



The King's Man

Pauline Gedge

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Twelve-year-old Amunhotep III has ascended the throne, becoming king of the richest empire on earth. The boy's mother acts as regent, but she has brought to court the renowned seer, Huy, son of a humble farmer, to be scribe and counsel to her royal son. It's a position of power and responsibility—one fraught with intrigue and the lure of corruption. For it is Huy who controls the treasury, the military, all construction, and taxation—and perhaps most important, it's his task to choose the young Pharaoh's queen. His actions and premonitions, as well as his legendary past, make him very few friends and a great many enemies... *The King's Man* continues the story of Huy—first seen in *The Twice Born* and *Seer of Egypt*—and his rise to power and fame. With her meticulous research and compelling prose, Pauline Gedge immerses readers in the ancient and fascinating culture that was Egypt.

The King's Man Details

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Author : Pauline Gedge

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From Reader Review The King's Man for online ebook

Jill Myles says

MOST ANTICLIMACTIC ENDING TO A SUPER LONG TRILOGY EVER. WHAT THE HELL, GEDGE.

(don't worry, bb, you're still my favorite)

Rubab Mirza says

A wonderful book though it tends to repetitive. There is no action to speak of. Despite this I throughly enjoyed it.

JR Foster says

Meh..a 3rd book is tough.. just like good movies sometimes you have to know when. To quit , or reevaluate like could this story been tied up in 2 books instead of 3? I had high hopes but this didn't meet expectations.

Kathleen says

I'm rather disappointed in how this book ended. It felt unfinished to me. I expected more from a Pauline Gedge book.

Lisa Llamrei says

This is actually a review for the entire trilogy (The Twice Born, Seer of Egypt, and The King's Man) because I bought it as a bundle on Kindle and read it from beginning to end. Usually, Goodreads has the full trilogy as an option (or at least the Kindle edition), but not this time. Anyway ...

The trilogy starts with young Huy starting school to become a scribe. He is killed in a fight with another student, but returns to life just as the embalmers are about to start their work. From this point on, he has the gift of seeing the future. As he grows and learns to channel his gift, he catches the attention of the king and becomes influential in the court of the Pharaoh.

I'm a real Egyptophile, have been for more than thirty years, so I relished every detail of life in ancient Egypt. But the sheer delight of experiencing Egypt live again is just the tip of the iceberg. The story is compelling, in a cerebral kind of way (more psychological than action-based). The characters are complex and authentic - Huy's internal conflict between accepting the gift given by the gods and wanting a "normal" life is beautifully done.

Unfortunately, in the second and third books, too much time is spent recapping events in the previous books, and it's not very skillfully done. Also, the final revelation about the Book of Thoth is anti-climactic.

Still, a great read for those who love Egypt and love to explore character.

Ted Hopkins says

Wow! This culmination of The King's Man Trilogy is a stunning read. With it the whole trilogy ties together as an impressive piece of literature. To an outside observer Huy's advancement would appear as non-conflicted progress; the only real personal conflict occurs near the end with Queen Tiye. Huy's internal struggles and those with his destiny and his gods drive the book with a very unique suspense that takes hold of the reader and just does not let go. This very internal conflict could prove dull reading in the hands of a lesser author but Gedge deftly works it into the gripping heart of the novel and of the whole trilogy. The fantasy elements, used sparingly, only enhance the power of the story-telling as a whole. Every character takes on a reality in the reader's imagination that transports one deep into ancient Egypt at its greatest. The adoptive uncle/nephew relationship between Huy and Amunhotep that persists to the very end never cloyed nor spoils presentation of these personalities -- skillful writing indeed! Subtle references to others of Gedge's novels (The Twelfth Transforming, in particular, Child of the Morning, and the Lords of Two Lands Trilogy) enhance context for this powerful read.

Marge Perko says

I finally finished the final book of this trilogy. It is a lot slower than the other two books - and with some characters gone, I felt Huy's loneliness more and more. The book skipped forward many years. I felt this was a good choice, as quite a lot of the administrative descriptions got a bit tedious, even in quick summary. I am going to read The Twelfth Transforming next - it is supposed to take place during the reign of Akhenaten (that little baby prince the Seer was so frightened of in the last chapter of the book.) I recommend this whole series, though you will need patience during the final book.

