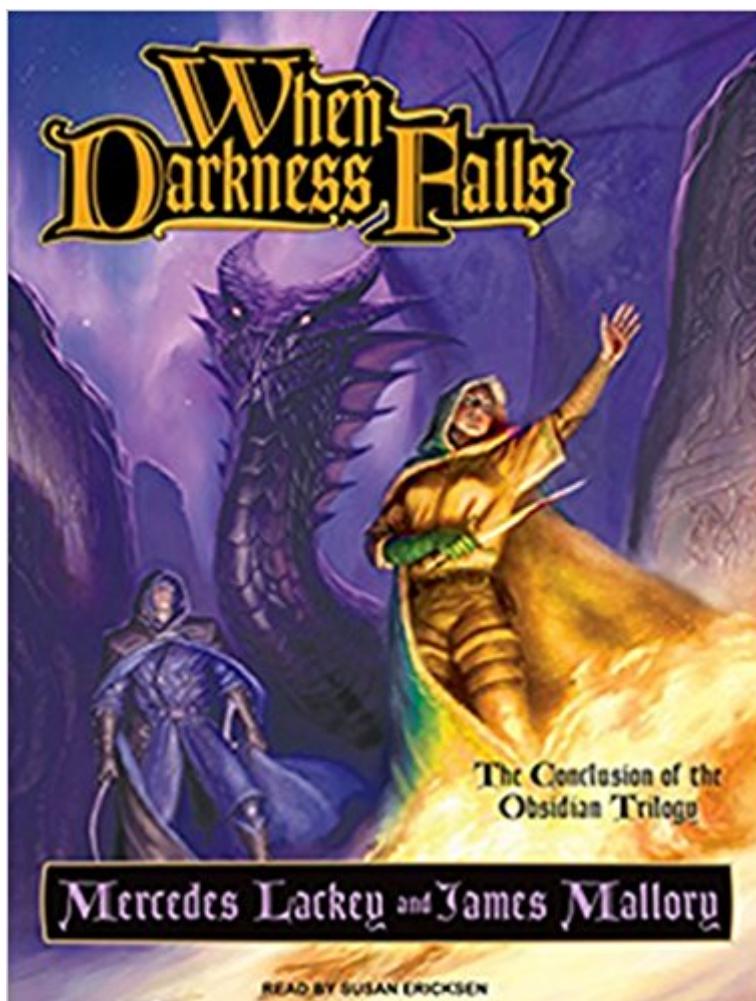


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# When Darkness Falls (Obsidian)



## Synopsis

A great working of Wild Magic and High Magic strikes at the heart of the Demon Queen's plots, but the human city, the Golden City of the Bells, falls farther under her sway with each day that passes. And without the City's High Magicians, the Wild Magicians, the Elven Army, and all their allies will surely fall before the onslaught of the Demon Queen's malignant warriors. But not all hope is lost. The Light's young mages, tempered by war, grow ever more powerful. High Mage Cilarnen learns an ancient secret that can make him, for a brief, white-hot time, the greatest mage in the world-unless it kills him. Jermayan, the first Elf-Mage in centuries, has linked with the dragon Ancaladar and rediscovered the swift-as-thought powers of Elven magic, which can reshape mountains and summon lightning from clear skies. Knight-Mage Kellen has molded his troops and the Unicorn Knights into a deadly fighting force. Soon the Elven King and his Commanders put Kellen's magical gifts to their greatest test, in the final battle between the Elves, the humans, and the Demons.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At the start of Lackey and Mallory's highly readable conclusion to their Obsidian fantasy trilogy (after 2004's *To Light a Candle*), Knight-Mage [Kellen], leader of the alliance of humans and elves, has his work cut out for him when the forces of demon queen Savilla go on the offensive. Fortunately, [Kellen] has a powerful ally in the half-breed healer Vestakia, who because she's half demon can

