



The Rising

Ian Tregillis

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The second book in the Alchemy Wars trilogy by Ian Tregillis, an epic tale of liberation and war.

Jax, a rogue Clakker, has wreaked havoc upon the Clockmakers' Guild by destroying the Grand Forge. Reborn in the flames, he must begin his life as a free Clakker, but liberation proves its own burden.

Berenice, formerly the legendary spymaster of New France, mastermind behind her nation's attempts to undermine the Dutch Hegemony -- has been banished from her homeland and captured by the Clockmakers Guild's draconian secret police force.

Meanwhile, **Captain Hugo Longchamp** is faced with rallying the beleaguered and untested defenders of Marseilles-in-the-West for the inevitable onslaught from the Brasswork Throne and its army of mechanical soldiers.

The Rising Details

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Author : Ian Tregillis

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Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Steampunk, Fiction, Alternate History, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review *The Rising* for online ebook

Cathy says

I haven't been a tremendous fan of historical fiction or alternate histories in recent years, but this series has me captivated. The alternate history that Tregillis has created with the Dutch ruling much of the world through the power they've commanded through controlling their mechanical servants has so much depth and breadth, it's fascinating. This book was quite different from the first. The first set everything up, it established who the characters were and what they wanted and brought things to a crisis point. In this book things went wild.

It had so much energy, so much desperation and motion and emotion. Seldom have I felt such a sense of jeopardy in a battle situation as with the New French besieged by the Dutch and the Clackers. Really just the Clackers, the Dutch people didn't do any of the fighting. Those military Clackers are truly intimidating. They're ridiculously hard to stop, incredibly strong and capable of killing with tremendous speed and violence, they don't need to sleep or rest, weather doesn't effect them, they can jump over or climb over almost any obstacle. They were pretty darn terrifying at any technology level, much less with the limited resources available at the time of this book. It was interesting to see all of the ways in which the French fought back, Tregillis certainly thought it through. Normally I get bored during battles in books and end up skimming through them, whether it's hand-to-hand or big armies. But I read all of the scenes in this book, they were compelling.

I missed the historical and scientific elements that were in the first book, the way the author wove real historical events and peoples' work into the story. Those elements became much of the foundation for the series. But that was already established, and this was the next step. I'm glad he didn't try to force references to historical figures or events to try and sound like an intellectual. Some authors might have thought that was they're calling card, so to speak, and felt obligated to stick with that style. But if it didn't serve the story then it didn't need to be in there, he made the right choices. Even the philosophical musings and debates that the first book generated weren't explored as much in this book. Questions about free will versus determinism, and freedom versus slavery, and power corrupting, were only briefly touched upon. It was like a snowball effect, or maybe an avalanche. Jax/Daniel and Berenice got the ball rolling so strongly by the end of the first book that now there was no stopping it, everyone just had to try to manage the crisis, and that superseded all else. As Hugo said, "Make it quick. I've got dying to do."

This is definitely not a stand-alone book, I'd highly recommend reading *The Mechanical* first. There wasn't a lot of recap and understanding the characters and the storylines in this book was strongly dependent on having read the first book and having the depth of knowledge that provided. But it was an exciting story. When I think back on it, I can't really think of what all went on that too 450 pages to tell it, other than the siege and battles, but like I said, I was never bored. And it was a fast read, it didn't bog me down at all. And it had a decent sized font, that was a nice thing. And the end, whew, that's another game changer. I'm very interested to see what goes on in the next book, very interested.

Wied?ma says

W pewnym sensie autor niczym nie zaskoczy? czytelników. Wydarzenia rozgrywaj? si? w dobrze ju? znanym uniwersum, wi?kszo?? postaci pojawi?a si? w poprzednim tomie, a ogólna tematyka pozostaje bez

zmian. Niemniej jednak rozwinięcia fabularne, na jakie zdecydował się Tregillis nieraz zaskakują czytelnika, i to w pozytywnym sensie. W "Powstaniu" pełno jest zwrotów akcji i ogólnej dynamiki, co przekłada się na to, że książkę trudno jest odłożyć na bok. Cięty język Longchampa i pełen wulgaryzmów sposób wyrażania się Berenice mogą niektórych czytelników razić, ale prawda jest taka, że bardzo pasuje to ogólnego klimatu powieści i opisanych tam wydarzeń.

