



## An Empire in Runes: A Battle of Magic

*Jeffrey L. Kohanek*

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A powerful magic. An unstoppable army. The final battle. Mankind's fate hangs in the balance.

The eastern cities of Issalia lay in ruin, destroyed by a horde mindless monsters. Led by a teen named Brock, a squad of young heroes seeks a means of stopping this dark force from consuming the rest of the continent.

The future of mankind hinges upon a powerful, yet destructive magic - a magic they are still learning to control.

As foretold in an ancient prophecy, this rag-tag force gathers upon the Tantarri plains, prepared to face an army of giants. All the while, they must remain vigilant against a secret organization within the Ministry, who will do anything to prevent the return of Chaos.

In this thrilling series conclusion, the fight continues beyond the battlefield.

## An Empire in Runes: A Battle of Magic Details

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Author : Jeffrey L. Kohanek

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## From Reader Review An Empire in Runes: A Battle of Magic for online ebook

### James (ObservantRaven) says

"An Empire in Runes" is the final book in Jeffrey L. Kohanek's The Runes of Issalia trilogy and what a great trilogy it has been.

When I previously read and reviewed the first and second books in the trilogy, The Buried Symbol (here) and The Emblem Throne (here) I spoke highly of them, this book is no exception to that and possibly the best of the lot.

An Empire in Runes takes place shortly after the climactic finish to The Emblem Throne and we quickly get to see not only how the primary characters but the secondary characters are dealing with what has happened up to this current point. For the characters in this trilogy what they have been wanting to accomplish has been a long road and I thoroughly enjoyed reading how each character is dealing with the current situation and the lead up to what has happened.

One aspect I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the most is the planning that occurs in the run up to the final battle and how each character has an important role to play in the run up to it so they can ensure they win it. With this aspect in particular we see numerous groups 2 or more characters being sent off in multiple directions and this allows the book to further build the relationship between them in more detail since they have been travelling as a group for quite a while. Two characters in particular I thoroughly enjoyed reading about were Benny and Ashland, as the role they played in the lead up to the epic conclusion gives you a brief glimpse back into where it all started.

But once all the planning has come to a head and the final battle begins we get a battle of epic portions as we see it divided into different areas of the army that has amassed to fight off what has been tearing the country apart. When I read the battle scenes in the previous books I thoroughly enjoyed them and I thought they were done extremely well but this final battle was something like I had never read before in this trilogy as not only was it so well crafted but it showed the consequences of war and what effects it has on places and people.

I think Jeffrey L. Kohanek definitely wraps this series up very nicely as we get to visit some people and places we haven't seen since the first book and we see a lot of the story threads being either answered or closed off. So as far as I am concerned there are no questions left unanswered when I came to finishing the final book in the trilogy.

With all of the above in mind I really enjoyed reading An Empire in Runes as it caused me to lose quite a lot of time on a number of occasions due to how deeply I found myself getting absorbed into the world. If you enjoyed The Buried Symbol and The Emblem Throne then I would highly recommend reading this book because not only is it the best book in the trilogy but it is a great conclusion to the trilogy as a whole.

Also keeping an eye out for this review being posted over at The Bandwagon Blog  
(<https://dracarya.wordpress.com/blog/>)

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## **Jeff Kustra says**

I decided to write a review for this book (and series) because of how conflicted I am for it. If I could have given a 3.5 I would have, but rounded up because I did enjoy the series.

Here's why I'm conflicted though: in my opinion this series didn't break much new ground for me. The characters were somewhat interesting, but I've seen better development in other books. The magic was cool, but I've seen more mind-blowing and scientifically interesting magic in other books. And while the description of the battles was good the scale of them seemed...small. Even with a couple thousand of these monsters I don't know if I can believe that they would be enough to wipe humanity out. Unless this whole world is just very sparsely populated.

And since I am a very critical reviewer I'm going to mention the other issues I have. If you want to avoid mild spoilers jump to after the numbers.

- 1) All knowledge of the arcane is wiped out in 200 years? Look at the Bible's Old Testament. A good bit of that were stories that were passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years before they finally started writing them down. Is all of it accurate? I doubt it, but it still leads me to doubt that parents were not telling their children of some of the crazy things that Chaos could do.
- 2) They luck their way out of too many bad situations with no scars or consequences. Some may argue with me on this as (spoilers) characters do die in this series. But it is never because of the dumb situations they get themselves into, and in the grand battles where people are dieing the nameless masses are killed off much more readily than anyone you would know (anyone else get confused when the sailors were killed near the portal because they suddenly had names I didn't remember?)

