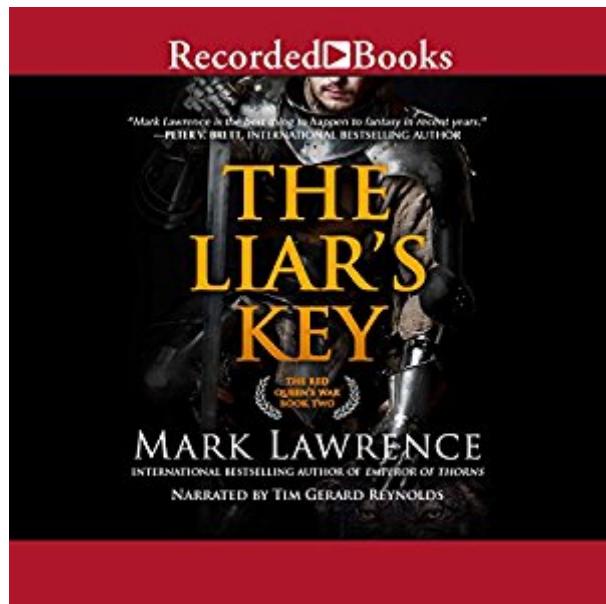


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The Liar's Key



Synopsis

Prince of Fools, The Red Queen's War: Book One had all "the hallmarks of [Mark Lawrence's] storytelling and writing style which made The Broken Empire trilogy such an incredibly addictive read" (Bibliosanctum.com). Now The Liar's Key continues the story of the unusual fellowship between a rogue prince and a weary warrior.... After harrowing adventure and near-death, Prince Jalan Kendeth and the Viking Snorri ver Snagason find themselves in possession of Loki's Key, an artefact capable of opening any door and sought by the most dangerous beings in the Broken Empire - including The Dead King. Jal wants only to return home to his wine, women, and song, but Snorri has his own purpose for the key: to find the very door into death, throw it wide, and bring his family back into the land of the living. And as Snorri prepares for his quest to find death's door, Jal's grandmother, the Red Queen, continues to manipulate kings and pawns toward an endgame of her own design....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am not a professional reviewer. I am an "older" fantasy fan and avid reader. The reviews I write are purely based on my likes and dislikes of the stories I read. Interesting characters, visual background details and riveting story plots are the hooks that keep me reading and loving a story. My reviews are for like minded readers who simply want to know if a story is good. I am getting my one complaint about this book out of the way first. The US cover. I think the US publishers of fantasy books think their books must look dark and dismal. The UK book covers for both Prince of Fools

and The Liar's Key are more effective in representing the content of the books. They are fun and beautiful! If I could afford the overseas shipping, I would order my books from the UK. Now to the important part, the contents. I need more stars to rate The Liar's Key. I didn't think The Prince of Fools could be topped, but Mark Lawrence, did it. Prince Jalan stayed true to his character, witty, charming, cowardly, yet he began a reluctant, subtle change to sometimes thinking of others over his own selfish wants and self preservation. Like in Prince of Fools, Jalan tries to go his own way of being the devil-may-care rogue but as usual circumstances put him in the middle of an adventure he cannot avoid and in the end he amazes himself, making sacrifices to help his friends who are in danger. If a story leaves me with a need to read the next installment, it is a VERY successful story. The Liar's Key accomplished that! I must also warn you. The end is an "oh, no!" leaving you wondering and wishing for a time machine to transport you to June 2016.

While this was an amazing trilogy and the ending was epic, it was still missing that elusive "something" that authors strive after that pushes their work into the "masterpiece" class. Mark Lawrence achieved this with the "Broken Empire" trilogy but while I could not point out any specific thing in this trilogy that was lacking it was not to the level of work that that trilogy was but then again, many fewer people would be offended with this trilogy as compared to that one I suppose. Bottom Line: I kept me enthralled for days and I am glad I read it but the last few pages after everything "heroic" had been accomplished, while in keeping with the authors depiction of our reluctant hero, was still a bit disappointing. 5 Stars for a wonderful story that kept the reader addicted but anyone who has read The Broken Empire trilogy cannot help but compare and find this one just below that very high mark set by that story.

I give this book five out of five stars for making me laugh from its beginning to end. Anyone who thinks grimdark fantasy has no room for humor will be proven wrong with this book. I never expected the second book in this series to be better than the first. I'm just blown away and astounded that it is, because Prince of Fools is one of my favorite reads from the past two years. I think die-hard fans of the Broken Empire series will appreciate the appearance and mention of some much loved characters. What I loved about the book: 1) Mark Lawrence is a master at writing first person narratives. For me, reading his prose is like fine artists marveling over the brush strokes in a masterpiece painting. I'm in awe at the narratives construction, the distinct voice of each character, and the very visual action, all compiled into a perfectly synced tale. I'm so happy to know writing is now the author's full time profession. 2) The plot kept me guessing, and it

was fantastic. I assumed the story would follow a neater trail, and it was great to learn I was wrong. The magic played a different role than it has in previous books. It felt new by its very visual representation, layering current action to times and events opened by magic for Prince Jalan.3) It has the epic fun I search for and crave when I pick up a fantasy novel. I want monsters, magic, interesting characters, battle scenes, friendship, conflict, learning something unexpected, and visiting a world that looks nothing like my backyard. I got all of that and more in this book including robots, old gods, ghosts, angels, demons, and objects imbued with strange power. It reads odd to see all those things listed off and know some authors can't handle more than three of these things in one manuscript. I can't wait to read the next book in this series. I also wanted to mention how brilliant I think the author's note at the start of the book is. More fantasy authors need to replicate this tidy summary to avoid annoying chapters of characters parroting the plot of the first book in the series. It would be great to have notes like these added to future novel audio versions as well; they were not included in my audible copy of this book.

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