Całość na: <http://wiedzma-czyta.blogspot.com/201...>

Lisa says

Full review at Tenacious Reader: <http://www.tenaciousreader.com/2016/0...>

The Rising by Ian Tregillis continues to explore the rights of the mechanicals and the war between France and Netherlands continues. In fact, the war dominates. This book is much faster and I feel like it featured more action than the first book. While action is good, I have to confess that is not what made me love The Mechanical. I love the exploration of freedom and free will and how that relates to the Mechanicals, I also loved the concept of deciphering at what point a machine may have enough independent thought of its own to be declared a sentient being deserving of its own rights and privileges. I did miss that a bit in this book, but not too much as the groundwork was laid in book one, and it continues to a driving force in book 2. I guess it's the difference between the introduction of new ideas which takes longer and the continuing pursuit of them, which relies on your knowledge from the previous book. So while my overall experience with this book was a bit different from the first, it was still very good.

As much as I enjoyed the entire book, I have to say I found the ending of this book to be phenomenal. I'm definitely looking forward to the third novel in this trilogy.

Brandt says

Considering that *The Mechanical* was one of my favorite novels of 2015, I was surprised at the short shrift I gave the novel in my review. This was entirely due to the fact that I was afraid that by discussing the philosophical elements of *The Mechanical* I would inadvertently blow certain plot points that may damage enjoyment of the first volume of the *Alchemy Wars*. Now that you are reading *The Rising*, I feel a little more comfortable being less obtuse about the book. But that's not even where I am going to start.

One of the problems with trilogies is that the second act can be tricky. Sometimes, when it works, it really works (think *The Empire Strikes Back*) and other times it can be a pointless waste of time (is there anything more boring than the Entmoot from *The Two Towers* It prides itself on being a boring, drawn-out waste of time!) Mostly though it exists as some sort of filler to get you from point A to point C, which is where the good stuff tends to happen. *The Rising*, the second novel of the *Alchemy Wars* falls more into *The Empire Strikes Back* category.

When Ian Tregillis wrote *The Mechanical* we are introduced to Jax, who is a clockwork man that is bound by the geasa instilled in him by the Alchemists who created him. Through his travels the geasa are broken and Jax enjoys unfettered freedom. Unfortunately he is terrible at hiding his condition and reveals himself to others of his kind, who have a built-in alarm from their makers for revealing the "rogue" mechanical. In

addition, the Clockmakers Guild has figured out a way to impose the geasa on a human subject, which they do. Compelled as he is by the geasa (or suffer great pain), he goes on a killing spree that takes out those who may be a threat to the guild. Ultimately, however, the core of the *Alchemy Wars* is whether free will is an illusion. The mechanicals are subject to the geasa as a condition of their existence, when one receives free will as Jax does, is free will an illusion to them? Conversely, as a Catholic priest, Visser believes in free will, but the Clockmakers impose the geasa on him, the pain of which compels him to go against his nature. Is free will an illusion or is it as Visser thinks--that he is simply too weak to fight the pain?

These questions are explored more deeply in *The Rising*. But don't take this to mean that this book is a boring by any stretch of the imagination. Not only do we follow the adventures of Jax, the French Captain Longchamp and the former spymaster Berenice, but we are introduced to the fact that in any conflict, there are often more than two power blocks involved in the overall conflict. Also, even though the concept of "metageasa" is introduced in this volume, discussion of it is far from boring, and helps move along the narrative.

Like *The Empire Strikes Back*, *The Rising* leaves most of its characters in the shit when it is done. I don't think this will come as a surprise to any readers who have made it through *The Mechanical*. But it's the kind of shit--the finely textured shit that great trilogies are made of that make this worth the read. I was shocked to see *The Rising* published in calendar 2015. Here's to hoping the final volume drops sometime in 2016, because the cliffhanger Tregillis leaves you feeling the geasa caused pain of a story unfinished.

Bob says

An intense, action-filled, powerful second volume in the Alchemy Wars trilogy. A great read! REALLY looking forward to the October release of *The Liberation*!