Final thoughts: despite all of these complaints I found the books engaging, and there were definitely times I didn't want to put it down. Heh, maybe I need to make my own rating system so that I can give this "Good and would recommend, but not one I'll reread".

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## **Zimm says**

Multiple POV's that intertwine to expand the story, taking it from classroom setting in the first book, to a full on epic to save the human race. Action is packed with a massive battle with high stakes. All questions are answered and loose ends are wrapped up nicely with a bow at the end.

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## **Jo McCreery says**

### **An Empire in Runes**

A fantastically written adventure. This book was hard to put down - it made my imagination run wild with the imagery created by Jeffrey's words. If you're looking for some time outside your own dimension, take time out to read this series.

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### **Lana says**

This is the final book in the series The Runes of Issalia, a magnificent epic saga which follows the life of Brock, an unchosen and his friends who decide to take the future of Issalia into their own hands and do all they can to safeguard it! This final book is so powerful, returning the strength of chaos to the unchosen who take to this magical power like fish to water and do their best to prove that they are worthy citizens of the empire! The Chaos rune, the one the ministry had tried so hard to keep secret had now become a symbol of hope for the people the ministry had ostracised and left unmarked and unchosen. They walked behind the flag with the chaos rune, not only with pride but full of hope and purpose even though they walked towards war. The banished horde had arrived, everyone gathered and then some, all had their orders and all had been trained and as prepared as they would ever be. Many lost their lives however the tricks empowered by chaos magic won the day even though the horde had some unexpected surprises up their sleeves too! Moreover the horde were not the biggest threat to the people of the empire and the biggest battle was still to be fought. This has been a remarkable series right through but this final book is amazing in the way the people all rallied and fought together, the loyalty shown towards Brock by each and every person, the love many of our heroes found amongst one another and unfortunately the many losses which they experienced together, losses which were not to be easily forgotten. It was great that the change to overcome evil had to be instigated by one who came from nothing and had nothing in life not even a future but who was not ready to settle for a path designed by others for him, one who forged his own path and that of others like him who did not have the courage to do what he did, when he risked his all by inking a rune! Well done Jeffrey L. Kohanek with this your very first series it is obvious that you are going places, this series should be amongst the best of epic fantasy sagas!

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### **Kerry Dillenburg says**

#### **A wonderful series that would be terrific on the big screen.**

I have already gone through this. I resent being forced to comply to some damn predetermined number of words to satisfy some dictatorial anus. Satisfied?

Enough...

This is ridiculous!

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### **Kameron says**

4.5 stars - (review request submitted by the author for an honest critique)

I knew the battle against the banshees was going to be fierce. Standing ten feet tall, with red eyes and sharp talons, they would strike the fear in any man, woman, or child. Their wail alone leaves their opponents frozen in place, but to see them actually engage in battle is a sight to cause night terrors. Hell, that is if you survive their rampage. With their immense power, they can and will rip you limb from limb and then devour you — dead or alive. To them, it makes no difference. A meal is a meal.

However, there were many a men and women who wouldn't stand by and watch the towns fall. They fought back and with a vengeance. The battle lasted many chapters but Jeffrey knew not to rush such a pivotal moment in their lives. The humans used magic (runes), flash bombs, swords, fire-tipped arrows, and much more to hinder the banshees' path of carnage. Many lives were lost, two especially I hated to see go. The losses hit the survivors hard. I felt their grief as my very own & wished they could be brought back to life. Sadly, there was no coming back.

Once the battlefield had grown quiet, Jeffrey led the team to another battle — with humans. This is the point where everything is explained: The Hand, banshees, bacabras, Chaos.....everything!

There were multiple happily ever after's. Some old characters reappeared. Plus, the ending showed us that the future looked remarkably promising; a major turnabout from hours before when death was thisclose to knocking on their door.

Great job, Jeffrey. You've written three wonderful tales, full of triumphs and tragedies. And most importantly, each was more intriguing than the last.

(Find more reviews/ratings at [www.superkambrook.com](http://www.superkambrook.com))

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### **Charlotte says**

This is book 3 in the Runes of Issalia series. I did not read books 1 or 2. I would recommend reading them first because I feel like I kissed a lot by reading this book. I got the general just of what's happening, but this is NOT one of those books that you can pick up at any point in the series and be okay. That being said, I think this book was pretty good. I liked the Brock character. He apparently came from a low standing in the kingdom, yet he turned out to be rich in more important ways.

