



Transcendence

R.A. Salvatore

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It is the summer of 839. Brave and beautiful Brynn Dharielle sets out on a daring mission to free her beloved homeland from tyrannical rule. But she cannot imagine the depth of chaos, corruption, and betrayal that seethes amidst a ruthless sect of warrior priests, led and manipulated by an evil chieftain who conceals a dark, age-old secret.

For Brynn and her trusted elven companion, the way to Behren turns into a fierce and illuminating voyage beneath the Belt-and-Buckle mountains. And while they face many dangers, the knowledge they acquire will have profound implications for the future of the elven valley, a land shaped by the plotting of a queen desperate to hold onto her magic.

Meanwhile, by the time Brynn reaches the land where she once saw her parents murdered, the seeds of revolution are already flourishing. For a courageous young woman and her elven mentor, the first salvo of a sweeping battle has begun—one that will threaten to destroy the heart and soul of their world.

The eagerly anticipated new novel in R. A. Salvatore's Second DemonWars saga, *Transcendence* is an extraordinary adventure that introduces a remarkable new hero—and explores the mysteries of enlightenment and the art of war . . . in a dazzling epic of the imagination.

Transcendence Details

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Author : R.A. Salvatore

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Chip Hunter says

This second volume in the Second DemonWars Saga takes place over the same time period as Ascendance. While Aydrian and De'Unnero plot their takeover of Honce the Bear, Brynn sets out to meet her destiny as the saviour of To Gai. Many new characters, an entirely new land, and a seemingly unconnected plot distance this book from the rest of the DemonWars books. While the story is entertaining, and up to the excellent work of other Salvatore pieces, I found myself missing the original story arc and never became convinced that this tale was as important as the events happening in the northern kingdom.

In my opinion, Salvatore would have been better served to combine this book and Ascendance into two books, each with dual story lines. While this book does make an effort to remind the reader of the events happening concurrently, it wasn't enough to keep the stories connected. While I really enjoyed Douan, Pagonel, and Agradeleous, I felt like I would have enjoyed them even more if they were spread out and mixed in with a little Aydrian, Pony, and De'Unnero. Just my impression, and I'm sure Salvatore had good reasons to do it the way he did it.

In any case, the stories have caught up to each other now and the conclusion promises to be a treat. Look forward to reading it.

Jeremy says

Great book, yet another Salvatore fantasy story that deals with atypical characters and archetypes. Very interesting protagonist. Unfortunately the first book in this series is not nearly as interesting.

Kyleigh says

M-E-H, Meh. It wasn't a bad book or anything, it just didn't draw me in. I liked the various cultures, especially the Jhesta Tu. I also really liked Brynn's fiery spirit, but I found it difficult to care about her struggles. War is not really something that I can relate to.

Scott says

My sixth Demon Wars book and by far my favorite so far!

At first I was a little thrown because this book (the 2nd in this particular series) has almost nothing to do with the last book (which ended with a certain degree of a cliff hanger) but I trust Salvatore and just dug in and enjoyed the story.

We find Brynn Dharielle on a quest to lead her people to freedom. Along the way she recruits a dragon and many allies, some from earlier books and some brand new. Battles, deceptions, cover-ups, more battles and

heroics. R.A. Salvatore at his storytelling peak.

Really good stuff here.

Chris Fox says

OVERVIEW

Transcendence introduces us to many new cultures and religions, as well as new understanding of Salvatore's interesting soul stone magic. This book had all the parts of an epic fantasy for the ages but fell short in its telling, and the reason for this I believe is a lack of deeper characterization. R.A. Salvatore likes to paint his stories with broad strokes, and while that is great for getting the feeling of a vast scope it fails to show the finer detail of his characters. There was also a few questionable decisions made by the main antagonist the God voice, that seemed a little silly for one in his position, and ultimately the whole of his religion and his position in it confused me. All in all this book was good but not great it felt very much like a young adult book at times and the story still continues to jump forward months at a time and leaves what could have been interesting moments unseen, in a way it feels like it needed an extra few dozen pages for more character development and possibly more confrontations with someone other then the Behrenese or the dragon to help Brynn Dharielle grow more naturally into her more mature self.