Jason Pettus says

(Reprinted from the Chicago Center for Literature and Photography [cclapcenter.com]. I am the original author of this essay, as well as the owner of CCLaP; it is not being reprinted illegally.)

Last month I gave a favorable review to Ian Tregillis' *The Mechanical*, part 1 of a coming alt-history trilogy that imagines what the world would be like if the Dutch Empire had managed to invent robots in the 1600s; so that's why I don't have much to say about volume 2 of the series, *The Rising*, that I didn't already say in that original review. Exactly more of the same, it's perhaps best not to think of these as three different books in the first place, but rather one super-long three-part saga that is well worth any alt-history fan's time, one of those perfect genre exercises that combines thought-provoking philosophical issues with fast-moving action set-pieces, all within a deeply well-thought-out alternative universe that will make minds race with the possibilities. A strong recommendation for sci-fi fans; although as always with genre novels like these, it can be easily skipped by those who aren't already aficionados.

Out of 10: **8.9**, or **9.4** for fans of alt-history novels

Ints says

Al?mi?u karu pirmo gr?matu The Mechanical es aprakst?ju jau p?rn? gada mart?. Šo gr?matu dab?ju laic?gi, bet uz las?šanu nu nek?di nesp?ju sa?emties. Vienm?r atrad?s k?da gr?mata, kas aizl?da rindai priekš?. Bet nekas, janv?r? pien?ca ar? š?s k?rta.

K? jau tas bija sagaid?ms, st?sts ir velt?ts atbr?vošan?s karam. Holandieši zem sava Orandža tro?a ir sav?kuši visu pasauli. Vi?i ir domin?još? n?cija visa pasaul?. Holandiešu hegemonija neaptver vien p?ris teritorijas. T?s, kuras nav piem?rotas dz?vošanai un t?s, kur?s valda Jaun? Francija.

Jax ir aizb?dzis no saviem vaj?t?jiem, tas nebija viegli, ta?u br?v?ba ir t? v?rta. Viena lieta ir, ja tavu gribu apspiež Pulkste?meistaru ierobežojumi, kas dedzina pr?tu, otra, ja vari doties, kur acis r?da. Š?dam dump?gam klakerim jau nemaz nav daudz t?du vietu, vi?a m?r?is ir karalienes Mabas zemes. Taj?s m?tot br?vie klakeri, kuriem nav saimnieku un pav??u. Ar? šaj? gr?mat? Jax ir centr?lais person?žs diskusij? par br?vo gribu un par to, kas ir br?v?ba visp?r. Jax s?kum? dom?, ka atbr?vojoties no saimnieka, viš k??st piln?gi br?vs, un nekas vi?u vairs nesp?s pak?aut. Ta?u br?v?ba uzliek ar? pien?kumus, viš var?tu atbērties visiem cilv?kiem, var?tu censties atbr?vot citus savas nelaimes br??us, var?tu g?zt Pulkste?meistarus. Ta?u katra š?da r?c?ba rad?tu noteiktas sekas, un tikai vien?gi viš var izv?l?ties savu ce?u. Var?tu teikt šaj? jom? Jax ir revol?cijas iesp?jamais vadonis, ta?u vi?u š? loma absol?ti nesaista. Ta?u ir lietas, kuras izdar?t var tikai viš.

Berenise – iepriekš galven? Jaun?s Francijas spiedze. Ta?u nu vi?ai pien?kuši gr?ti laiki. No savas valsts vi?a ir patriekta, non?kusi Pulkste?meistaru g?st?. Ta?u g?sts un padz?šana nenoz?m?, ka vi?a var aizmirst savu valsti. Valsts tevi var nodot, bet tu valsti – nekad! Pat bezizejas situ?cij? vi?a v?c inform?ciju, kas, ja paveiksies, var noder?t. Vi?ai š? lieta padodas ?oti labi, un š?iet, ka vi?as rok?s non?k nosl?pums, ar kura pal?dz?bu b?tu iesp?jams izmain?t sp?ku l?dzsvaru pasaul?. Pulkste?meistari savus nosl?pumus nevienam neizpauž, ta?u tas t? nebija pirms?kums. Tad Pulkste?meistari nebija apvienoti ?ild?s, un dažs labs bija nopietns eksperiment?t?js, kas nepak??v?s industrijas standartam, t?d?? pasaul? joproj?m ir atrodi artefakti, kuri ?auj izprast klakeru b?t?bu un pat izmain?t tos. K? varone Berenise ir ciniska ide?liste, vi?as intereses tiek pak?rtotas valsts interes?m, un vi?a par karali ir gatava atdot dz?v?bu. Protams, ja vien tas kaut k? pal?dz?tu karalim.