"Chaos" is an original word to choose as a name for a type of magic. The book setting makes me think of king Arthur days in some ways, with some modern ideas thrown in.

The book was well edited and well written.

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### **Fiona Andrew says**

#### **Fabulous**

What an awesome adventure this series has been. Full of magic, banshees, bacabras, evil people and of course the good people. The characters jump off the page as if they are chaos charged, they wrap themselves into your heart and make you read when you should be sleeping. Luckily the good triumphed over the evil and life looks brighter. Grab your copy of this series and lose yourself in a great adventure. Highly recommend.

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### **Cassie James says**

*Thanks to the author for providing an ARC for an honest review. This doesn't influence my thoughts on it. .*

An Empire in Runes is the last book in the amazing series The Runes of Issalia . It's everything I'd expect in the end of a great series. I have loved this series from the beginning and my adoration for it kept increasing per book but this last book really blew my mind. The author left no stone unturned, he unleashed the fury of his talent and it resulted in an amazing finale.

An Empire in Runes began with the aftermath of the takeover of the prison. The emotional atmosphere of the now released Unchosen was brilliantly portrayed. The different phases of emotions they go through is totally understandable. The consequential training of the Unchosen was a little bit daunting but the gang was able to achieve their goals of forming a Chaos army despite a few hiccups. Tenzi and Sinclair had a worse time getting troops to join the war mostly because of doubtful Prelates. The characters have gone through a lot and it positively reflected in them. They've come a very long way from being students at the Academy. Now they're brilliant warriors and magicians. One amazing thing about this book is that though the storyline encompasses quite a lot of characters, it's still very much about its core characters.

The use of Chaos is an incredible plot that has paid off for this series and the ideology was thoroughly explored in An Empire in Runes. Brock, Ashland and the rest of the Unchosen prove how formidable their power is and this made them a major player in the ultimate war with The Horde. It was really inspiring seeing all of them as leaders in various forms especially Cam, He broke out of his shell marvelously and became a strong leader. Brock was particularly admirable with his way of keeping a clear head and formulating smart plans in the face of impending doom. Benny also shines with yet another brilliant invention of his, He's literally the Einstein of Issalia. I'm glad the romance between Brock and Ashland wasn't shelved, the special connection between them is still strong and amazing both mentally and emotionally.

The events towards the ultimate war was very well written thus making the book an extremely entertaining read. The tension, stakes and scenes were expertly placed. I was always on the edge of my seat. The very war itself is bloody, deadly, savage and long. Despite a lot of careful planning and well executed formations, it was not even remotely easy. The battle resulted in the loss of many characters, even some main ones.

The aftermath of the battle was equally terrible because the twists and turns that turned up was unexpected and sudden. Disheartening revelations were exposed, But thankfully the Truth prevailed. The events towards the ending was an active whirlwind but I loved it all worked out perfectly.

Brock's story is an amazing journey that I'm very glad to have witnessed, His story might have ended but I hope for more adventures in the world of Issalia.

The ending was so freaking beautiful I wept. It was nice seeing this characters settle in peace after everything they'd gone through. The ending was very happy and it was a worthy way to end an amazing series. The author is definitely one of my favourite and I classify his books as a must buy.

An Empire in Runes is a book filled with intense action, explosive magic (sometimes literally), sweet romance, monsters, gore and fabulous characters. It is a great end to the series, I recommend it to anyone looking for their next favorite read. I wait with bated breath for the next book from Jeffrey L. Kohanek.

P.S: The romance between Brock and Ashland is as intense and epic as ever, The heat is really turned on!!!!.

P.P.S: That ending was a stroke of genius, I certainly didn't see it coming. I'm glad about the way Issalia seems to be evolving.

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### **Chris says**

When Brock Talenz, member of an outcast class known as the Unchosen, pays to have a rune tattooed into his forehead to mark him as Chosen instead, he unwittingly embarks on a journey not just to save himself

from a life of starvation and poverty, but to save the world. A world that is governed by those who resist saving at every step. Brock soon discovers that he can wield a powerful magic known as Chaos, a magic too unpredictable and powerful to be considered 'safe' - a power banished hundreds of years ago, its very memory stamped out.

