



Wizard World

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"Formerly published in parts as Changeling and Madwand."

Wizard World Details

Date : Published November 1st 1991 by Baen Books (first published October 1989)

ISBN : 9780671720575

Author : Roger Zelazny

Format : Mass Market Paperback 411 pages

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From Reader Review Wizard World for online ebook

Kate says

This is two novellas (and it was apparently supposed to be a trilogy) combined into one book about Dan Chain – or Pol Detson as he quickly becomes known – the son of a wizard who was traded for as a baby from a non-magical world. At 18 he's traded back into the magical world because he's the only one powerful enough to stop his step-brother (the baby he was originally traded for) from becoming an evil dictator and destroying everything that's good. It lacks emotional depth and parts of the first novella seemed particularly rushed, but it's a fun romp and Zelazny does have a knack for story-telling.

The second novella uses the first as a jumping off point. I think this works better partly because there isn't as much need for cramming a lot of background into such a short format which leaves more space for emotional development and growth. Zelazny uses that extra space well. He has good plots, great details and these carry the story pretty well. It is too bad that he wasn't able to write the third book before he died. I think Zelazny could have made this into a solid series with just one more book to tie everything more firmly together.

William Middleton says

What a great way to start out 2017 and my goal of 100 books. (2 done, 98 to go).

I finished one other book that I started in 2016 and finished in 2017, so this is my FIRST of 2017.

I read this 411 page book in 3 days, 140 pages a day. My daily goal is 100 pages.

There are 2 world/planes split into Magical and Scientific, and takes place mostly in the Magical half. The writing style is easy to read - the number of characters increases steadily throughout the book. While it has potential to have many following books, the ending is satisfying. One of my favorite characters is a thief (Mouseglove), seemingly to be hated, and later on quite beloved. I was quite taken also with the dragon Moonbird. I was vey disappointed that the love interest, Nora, was not featured in the 2nd half of the book. (too bad Zelazny died in 1995 and could not turn this into a series of books. The magic: does NOT BOG DOWN with details of how it is performed and how it works (other books/magics are annoying with spell/details).

Roger Zelazny's most popular books are a series called the Chronicles of Amber. Also if you have Kindle Unlimited there are 2 books you can get for free (I have not yet read them, but definitely will) -To Die In Italba, and -Fantasy For Good

Some of his books are:

Nine Princes in Amber (1970)

The Guns of Avalon (1972)

Sign of the Unicorn (1975)

The Hand of Oberon (1976)

The Courts of Chaos (1978)

Trumps of Doom (1985)

Blood of Amber (1986)

Sign of Chaos (1987)

Knight of Shadows (1989)

Prince of Chaos (1991)
This Immortal, 1966, Hugo Award
Lord Of Light, 1968, Hugo Award

Duncan Rice says

I'm hot and cold with Zelazny. Loved him in my youth. Not so much now.

Lynn Calvin says

ereader ebook

Kathi says

Zelazny's prose is delightful and there were parts of this book I really enjoyed--in fact, most of it. I just found the ending to be not satisfying.

Lynn says

ereader ebook

Christopher Colton says

A decent enough pair of fantasy stories, if a bit basic and cliched. I can forgive that somewhat, though, since it's almost 40 years old and the genre was in a much different place back then. Still, to use a phrase one of my friends recently used in a fantasy book review, this is the sort of book I would have enjoyed more if I read it when I was 16.

Annoyingly, the ending suggested it was going to be a trilogy but no third book was ever written.

Dim Ether says

Read "The Changeling" more than ten years ago and completely forgot about it. Then, some parts of its plot came back to me and it took me quite a while to identify which book they belonged to. As with many teenage crushes, it didn't taste even close that good on second reading. But accidentally led me to read "Madwand" of which existence I was not aware. I'd say it's a bit better than "The Changeling" because it has some interesting trains of thought in it but in general has the same childish narrative and shallow characters.

Zéro Janvier says

Un double roman sympathique mais décevant par l'auteur de la saga des Princes d'Ambre.

Koby Carissi says

I really liked the two books.

The first one, had a kinda slow start, but picked up pretty quick, with Dan (Pol) coming back into his world and gaining his full powers.

The adventures is fast paced, energetic in typical Zelazny style.

The second book has a more mature flair to it, as the ideas presented in the first books 'took root' in Zelazny's mind, and he formulated it more clearly.

Some very nice touches (SPOILERS!!!)

The Curse, The Magic System (Strands/Bands), Wizards' Duels, Madwand (the entire concept is presented rather nicely), the clash of Technology/Magic and then Magic/Stronger Magic...

Read it.

Enjoy it.

Jim says

Two books are included in this volume, "The Changeling" & "Madwand". I'm very tempted to suggest that you buy & read the first & never read the second. Not that it isn't good, but it leaves you hanging & Zelazny died, so this story will never be finished. The first can stand alone. The second leaves you dying for a third that we'll never see.

The world is one where magic rules & it connects to other worlds, such as one where technology rules. In 'The Changeling', children are swapped between two worlds, but unfortunately each is a master of their set of rules. Pol, born to master magic, is out of place in the technological world. He finds his way back to his world of magic, to find the baby he was switched with has built a technological empire there. It is so at odds with the world that their conflict is inevitable.

So again, Zelazny has blended SF & Fantasy, although this is really a fantasy novel. His take on how magic is used is very interesting. Pol manipulates & sees threads of magic, spells are knots made of almost living threads of power. It's a colorful world & well worth visiting.

Miles Sterrett says

Man. I love Roger Zelazny, but as another reviewer (off-site) said, the first book in this duo doesn't seem like

a Zelazny joint at all, and the last book seems like a cheap Zelazny clone.

However, it gets clear up to 3 stars because I still wanted to finish it. I still enjoyed the story, if not how it was presented on the whole. It still had some really cool moments. I mean, it has a couple wizard duels, and a 6-wizard battle. It also "invents" the term "madwand" (magic comes naturally, genetically, "in the blood"), which I really dig.

If you like wizards, you might enjoy this. It's a fairly quick read, in any case.

Christopher says

This is actually two books in a series. Changeling and Madwand.

Neither was quite what I expected, but Zelazny is not what I would call a predictable author. These novels reminded me of the Zelazny's second Princes of Amber series.

What I like about Zelazny's series (that I have read) is that while the first book stands on its own and is enjoyable, in subsequent novels he builds on his worlds and characters with dynamic new ideas. He isn't the tightest plotter and you can almost see the crazy ideas popping out of his head and going straight onto the page. This leads him to almost write himself into a corner and sometimes contradict his own story, but it is never boring.

Much of Zelazny's work seems to be out of print. I had to find this at a used book store. They actually had another printing of Changeling that was a larger size and had illustrations. But I opted for this one since it was cheaper and had two novels in it.

Molly Bayne cundall says

Um... the first half of the book, "Changeling" was pretty good, imaginative and promising. The second half? Ugh. I feel like if I'd have fallen asleep whilst reading, I wouldn't have missed anything. Totally convoluted.