Kapteinis Hugo Long?amps ir Rietum-Marse?as aizst?v?bas organiz?t?js. Jaun?s Francijas galvaspils?ta jau daudzas reizes ir atsituši Oranž? tro?a uzbrukumus, ta?u šoreiz holandieši ir ??rušies lietai kl?t pa ?stam. Negl?bs pat slaven? fran?u ??mija, visa Jaun? Francija ir iespiesta p?d?j? citadele, un skaidrs, ka ienaidnieks g?st? nevienu ne?ems. Hugo ir ?stens karav?rs, viš nepadodas pat, ja kauja ir zaud?ta, jo vienm?r var nedaudz atk?pties un p?rgrup?ties. Visa vi?a dz?ve sast?v no š?das atk?pšan?s un p?rgrup?šan?s, jauniesauktie ir tot?li mu??i. Lai gan ko tur, pat veter?ni neko nesp?j padar?t klakerim, kas ticis uz m?ra. C??as izn?kums ir izlemts jau br?d?, kad Francijas vald?bas atliekas nodibin?ja Jauno Franciju Amerik?. Ta?u tas nenoz?m?, ka Hugo piedurkn?s neb?tu pasl?pti p?ris trumpji.

Gr?mata ir aizraujoša, ko gan citu var?tu sagaid?t no atbr?vošanas kara apraksta? Nevar gan zin?t, kurš kuru v?l ?sti atbr?vos, bet tas j?izlasa pašiem. Pasaule ir perfekta ar detaliz?ciju un izstr?d?tiem pamatkonceptiem. Autors joproj?m pieturas pie re?lisma, jo š? ir tikai alternat?v? v?sture. T?d?? lasot š?iet, j?, ja k?ds b?tu izdom?jis klakerus, tad, iesp?jams, viss t? ar? notiktu. Tagad visi run?tu holandiski no pola l?dz polam. Man joproj?m pat?k autora izgudrot? alternat?v? v?sture un t?s pagrieziens punkts, kura notikumi tiek izst?st?ti šaj? trilo?ij?.

Grāmatai lieku 10 no 10 ballēm. Domājuši mehānismi ar apspiestu brīvo gribu, tīsk robežu izsmēršana mehanizējot bioloģiskās cilvķkū un vīl pķris Pulksteķmeistaru noslķpumi, tas viss padara šo grāmatu par izcilu pirmķs turpinķjumu. Noteikti izlasiet, patieķķm laba. Pats nepacietķģi gaidķķšu nķkamo daķu, ķķs grāmatas beigķs bija nodrukķta pirmķ nodaķa, un tķ patieķķm bija iespaidķģa. Beidzot uzinķķsim par Pulksteķmeistariem no paķiem Pulksteķmeistariem.

Gosia says

Genialne, wciķģajķce i niesamowite. Kocham te dylematy moralne, nieoczywistych bohaterów i akcje. Nie czķsto wciķģam siķ w trylogiķ, ale w tym przypadku juķ czekam na finaķ!

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2016/01/04/a...>

I loved Ian Tregillis' *The Mechanical*, and I'm pleased to report the sequel does not disappoint. Although I still have to give edge to the first book—mainly because the impact it had on me was so profound and unexpected—*The Rising* takes up the baton and carries on running at full throttle, ramping up the action while still keeping the themes of historical fantasy and existential philosophy at the forefront.

The *Alchemy Wars* series is part fantasy, part alternate history and part steampunk, bringing together magic and mechanical men before a backdrop set in the early 1900s. France and the Netherlands are at war, with the Dutch having the upper hand thanks to the might of their clockwork automaton army. *The Rising* picks up where *The Mechanical* left off, with former spymaster Berenice exiled in disgrace and Jax the rogue Clakker on the run from his mechanical brethren who are still enslaved to their Dutch masters. Meanwhile, Captain Hugo Longchamp has taken over the defenses of Marseilles-in-the-West, France's stronghold in the new world.

