



Children of Amarid

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Tobyn-Ser is a gentle, bounteous land of small villages and close-knit communities, of dark woods and swift-running streams, of broad plains and clear lakes. But its idyllic peace is being disturbed by terrible rumors of mages seen committing horrible, violent acts, destroying crops, burning villages to the ground, and murdering innocents. The rumors even say that Theron may have returned from beyond death. But the truth is even worse: there is a traitor among the Children of Amarid, one who threatens not only to disrupt the Order but to destroy all of Tobyn-Ser, using strange, foreign powers that are beyond everyone's wildest imagination.

Children of Amarid Details

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Author : David B. Coe

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Sam Morris says

Edited 10/06/2014 5:16pm

After reading and rereading this book a few times, I have come to the conclusion that this book was very well done, at least in terms of construction and plot lines. There are several things in the book that I have noticed that struck me as odd or as incomplete, so if you shall allow me to share this with you guys.

All of the construction of the mage craft was good, however, more time could have been spent on describing how well the owl or hawk bonds with the mage. Instead of focusing so much on the backline storyline of the book, which was indeed hard to follow up with, but seeing as it's the first book in the series, I let it slide a little. Descriptions could have been a little more, condensed. It is set in the fantasy world, however, the author could have taken more of his time and our time describing more important views on the book or split the lengthy descriptions.

The romance in the book. What more can I say? The boy always gets the girl. I am somewhat unhappy with every fantasy author's choice to make them get their dream girl. They should have some obstacle. Plus, falling in love is never that easy.

With that being said, I did give this book a 4 star out of a 5. Why? Because I thoroughly enjoyed the content. It let me pick up the book more than twice and read it again and again, even if it means skimming through the more boring pages. Can't wait to read the second of this series!

Jennifer says

Such a disappointment compared to his achievement with *The Winds of the Forelands*. Although Coe still shows himself to be an imaginative mastermind, the plot and characters just did not grab me like the *Forelands* series did.

Nicole Luiken says

Cool magic and an interesting world, but the pacing was too slow for my taste, with lots of travelling and description. At the beginning it felt like Jaryd would be our central character, but by the end it felt like Baden had taken over a bit. The author's first novel.

Cathleen Ash says

Epic fantasy at its best! Coe captures a world and its history in this fast-moving, magical adventure. Ride with Jaryd as he travels the world of Tobbyn-Ser, coming to terms with his powers and the plight of the land under the oppression of mages destroying crops and laying waste to villages.

Jaryd's ready to start training the moment he leaves his family, but the trail is a difficult one and one thing after another gets in the way. Coe keeps us wrapped in the story of the present, the history of the past and the prophecy of the future as the Children of Amarid fight to save the land and their way. Jaryd just wants to survive another day.

Peter Smith says

Nice light easy reading page turner! I like the intricate heavy plotted fantasies too, but sometimes you need a nice good vs evil page turner and this definitely doesn't disappoint.

T J says

This is the story of Jayrd, a young man from Tobyn-Sir, finds that his nightmares are more than dreams. In a land of magic and the Order of Hawk and Owl-mages, we find that something deadly has come to destroy the peace the land has seen for centuries. This was an exciting read with many twist and turns. Looking forward to the next book The Outlanders.

Fatbaldguy60 says

I enjoyed this one. I will be picking up the other two in this trilogy. There was some sense that the two new mages were a bit more powerful than was probably realistic. However, upon reflection, they did not really do major magics, but the visions people had of them being very powerful later were slightly offputting.

I liked the magic system and would have liked more explication about the reasons owl masters are more powerful than hawk mages, and some more background on eagle mages. In addition, one of the powerful old mages was bound to a wolf, but in the thousand year history of the Order, no one else bound to another animal?

At first the writing around the bad guy's identity, and later confusion about different suspects turned me off, but Coe kept it reasonably short and revealed things in good time.

Good stuff.

Paul says

This was the first book of his that I ever read, and it instantly earned my obsession into his other works. I have much admiration for his ability to build love for characters, and then kill them off unremorsefully.

