a damper on my enjoyment of this book. The mortality of writers is such an unfortunate truth for readers! I'm

keeping my fingers crossed that Norton left behind an outline for Lackey to complete the series... though with the amount of time that has passed since this third book's publication, it seems rather unlikely that that this was the case...

Rose says

The thrilling third book in the series involves the most amazing characters, in addition to all the original caste, we have a young Elf Lord who treats his human slaves as free people, and whose father disappeared hunting for the Gate from their old world. I really loved this last book, but I thought that a fourth book would have been nice, the story was left open ended. This book has some 3d human characters, as well as some time with different good elves.

Janell Wheeler says

It was much harder to get into this final book in the series. The first 1/3 of the book introduces a whole new set of characters. I realize why and it was important but I just really wanted to get back into the original story line. The author did a good job bringing all aspects together and overall the book had a good ending. I was a little confused by the epilogue but it was a decent story. Not one I would re-read or even buy but a decent story. The ending seemed a bit rushed and the author left it open for additional books but I'm good. Overall a happy ending.

Ellen says

I don't know if this one is actually worse than the other two, or if it's just that I was so much older when I read it...

Catsalive says

This is the best & last book of the trilogy. The downside: The ending leaves you feeling that there is much more of the Halfblood tale to be told but this is all there is, there ain't no more. The upside: That's one less book I have to read.

Blou4432 says

Lou:

This third book in the Halfblood Chronicles will REALLY throw you off if you're expecting more wizard wars and dragons. I can honestly say that the first time I read this, I HATED the first half of the book. I just kept waiting for everyone to show up, and was quite annoyed that the whole thing was based around an

unknown Elven character that had nothing to do with anything in the previous two books. However, eventually our well-loved Halfbloods and dragons show their faces, and knowing that made me able to re-read this one several times. I don't like that it's VERY open-ended and the fourth book, "Elvenbred", may not ever come out due to the death of Andre Norton. This one is definitely harder to get through than the first two but it's still a great read.

Jennifer says

After learning in the first two books about the "evil" elves, it's nice to finally meet a few more of the decent sort. The themes of equality and cooperation are much stronger in this book. I found this one much more interesting than the second book because it comes from a completely different point of view than Shana's.

I hope the fourth book comes out!

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

I have to say, I'm glad I read these books late. Had I have to wait for this conclusion for this long, I'd have screamed. This last book is awesome. I love how it all came together. This is a fitting ending to a wonderful story. I liked Kyratian and found him to be very admirable. I highly recommend this book to fantasy lovers.

Matt says

This series needs a 4th book....I really enjoyed this book and it just ends when it seems like we are in for a great battle. Is this series going to get another book?

Leslie Pringle wrldgrrl says

Once again a sloooooowwwwww start then off on a quest which turned into a covert operation based on Kyratian's need to have a definitive answer to his father's disappearance. I found the switch of purpose to be, while not quite surprising, not quite believable either. This did lead to a rather climactic ending which I must admit, I hadn't quite seen coming. So well done with the twist.

LaShana seemed absent from this story. But in the middle it became obvious that she was being portrayed as more human and less of a super-hero. I thought that Mero stepped into a truly supportive role, using his talents at people management and letting Shana do what she did best, espionage and big picture thinking. What a dream come true for any leader. And I certainly couldn't have dealt with the whiny wizard elders so hats off to Mero.

Out of any of the sub-plots so far, Kyratian's far-away holding with people as partners rather than slaves, had the most depth. Many of the other storylines in the books of this series felt like a gloss over, not fully developed, therefore not fully enthralling either. I liked Kyratian and his family.

I am curious as to what happened with Triana and the Great Portal, but really, I kept going this far so I could check off the box marked Trilogy in the 2015 Reading Challenge. That being said, yah, I am a sucker for a series so I'd probably follow along if book four ever comes out. The ending of book three was such an

obvious set-up for the next book that I think the ghost of Andre Norton needs to be channelled by Mercedes Lackey. I don't know the ins and outs, but for whatever reason, Ms. Lackey has not been able to produce the fourth book after Ms. Norton's death in 2005 at the ripe old age of 93.

If you have more time than I have, checked out this interactive genealogy and map.

<http://andre-norton.org/halfblood/ln....>

Krista Wayment says

Much like the previous book this one did not stick in my mind very well. I picked it up not because I liked the first two very much - but because I was curious. I wanted to know what would happen in this book. I do however remember thinking it was my favorite. (Note: There are hints of adult content, and themes. But I found it milder than the first two, from what I recall. But I would not recommend for young readers.)

Katie Miller says

I really enjoyed this series; I enjoyed many of the characters, particularly Keman, Rena, Lorryn, Shana, Viridina, Lady Moth, Gel, and Kyrlian, but many of the ones I liked were not in the third book. Many were, which is fine. This book seemed somewhat disconnected from the others in the series-more that there were three books, not a trilogy, which is perhaps what the author intended. The ending was very unsatisfying; they didn't really explain how they plan on avoiding the great lords forever-do they plan on hiding out forever? One of my biggest problems with the series is that they will build up this plot of a troublesome character-oh no! what are they going to do?-and then they just randomly kill them off. Problem solved, but it feels like a discarded plot to me. Still, I liked the writing style, the different groups of people, and I particularly enjoyed learning about how many elves there were who did not agree with the great lords, and how they were able to circumvent the system in different ways. The writing is engaging, I liked many of the characters, and the story was good. I wish the story had continued or had a more finished ending, but oh well.

Cherry Mischievous says

Third book of the Halfblood Chronicles by Andre Norton and Mercedes Lackey.

Genre: epic fantasy

My Review:

Interesting but not very good.

It took me a long time to read this book. The ending was a bit of an anti-climax. The pleasure is more on the reading of their adventure rather than what happened at the end. The authors are admittedly a good spinner of a tale, but did not quite pull it off in the end, which was rather surprising. This book is almost like a WGC (wild goose chase) that Heroes Adrift by Moira Moore is.

There were a few salient points in the story that the authors completely missed to exploit. They either did this intentionally with an intent of another book to follow or they just completely missed, hence the flat ending. I think they intended to follow this book up in the beginning. But it seems that got cancelled as shown by

Mercedes Lackey's website that this series is supposedly to have four books. The fourth book being Elvenbred. But Elvenbred was never published (yet).

Cherry's Rating: 2 out of 5