Most of the story in this second volume is told through the perspectives of these three characters, following the development of the conflict on multiple fronts. The war takes center stage, with the Dutch army of mechanicals preparing a full on assault. Berenice is an escaped prisoner fleeing from enemy lands while attempting to uncover the secrets of the alchemical sigils that power the Clakker geasa. Longchamp's chapters throw readers in the thick of things, following his efforts to protect the French king and to recruit more men and women to the cause. However, it is Jax with the most bizarre quest of all, as he makes his way deeper into the northern wilderness and stumbles upon Neverland, the fabled community of rogue mechanicals ruled by their leader Queen Mab.

The Rising distinguishes itself from its predecessor by being more fast-paced and action-oriented. The intrigue and violence comes at you nonstop, and in fact, almost all of Longchamp's sections are characterized by heavy, protracted battle sequences. I'm all for action, don't get me wrong—but ironically I can't help but feel that this was what made this sequel comparatively less compelling than *The Mechanical*, which was more subdued but also deeper and more cerebral. Still, I loved *The Rising* because of its strengths in different areas; I for one greatly enjoyed how this novel takes us on a detour down a wilder and more explosive path.

But that doesn't mean we don't get any of the heartfelt philosophical questions and existential discourse, because we do—and that's most apparent when you look at the transformation in Jax's character as he examines his own identity and purpose. The more I read, the more I'm starting to think of The Alchemy Wars as being Jax's series, even though he is only one of many key players. From the moment he achieved release from his geas, his journey has been an exploration into the meaning of free will and its significance for moral responsibility. Discovering Neverland in this book is another turning point for his character, and this eye-opening experience subsequently leads to many far-reaching consequences.

Finally, we have Berenice, who is a classic Tregillis protagonist. By that, I mean she is fascinating, complicated, and wonderfully flawed. And like a lot of Tregillis characters, she has also been put through the wringer. Berenice's motivations have been shaped by an extremely painful and traumatic experience from the first book, and the guilt from that event drives her still. So when the dark side of her personality emerges, it's hard not to sympathize even if you disagree with her methods. Though her investigations into horologist secrets may ultimately help Clackers gain their freedom, never doubt for a moment that this is a lady with violence on her mind and vengeance in her heart. Complex characters like her are what makes Ian Tregillis' books such fun to read.

Additional thoughts on the audiobook: I opted to try the audio edition of The Rising because of the positive reviews I saw for The Mechanical audiobook. This is the first time I've ever listened to an audiobook read by narrator Chris Kayser, and for the most part I think he delivered a good performance, other than a few words he kept mispronouncing (I've never heard someone say "chimera" like that). I also found it jarring that he would say almost all the French names and other French words in the correct accent and pronunciation, with one major exception—Longchamp (I'm from Canada, I can't help but notice these things). It's probably an intentional choice, and in truth it was more amusing than annoying; overall it didn't impact my enjoyment of the book, but it was distracting enough that I'm torn as to whether or not I want to continue with the audio for the next installment. I'm just being picky though, and I'm sure it'll be fine for others.

In short, I can't find too many faults with this book. Tregillis bides his time in this second act, bringing things slowly to a boil, yet action scenes are heavier and more frequent, and if that's what you prefer then you might find you'll enjoy The Rising even more than The Mechanical! The ending's cliffhanger was expected, but no less powerful and effective in making me yearn for the next in the series. The Alchemy Wars is not to be missed.

Aildiin says

Very strong second novel in a trilogy.

The story has us follow 3 characters :

- Jax the freed Clacker who is trying to reach others freed Clackers.
- Berenice, the former spy mistress for the king of France in exile.
- Hugo, the captain of the defense of Marseilles in the West. His is the best role by far, he is full of snarky and desperate humor and makes for a wonderful character.

The book is jam packed with action as Marseilles in the West becomes under siege one third of the way in and part of the story focuses on the desperate defense of the city. At the same time we learn more things on how Clackers are controlled and a new hidden power is introduced.

Highly recommended book. I was very close to give it 5 stars.

Lancer says

Wow, this took everything that was great about the first book and made even greater.