In a race against time, Brock must gather what forces he can, from all corners of Issalia, to face an invading horde of giant monsters, Banshees ten feet tall with razor sharp claws, who can freeze their enemies with fear by simply screaming at them. But can he stay ahead of The Hand, the mysterious secret organization bent on stamping out Chaos?

As the final showdown battle looms dark on the horizon, Brock gathers Unchosen Chaos-wielders beside the Tantarri raiders of the plains, and the remnants of the Holy Army of Issal for a last stand against impossible odds...

Content:

Drug Content:

G - Some drinking occurs, very light.

Violence:

PG-13 - The Banshees use razor-sharp talons to rip faces off, slice people in pieces. Banshees are decapitated pretty often, and have a habit of bashing people's heads together. Fireballs and bombs set enemies on fire, war is pretty violent. The Banshees also eat people, sometimes while they are alive.

Language:

G - squeaky clean.

Adult Content:

PG - Some kissing, and a few off screen assignations. There's a girl vying for another girl's boyfriend, wearing revealing clothing to get him interested.

Christian content:

None. Most of the religion in the book centers around the god Issal, who developed the runes and the power behind them. While no specific prayers are voiced or quoted directly to Issal, praying to the god happens quite frequently in the novel. Many characters depend on their faith in this god, others are not really believers in anything but their own abilities.

Final analysis:

I must say, I looked forward to this third installment in the Runes of Issalia. It did not disappoint. Like the other two books in the series, the action was rapid fire and the characters well-developed. The stakes could not have been higher, the plot solid and constantly twisting. I read most of this in one sitting, and that's saying a lot as it weighed in at 286 pp paperback. fast-paced, immersive, edge-of-the-seat action, I couldn't put it down! Five Stars!

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**June says**

**I really cared about the characters—he made them real.**

This trilogy held me in its grip from Book 1. Great adventure, world-building and character development. A lot of detail helped with visualization, although it sometimes slowed things down. I don't care whether a character turns right or left into a hallway if it has no significance to the story. On the other hand, descriptions of slaughter and gore were pretty graphic—plenty of horror in parts. The author gave the characters their privacy during romantic interludes (basically, just embraces and tender or deepening kisses and then closed doors). Thank you.

One oversight was unrealistic, involving being locked in a small space for two days with hands shackled behind one's back, being rescued, and running off for more adventure without changing clothes—eww! I don't care how dehydrated the character eventually became, biology would have made its demands. Regardless of the urgency of getting away, being provided with a thoughtful change of clothing would have been much appreciated, and facilitated running.

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### **Dianne says**

It will take the power of Chaos and the determination of one group of teens to save the world from the forces of evil in the form of monsters, dark magic and deadly mayhem. Young Brock may be the guiding force that is the last hope for humanity as the final showdown arrives and the words of an ancient prophecy come to life.

Cover your ears, the banshees have arrived and the battle will be one of terrifyingly epic proportions as unsung heroes will risk life and limb to defeat a foe with more magic, seemingly unending warriors and a secret weapon that stands in the shadows. Alone, the wielders of chaos are untried, barely trained and merely fodder for the rampage of the monsters. Together, they represent all that makes true heroes what they are. Loyalty, the willingness to work as a team, a sharing of ideas, inventions and the heart to die for both each other and the world that has blindly treated them as pariahs.

Feel the rising tension throughout this fast-paced saga, watch each character come to life, once again as each page races by. Enjoy the humor among friends and allies as they show their youthful innocence and witness the transformation they undergo as they don the mantle of warrior and face the world's worst nightmares on the field of battle.

Jeffrey L. Kohanek's **AN EMPIRE IN RUNES** will have its readers on the edge of their seats, hearts racing, fists clenched, willing to jump into the battle of good versus evil. Everyone needs heroes to look up to, heroes that admit fear, yet push on against all odds. Mr. Kohanek gives us those heroes in a tale that will make believers out of the power of words when processed through our own imaginations.

I received this copy from Jeffrey L. Kohanek in exchange for my honest review.

Series: The Runes of Issalia - Book 3

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## Debbie says

### **Runes of Issalia**

These 3 books were a very interesting read. Had fun with the characters, and their adventures. Hope that the Author continues with more stories of Brock and Ashland. A word of warning for the younger crowd although sex and profanity is not part of these books, there is still inferred relationships in them, and should be read by teens and adults.

