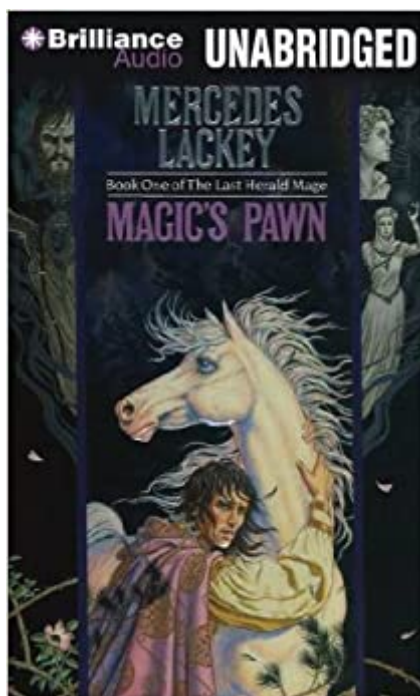


The book was found

Magic's Pawn (The Last Herald-Mage)



Synopsis

Though Vanyel has been born with near-legendary abilities to work both Herald and Mage magic, he wants no part of such things. Nor does he seek a warrior's path, wishing instead to become a Bard. Yet such talent as his if left untrained may prove a menace not only to Vanyel but to others as well. So he is sent to be fostered with his aunt, Savil, one of the famed Herald-Mages of Valdemar. But, strong-willed and self-centered, Vanyel is a challenge which even Savil cannot master alone. For soon he will become the focus of frightening forces, lending his raw magic to a spell that unleashes terrifying wyr-hunters on the land. And by the time Savil seeks the assistance of a Shin'in Adept, Vanyel's wild talent may have already grown beyond anyone's ability to contain, placing Vanyel, Savil, and Valdemar itself in desperate peril. |

Book Information

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Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Vanyel's disdain for swordsmanship earns him an unexpected exile--at the High Court of Valdemar under the guardianship of his stern and implacable Aunt Savil, one of the legendary Herald-Mages. A young man's painful discovery of his own immense talents and his true nature form the core of this richly detailed fantasy, the first in a new series set in the same world as "The Heroes of Valdemar." Lackey's talent for characterization lends depth to this coming-of-age adventure that will appeal to most fantasy readers. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for series: "Lackey has written another intensely wrought, finely detailed story of heroic victims struggling to do the best with their fate. Vanyel's magical strengths are countered by his very human insecurities." —VOYA "Lackey's characterization, plotting, and wit are all of a high order. A real page-turner for any fantasy collection." —Booklist "Emotionally tense and full of drama and magic." —Locus "In Vanyel, [Lackey] has created her most empathetic male character to date, making our emotions run high as he meets his fate. And best of all, the very last plot twist is one of haunting beauty that will touch your heart." —RT Reviews "In this trilogy, Lackey reaches an intensity she had only begun to achieve.... The story of Vanyel is darker than her earlier books, and the pace is unrelenting." —American Fantasy Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I ordered this because I was wanting to read authors' works I'd not read/heard of, but stay in the fantasy/adventure genre. This was suggested, and I read the synopsis and gave it a go. Without revealing much, I found it to be a well written, well paced novel that illustrates the struggles of a youth as he learns to stand on his own after a loveless upbringing and believing he is alone in an apathetic world. For the perspective of a 15/16 year old, it does justice for the often thoughtless behavior, which leads to consequences not formerly thought of, teaching love and loss and how to move on. It's a brilliant story with plenty of what you'd expect in a fantasy novel--a well thought out world and devices and social structure. Its characters are believable and you find yourself sympathizing a lot and sitting on the edge of your seat when sh** hits the fan (so to speak). A love story? Yes. But it doesn't lack for adventure. I'm looking forward to reading the second installment.

Magic's Pawn is the first of Ms. Lackey's works that I read when I was around fifteen. Since then I have been an avid reader of hers and am working on collecting all of her books. A lot of her books touch on teenage / young adult themes, but do NOT get as graphic as other authors sometimes do. And even though they are considered teenage/adult themes, they are full of wisdom and advice that I still use to this day and teach my kids as well. Vanyel is a very traumatized teen when the story first introduces him to you. He has all the emotions that most teens and young adults face just from being that age, and then more from the abuse he receives. When his father finally sends him off (exiles) him to the capitol to live with his Aunt Sayvil, it seems like the abuse will only continue. However, that is the best thing his father could have done for him, because it allows Vanyel to come to grips with reality, as well learn about some of his own actual faults. Do not get me wrong either, he

faces a LOT of very difficult scenarios that many adults would be hard pressed to navigate successfully; and he faces it all with the expected clumsiness and accidental reactions, as well as the intentional reactions that you would expect a teenager to use. He faces some of his demons in this book and in the next two books as well: *Magic's Promise* and *Magic's Price*. An excellent book for teenagers AND adults to read and learn from while enjoying a great story at the same time!

I love all of the series and singles that make up the entire Valdemar saga, and this one has always been one of my favorites. Vanyel is a character that I think, in some way, is a universal character that we can all identify with in one way or another. Vanyel Ashkevron is the eldest son of a rather minor noble in the out country. His father is a rigid man, believing very firmly in certain things. And if you do not fall into his idea of what should be or what is right, then you are somehow lacking. This describes the relationship between Vanyel and his father for most of his childhood. His brothers and cousins, while not stupid, were far more interested in weaponswork and women than intellectual pursuits. Vanyel was intelligent and a gifted musician that took after his mother far more than his father. None of these things raised him in the eyes of his father. His mother, however, celebrated most of these things. She was a flighty woman who knew all too well how to play all of the "womanly" games and she loved having a son who could entertain her so well. However, she spent a lot of time throwing her lady's maid at him, despite his repeated assurances that he was not interested, often creating a bit of a mess for them both. When Vanyel's father finally tires of trying to change him, he sends him to his aunt in Haven, a rather brusque woman who is a Herald. Vanyel knows, even as he lives the prison that his own home has become, that he is really only trading one prison for another. But things at Haven aren't what he expects and his life changes so very much. I absolutely love the blend of characters in this book. No matter what your life story is, there is a character in this book that is relatable. No two characters are the same, giving a rich tapestry of characters in a wonderful story. I have heard many complain about the rather whiny attitude of Vanyel throughout the book. They are not wrong; he is whiny. But it is totally appropriate for the story. He is a young teenager, a fact easy to forget, and the reality is that he has a lot to whine about. I love that the character isn't portrayed to be perfect, that he is portrayed as realistic. My Recommendation: As with every book in the Valdemar series, I am in love with this book. Such a wonderful epic read! This review originally posted on my blog, *The Caffeinated Diva* reads.

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