



The Orphans' Promise

Pierre Grimbert, Matt Ross (Translator), Eric Lamb (Translator)

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The second installment in the internationally bestselling and prize-winning Secret of Ji fantasy series

The Known World's greatest secret has proven a heavy burden for the last heirs of the Ji emissaries: a death sentence from the goddess Zuïa and her band of implacable Judges and a fleeting glimpse of another world that could devastate the Upper and Lower Kingdoms. Now, after barely eluding a band of Züu assassins, these unlikely heroes find themselves hunted once more. A dark, armor-clad figure brought Zuïa's judgment upon them, but he remains inescapable and nameless. They call him simply the Accuser.

Yet there is still hope for the accused. A century-old journal promises to unravel the secret of Ji, and priestess Maz Lana can show them the way. With the Accuser drawing ever closer and the fate of the Known World hanging in the balance, the heirs must harness new abilities—and enlist the help of the gods—before the Known World's greatest secret is lost forever.

The Orphans' Promise Details

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From Reader Review The Orphans' Promise for online ebook

Jackie says

I have not read the first book. I won this in a Goodreads giveaway, unaware that it was the second book sadly.

I'm sure my review could be better fitted if I'd read the first one. The book was enjoyable. The translation from French to English was exciting. I could tell that it was originally in a different language in some parts with wording, this book is good in the aspect of fantasy and I hope that I can read the first one and not be so confused.

Cory Rose says

Just ok

Good enough storyline to keep you interested and reading along, but none of the characters are really that great. Not much or intense action, the the romance angles aren't fully fleshed out, but there is plenty of mystery and intrigue. It's interesting with a little bit of everything you might expect but nothing stands out. This is the second installment and I will read the third, but mediocre at best.

Ea Solinas says

Whether you enjoy "The Orphans' Promise" more or less depends on one thing: whether you enjoyed the first Secret of Ji book.

So for people who liked Pierre Grimbert's dense prose and intriguingly realistic world-building, the second part of his fantasy series will probably have the same appeal. It's a solid if not exceptional fantasy adventure, which can be slow-moving at times, but is redeemed by the richness of the world he has sculpted.

First, a bit of backstory -- long ago, representatives came to the island of Ji, and glimpsed something so life-altering that they were forever bound together by it. In the years that followed, they and their descendants came to visit the island once more, passing the secret of what was on Ji through the family line... until most of them were murdered.

And now that the remaining descendants have learned the secret of Ji -- and been transformed in mind by what they now know -- they're on the run from the followers of the goddess Zuïa, who are determined to kill them. As the final treat, a mysterious dark-clad man is following them. Their only hope is to find an old journal that will somehow guide them.

"The Orphans' Promise" is not so much a sequel as a "part two" in the Heirs storyline -- it's like a really vast book got broken up into chunks and packaged as multiple smaller books. So people who liked/disliked the first book will probably like/dislike this one as well, because the story has the same strengths and weaknesses.

Grimbert tends to write rather dense prose, heavy on descriptions and character development and light on action. It also seems to be rather clumsily translated, rendering the dialogue rather stilted. But while it can be ponderous, it also reveals a very richly-imagined world based on Asian cultures, with well-entrenched religions and cultural traditions. And while there are bursts of action, Grimbert often settles down into developing what he has already introduced.

It also has a wide array of characters from different places and cultures, but now they are united and growing closer. Grimbert spends time exploring the ever-changing characters as the story slowly unwinds, but he devotes the most attention to Leti and Yan, both of whom have become vastly different people from whom they were at the first book's start.

"The Secret of Ji 2: The Orphans' Promise" follows up directly from the first book, and has mostly the same strengths and weaknesses. An intriguing, if dense, story for people who want some atypical fantasy.

Michael Schmid says

OH MEIN GOTT !!!

... mehr fällt mir zuerst nicht ein ... echt ... Wahnsinn ... es ist echt unglaublich, was Grimbert in den letzten zehn Seiten raushaut ... Oo ... ich kann es immer noch nicht fassen ...

Aber drehen wir die Zeiger zurück ... beginnen wir mit dem Anfang ...

Der zweite Band schließt nahtlos an den ersten Teil an und unsere Gefährten verlassen die Insel Ji. Ihre Reise führt sie zurück, aber auch voran und endlich beginnt auch ihre charakterliche Entwicklung. Yan wird zum Magier ausgebildet und Léti zur Kriegerin. Auch bei den anderen Gefährten zeigen sich neue Hintergründe und es kommt auch noch ein Besuch auf sie zu.