The three way battle over free will continues as the Dutch, French, and mechanicals (clackers) go for broke. This book really ups the tension and action which continues to the final words in the book.

This is absolutely one of my favourite new "universes" or settings. With strong male and female (and mechanical) characters on all sides of this conflict, all fighting for control of the mechanicals (including the mechanicals fighting for control of themselves) this entry really sets up the third book. I don't want to add any spoilers but I will say this: read these books, you won't be disappointed!

Fantasy Literature says

I thoroughly enjoyed Ian Tregillis' *The Mechanical*, the first book in his *THE ALCHEMY WARS* series, and I'm happy to say that book two, *The Rising*, continues the story in strong fashion, showing not a whit of sophomore slump.

The series is set in an alternative history world where Christiaan Huygens' discoveries led to the Netherlands dominating the world via a mechanical army of "Clackers." The sole resistance is led by the French in North America's "New France," (old France has already been conquered) whose capital, *Marseilles-in-the-West* (Montreal) is under siege.

As with *The Mechanical*, Tregillis splits the story of... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

P42 says

Zegarmistrzowie NADAL k?ami?!

+ ta ksi??ka jest tak filmowa, ?e naprawd? nie wiem, na co oni czekaj? w tym hollywood

+ nadal zachwyca mnie ta wizja podzielonego ideologicznie pod tym wzgl?dem ?wiata oraz to, ?e s? tylko dwa pa?stwa

+ zaskoczy?a mnie, tytu?owe "Powstanie" nie by?o takie oczywiste

+ autor stworzy? sobie drog? do nast?pnego tomu na ostatniej stronie

- ratujcie mnie przed perspektyw? Longchampa... jest TAK NUDNA w por?wnaniu do przyg?d Berenice i Jax'a, ?e a? nie pasuje do ksi??ki

Dawn says

++SPOILERS++

4.5 stars (revised from 3.5 after further reflection 2-14-2017)

Good but a bit slower than the first book.

I'm glad that bitch Bernice's plans got foiled in the end, and I was happy to see Lillith back. I hope she returns in the next book too.

What put me off was the long winded battle scenes, I skimmed alot of them. I had no love of the Captain, and was exasperated about hearing about him so much.

Was it really necessary to have so much cursing all the time? I'mno prude, but it just seemed overdone. It also seemed like everything smelled of sour milk, and people lost bladder control all the time in the face of fear.

I was amazed at how Bernice went from having a crushed windpipe to talking so soon after.

Bernice. I hate that character, she is such a c-nt. I think she is what I hear so many people call an anti-hero(heroine). Or is she an antagonist? I'm not sure.

Anyrate, the book was good, I plan to read the next.

Safety: violence detailed and gorey, cursing.

Bradley says

You know, I just can't tell whether this novel just happens to have solved any of the issues of the one directly prior to it, whether I preferred it because it was filled with a lot less outright torture, whether this just happened to tickle all my funnybones at exactly the right time, or whether I've just gotten used to the writing style and it just doesn't bother me anymore.

Any way I look at it, though, I loved this second novel. I had no issues with any of the main characters, even if mr. robot suddenly changed his name to Daniel. Wtf? Anyway. It doesn't matter. He's still awesome.

Longchamp turns out to be one hell of a military leader and the blood and guts sections are mercifully spread out and don't overwhelm the flow of the text. That being said, it injected quite a bit of life in the tale.

Berenice, as untrustworthy as she is, made a truly interesting and wonderful addition to this novel. I liked her much better here than in the first, but that may be mostly because she redeemed herself by the end of the first, at least as a cool character. :)

More than anything, the denouement of this novel was truly fantastic. It's one thing to have disparate characters doing their own things for wildly different reasons, but it's essential that the whole package gets

giftwrapped and handed to us, the eager readers. What can I say? The payoff was DELICIOUS.

There were a TON of great reversals and high-tension moments throughout the novel. It is a gem of pacing.

But most of all, the end of this novel was what I expected to happen at the end of the first novel, so now, all my faith has been restored. Hell, I wouldn't have minded at all if *The Mechanical* and *The Rising* get re-released as a single novel. Or who knows, include the third in as well, once it gets released. And then we'll all sigh a grand sigh of relief. :)