NEGATIVE

- A lot of the battles especially the ones without the dragon Agradeleous lending his aid, were kind of forgettable and consist of mostly hit and run tactics.
- The Behrenese culture was interesting and helped breath a breath of fresh air into the world of corona. The problem was the names, so many people and places sound alike and it was easy to get them confused.
- The ending I felt was largely underwhelming, The final battle was not very "epic" and the story line surrounding the demise of the god voice didn't feel well crafted.

POSITIVE

- + Expanding on the history of the elves and there kin was a welcome addition as well as the introduction of a new order of monks that take there inspiration from a more eastern style.
- + Agradeleous the dragon was a great character and his love of stories as much as gold was a fantastic idea if not a little Tolkiennesque.
- + Brynn Dharielle was a lovely character especially in the beginning with all her charm and love of life, but I did feel she lost that part of her a little too quickly and replaced it with another of the atypical strong female protagonist personas.

Mark says

Can i get stars back for reading an awful book? Dreadful book, plodding, predictable story, about characters I'm completely uninterested in. After reading 5 other books in the series, the author tries to throw a curve ball by writing an entire book about a character he introduced in the last book and who left the story in the first

half of the book. i would hope mr salvatore would tie up his Saga in the last book, but I won't be there to see it. The Demon Wars books [without any demons since Book 3 btw] , for me, fizzled.

Wesley says

One of the best in the series.

Ryan says

Another great entry in the Demon Wars series...

Sean Watson says

Can anybody say Dragon!!!! I forgot just how much Agradeleous played a rule in this book. This second book in the second Demon Wars series was all about Brynn and the events in her homeland that will end up coming together with Pony and her son's story in the north of Honce-the-Bear. The story in this book adds so much more to the World of Cornoa. It expands and adds even more depth to this amazing fantasy world. Mr. Salvatore sucks you in with fast paced action and intrigue that keeps you at the edge of your seat, and leaves you wanting more.

Kristin's says

When I started reading this book I was very angry that it didn't take place right after the first book but went back in time to tell the story of Brynn. There were so many catastrophes at the end of the last book that I picked the next one up to find out what happened next. Now I am glad because I just know the last book is going to be epic with everyone coming together in some way or another.

Now I can not wait to pick up the next book and see what Salvatore has in store for these many characters. People are going to change, die, fall in love, grow, whatever. A Salvatore fan knows that there is NO telling where he will go with this and how it will end. I loved the 6 books I have read from this series and am excited yet sad that I am now at its end. Now it is time to read the final book.

Rj Roles says

definitely the slow one in this series, the only real redeeming quality is the dragon

KostasAt says

7.5/10

In this book we see the second half, Brynn and Juraviel with lots of new characters and of course, a dragon!

Salvatore jumps right in with the adventures of Brynn and Juraviel's, which were seen a bit on the first book, while they are trying to figure out how to free the people of To-Gai-Ru from slavery from the Yatols and their religion.

The book although it's not bad and with the story going a bit on basic standards for Salvatore, it lacks from an interesting protagonist (or at least as much as I wanted) and some big suspense for the story compared to the first one in my opinion. What saves the book, I think, is the last part which has the war with the Yatols.

Closing, I would say that it is an Ok book but not as powerful as the first one.

Ruth Kyle-devendorf says

Another classic by the literary master known as Salvatore!

Seth Kenlon says

Very very good entry into the series. Better than the previous book, I feel, but that's partly down to Aydrian Wyndon being mostly an annoying character. This book, somewhat alarmingly, doesn't even make mention of any of the previous book's events (to the point that I was convinced I'd somehow skipped a book accidentally and went so far as to look up on Wikipedia why the Ayrian storyline had been dropped), and focuses on Brynn instead.... and frankly, her story is far more interesting than whining ol' Aydrian.

There are a few big and important events (and reveals) in this book, which I'll not spoil. Suffice it to say that if you're enjoying this series, this book will not disappoint. Highly recommended.

Jeff Miller says

An interesting second book in a trilogy that leaves the cliffhanger at the end of the first book and follows another story of a character introduced in the first book, but with not much time spent upon. Tells the story of the elf trained Ranger Brynn as she returns to her homeland to avenge the murder of her parents and to overcome the occupation of her homeland. Lots of interesting characters as common in Salvatores' books and this story track stands on its own. Though the convergence of the story lines of Brynn and the fallen ranger Aydrian will no doubt make for a good story in the final book of this series made up of two trilogies with one book between the two.