Doch all das ist nur Nebensächlich. Denn es gilt, ihren Widersacher aufzudecken, gegen die Züü zu bestehen und natürlich das Geheimnis von der Insel Ji und den Pforten zu lösen und und und ...

Genau DAS ist es, was diese Reihe so besonders macht. Diese viele Fragen, die immer im Raum schweben und nie wirklich beantwortet werden. Dafür hat man wieder andere Fragen, die endlich eine Antwort finden, nur um dadurch noch mehr Fragen aufzuwerfen. Es liest sich wirklich mehr wie ein Thriller, nein, wie ein Fantasy Pageturner und man kann einfach nicht mehr aufhören zu lesen, wenn man erst einmal begonnen hat.

Ich liebe diese Reihe jetzt schon und es ist jetzt auch nicht wirklich verwunderlich, dass ich anschließend gleich den dritten Band lesen werde ... oder? ;)

Kinders ... KAUFEN !!! :D

Marie-Luise says

Namen die man nicht aussprechen kann, Charaktere haben mich nicht angesprochen und die Handlung ist eher seltsam

Althea Ann says

I received a copy of this book through Goodreads' First Reads.

I waited to read the book till I got a copy of the first book in the series - and I'm glad I did. This is definitely a case of one-story-split-into-parts, not just stories that happen to be set in the same world. As with the first installment ('Six Heirs') the ending leaves the reader hanging... but I pretty much expected that.

As the story opens, the group of six is fleeing assassin-priests. Their goal is to stay alive, and find out who it is that wants them dead, and why. To this aim, there is much weapons-training, magic-learning, and investigating.

For those who enjoy classic fantasy, with both feet planted firmly in the tropes of the genre, I'd recommend this series.

Ray Akerboom says

A great series of which I read part 1 a year ago. Now I dived into part two and three and they both have the same ability to keep you tied to the book. It has action enough but also time for reflections on religion and science, here wisely disguised as 'magic'. There's the advancements of the relationship between a young boy and girl, but also of the coming together of a group of individuals, beautifully characterised by the writer, each in his own kingdom and then thrown together. There are Gods and a mysterious door and of course there is Evil in all its forms. Can't wait to get to the fourth part!!

The Elves says

We do not tend to judge books by their covers, but these elves do tend at times to be attracted to them because of the cover art and this is surely the case with Pierre Grimbert's "The Orphan's Promise", the second book in the Secret of Ji series that we received for free through Goodreads. Alas, we did not read the first volume before reading this book, which put us at a slight disadvantage in terms of understanding the plot, although it was not long before we caught on.

The Island of Ji holds a mystery and encountering it has affected a group of individuals so profoundly that they cannot view their world in the same way again. This brings them into conflict with the Powers that Be who seek to hunt them down and eliminate them, and the knowledge of this experience they hold.

Yet, this book is not so much about action, but the development of the relationship between the principle characters, and it is important to understand that it is a bridge to further books and not meant to stand alone. Still, it is well written and interesting; however, it did not evoke our imagination to the extent that we would love it and carry it in our hearts and minds for years, which is what we are always looking for and hoping for in books. But we have found that such experiences are very personal in nature and others may be moved

more profoundly by this book than we were.

If you are looking for a good fantasy series, this may be for you. It is certainly worth checking out.

The Silver Elves authors of Elven Silver

Henk says

In één ruk uitgelezen en nieuwsgierig hoe het verder zal lopen.

Michelle Thexton says

Gets better and better

I read the first one and was impressed and this didn't fail to enthralling me from the beginning until the end, I can't wait to read the next book.

Damon says

Very enjoyable

This second book continues the story oh the heirs and is every bit as interesting and unique as the first.

Nox says

Better than the first part. It's a very complex world Pierre Grimbert presents to his readers, but it got an unique style and you grow to like the characters even more.

Dorianne Vervoort says

The book is just as good and intriguing as the first one. There are still so many questions to be answered though. Can't wait to read the next books and find out!

Iman Eyitayo says

Pas mal :) je lirai le 3e tome, mais il faut avouer que l'auteur prend beaucoup beaucoup son temps pour raconter son histoire :(

Andys91 says

Eines meiner lieblings Fantasy-Bücher, die ich bisher gelesen habe.

Die ersten zwei Bänder der Reihe haben mich in ihren Bann gezogen und ich bin unglaublich gespannt auf die noch folgenden Teile. Auf jeden Fall mindestens 4 Sterne !!!