Dan says

I thought that this was a great book, and Coe is probably my favorite author between these and the Winds of the Forelands and Blood of the Southlands collections.

As I did with Coe's other series, I'm going to provide my review of the entire series here.

I greatly enjoyed this series, with very few objections. I thought that the predictions of Jaryd and Alanna's strength was overwrought what with the foreshadowing already present in *Amarid's Hawk*, and that the plot tended to become just a bit predictable, but I thought that the ancillary characters were well drawn out and in depth, with some of them being the best in the series, including the main antagonist (I won't put a name on the antagonist, to avoid spoilers, haha). Baden was probably my favorite character in the series, being one of the more complicated and imaginative mentor characters that you might see in other fantasy collections.

I do wish that Coe had added the same type of intrigue in this series as he had in his other ones, but it was a great effort, and the series actually progressed quite well, with the third and final book of the trilogy being my favorite. The second book did slow the pace a bit, but not in a dragging way, and with necessary plot points, and it's own share of action. The first book was quick paced, gave great in-depth character profiles, and set the scene beautifully. Definately a good read if you're a fan of Coe, but not as good as his Winds of the Foreland series (then again, very little can possibly be better than that series, haha).

Oliver Neubert says

I don't know if I like this book or not.

I liked: Character development, the idea of Hawk and Owl-Mages and the binding with birds, Alayna's conflict with doubt, betrayal and finding love, the setting of the story.

I didn't like: long drawn out descriptions, repeated scenarios viewed from different point of views, modern weapon technology in an old magical story, the ending of the outlanders through a(I don't want to spoil the story).

In the end I skipped over the last fifty pages because I lost interest.

Malik Strong says

This was the first book I read by David. My mother gave it to me to read, and from there I was on my way to an awesome journey of fantasy. It wasn't until years later that I found out it was a series. This is a must read!

Joshua Palmatier says

This is the first book by David B. Coe that I've read (and it's his debut novel). I'm not sure why I never got around to buying this at first, since I distinctly remember seeing it on the shelf and being interested, but it took a long time before I actually purchased it. I should have started it sooner.

The main strengths of the writing are the characterization and the worldbuilding. Coe has created a group of characters and presented these world in such a way that you are drawn in and care about them and the world and want to find out what happens to them. I liked Jaryd and Baden and the rest, and the story and world was interesting enough to keep me reading.

But I also had a few issues with the writing. It's rather dense, meaning that there are lots of long paragraphs and descriptions and such. While I don't really mind dense work, what was usually covered in these dense parts were long interior monologues of the current viewpoint character--the reasoning behind what they were doing, or an argument they were having with themselves, or in some instances a long "recollection" of a story of their past or whatever that perhaps gave some motivation for their current line of thought or an upcoming decision. That's what I didn't like. I thought that most of this interior dialogue could have been cut or expressed in a much faster fashion, and I thought it was often repetitive.

Something else that bothered me a little (but not much) was that the magic system used the idea of a "familiar," typically a bird, but I didn't feel like the familiar was used to its greatest effect in the course of the story. They were there, they were used occasionally, but they could have been used MORE and the bond between mage and familiar could have been developed more to make the loss of a familiar stronger.

However, having said that, I do think the book was strong and I intend to read the rest of the series as well as future Coe books. Part of me is hoping that the long dense paragraphs is simply a product of this being a debut novel and Coe will learn to shorten them or find another way to get these ideas across, but even if it is instead part of Coe's style I'll still continue to read his works. I'd definitely recommend the books to everyone who enjoys a good fat fantasy. *grin*

Dia says

This book was awesome. A friend of mine lent it to me because we discovered our mutual love of fantasy books. Really the only thing that could have made this book better would be dragons. Instead, I got a greater appreciation for birds.

The ending would have been disappointing except I know there is a second book and it is available for me to read.

Arne says

Great Book, nice start of the series

Minouschka says

One of the first books fantasy books I ever bought. what an amazing book. In our bookstores there was already Harry Potter but all I could think of was to buy this book instead.