read the mind of her demon father and provide priceless information on their enemies. The deft handling of the romance between [Kellen] and Vestakia helps heighten suspense as the struggle on both the physical and magical planes grows more intense. Short scenes speed the action, which at times can be hard to follow, even for those familiar with the previous two volumes. Nonetheless, high fantasy fans should appreciate the intelligent storytelling with an unmistakable flavor of Andre Norton at her best. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Intelligent storytelling with an unmistakable flavor of Andre Norton at her best.”  
Publishers Weekly on *When Darkness Falls* “Plenty of good-versus-evil action.”  
VOYA on *When Darkness Falls* “Panoramic . . . filled with magic, dragons, elves, and other mythical creatures.”  
Library Journal on *To Light a Candle* “Captivating.”  
Publishers Weekly on *The Outstretched Shadow* “Delightful.”  
Booklist on *The Outstretched Shadow* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really enjoyed the whole trilogy, but this book would stand on it's own just fine. I love Arthurian legend, elves, unicorns, the whole thing. Mercedes and James wrote a great good vs evil tale without being shmaltzy or juvenile. I think it would appeal to younger folks as well. They tackled cultural stereotypes and differences, and how important it can be to form your own opinions based on observation and experience ( you KNOW how those centaurs can be!) There were father\child issues, relationships, commitments, honor, duty, family, camaraderie, politics, they covered a lot of ground and did it well. The ending had a surprise twist that was well done and made me very happy. I think having the pair of authors working together made a nice balance between romance, chivalry, action and gave a nicely balanced perspective. I think it's easily relatable for a lot of people. I read the books purely for pleasure, I seriously needed a mental break. These did the trick, except I had a hard time putting the darn things down at night, so I had several very short nights! But they were worth it!

I love this trilogy of the Lackey books. I have read all three many times over and although I still stumble over the pronunciations of the Elves homelands and names, the story is wonderful. It is a love story without sex. It is proof that good books don't have to be explicit to get the message of love across. It is also a love of goodness; it is a love of others; it is a love of country; and, it is a love

of past and future. As usual, the books are well written and in comparison with that which is written today in a hurry, it is well edited and easy to read. Happy reading.

Mercedes is a very talented writer. She knows how to bring her characters to life. I would recommended this book to anyone that loves fantasy books to any form ages 10 and up. Even though this is a series if you haven't read the first 2 books you'll still know what's going on.

I really enjoyed reading the first two books. The problem with the third book is that it suddenly resolved everything, without using any of the plot elements that had been hinted at and amplified through the first two books. I felt somehow cheated, as if I had been sold a flashy gemstone that turned out to be nothing but cheap glass. After all the effort to paint the demons as powerful, evil, and intelligent, they show virtually none of those qualities in the third book. The impending "war" turns out to be one battle. There were so many possible directions the book could have taken, instead it just plodded along and suddenly dropped the reader off a cliff into oblivion. It would have been better to make this series four books if that was necessary instead of trying to conclude everthing in the last few pages of the book. The ending of the story really wasn't even believable.

Well written, interesting dialogue, stays within the bounds of magical world well. Pace is usually swift except in certain places where background needs to be built. Good read.

I do not think that the third book lacks in any way. Book one and two do build up to the final battle, they are more interesting in that the characters are shaped by there quests and the reader learns about the world they are living in. Book three is where everything set into motion plays out. It could have been two books to go into deeper detail but it would not have added much substance in my opinion. Some critic that there is little of "familly reunion" with Kellens father, but i think Kellen does not consider him father, he never was an important part in his live so after he forgave him for the bad things (banning from the city and messing with his memories) there was just nothing left that did attach him emotionally to him. Kellens father was never an parent to him, so there was nothing to reunite too. I would have liked an fourth book with more lore in peacetimes, that could have been interesting, and maybe some more "demon aftermath" story, and what exactly an knight mage does when there are no big battles but do not think the third book is bad, it is part of an trilogy and for that part of the storie, it would be bad as standalone but that was not the point.=

I had read this book several times, as I already own the first two in hardback, but my shelf is overcrowded. It was my first Kindle book, and I was impressed with the format for the most part. I tend to write in my books, so the notes feature was nice, although it doesn't really seem to work highlighting more than a single word at a time, but not a deal-breaker. The book itself was in line with Lackey's usual high-quality storytelling and a good conclusion to this series. Highly recommend to fantasy fans. Lackey and Mallory take the high fantasy genre and inject the style of more modern fantasy to make for Tolkien-esque subject matter with much more interesting execution. The parts detailing torture at the hands of demons are a bit graphic, but not overly so; the story doesn't really lose anything if you kind of skim those parts.

I have read this trilogy several times, and will read it again some day. It takes you with it as it weaves a story different from what one begins to expect from books of a specific genre. There is no point in reviewing the book as it is enjoyed best by not knowing what happens, but discovering the details as you go. And it is the final book of the trilogy, so one hopes you have read the previous two. Is it worth buying? In my opinion, absolutely. Finish the story. If you haven't read the first two, take the time to read them first if possible. This book would be simply okay if it is simply a shortcut to the end. To really appreciate this one, you really do need a better introduction to everyone in this story. Buy the books. And keep them. They are worth reading again, sometime down the line. A few times.

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