Craig says

I feel badly only giving this book 3 stars. I want to make it clear I did not hate this book, or the two that preceded it, but I didn't love it either. I remember being captivated by the Lord of Two Lands trilogy. I think the difference might have been there was more action in those three books - more drama.

As far as the King's Man trilogy is concerned, I loved the first one because it seemed like it was a set up to lots of intrigue for the next two books - maybe throw in a war or an assassination attempt. It wasn't. Each of the next two books became more and more tired. It almost seemed like Gedge got tired writing about these people after a while. Page after page it became: Huy read this and that, traveled hither and yonder, transcribed another scroll, and stressed out even more about the Book of Thoth.

Also, it became very bogged down in Ancient Egyptian mysticism and religion. Not that I have a problem with that - but there's not a whole lot of explanation to it. This book tended to be very cerebral with, in my humble opinion, an anti-climactic ending.

I do love that Gedge sketches out the most interesting characters. You become one with them, so when one of them dies you really feel like you've lost a dear friend.

Will I continue to read books by Pauline Gedge? Absolutely!! I just wonder if perhaps single books (as opposed to mammoth trilogies) are her stronger suit. I've already identified another 5 of her novels I will order from Amazon.

In the author's defense, this is 'historical fiction'. I may be looking for action and thrills that did not actually happen in a 60 year time frame. If an author goes beyond those constraints, it becomes fiction.

Forgotten Realms Queen says

If you're a fan of high, epic, wonderfully done fantasy and you only have one book you are allowed to read this year, make it The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms.

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms is the first book in the Inheritance Trilogy by N.K. Jemisin, was first recommended to me by a regular customer of mine. We have a lot of the same book interests in common, and we would always chat it up a bit when he came in, and one conversation this book came up.

He was really enthusiastic about it, going on and on about how awesome it was, and I should really read it because it was just that good.

Now normally, I don't jump on the recommendation bandwagon when someone goes off on it like he did, mostly because nine times out of ten, the item has been built up so much by the other person's hype, it falls short of my expectations. But this one slipped through my filters, and I'm quite happy it did.

The story is, just like he said, really, really good. It's about a young girl from the barbaric highlands named Yeine, who just so happens to be the granddaughter of the most powerful man on the continent, who also happens to be the ruler of the most ruthless people in the world, the Arameri.

The Arameri are the kind of aristocrats who way back in the day got bored of the normal kinds of meat such as pig, cow, and chicken, and decided to try out the 'other' white meat of various races and ages. And the custom is still in practice as a delicacy within the world's current timeline. Eww.

Anyways her mum, who has been exiled from the Arameri for years because she fell in love with the wrong man dies, and Yeine's granddaddy calls her home to compete with her two cousins over the throne that his decrepit old butt is still somehow managing to keep warm.

And when I say compete, I mean fight to the death. It's made clear from day one that of Yeine and her cousins, only one will survive to be the new ruler.

But the interesting thing about the Arameri is that they also control gods. Once upon a time, in the beginning of the universe, there were the gods of light and dark who were enemies, brothers, and lovers. Then the goddess of the dawn and twilight came into being, and the god of the dawn didn't like that. He was also the god of order, the god of dark was chaos, and the goddess was the balance between the two: dawn and twilight, life and death. So the goddess starts to create life on the perfect little world that the god of light made, as well as sleeping with both her brothers (hey, it worked for the Greek gods...). But the god of light turns out to be the jealous sort, and sets out to kill his sister.

Of course the god of darkness revolts against this idea, and while the god of light wins in killing the goddess, he casts out his brother and all the godling children of various human elements from the heavens and binds

them into human form to serve the descendants of his chosen people, the Amn.

There. Now you're up to speed.

It's been thousands of years since the god of darkness and his 'children' have been bound and banished, and never once have they given up hope for their freedom. And for good reason too, because through a little *deus ex machina*, the key to their salvation walks right into their hands: Yeine.

This book has everything in it. It's got a big old 'who-dunnit' as Yeine suspects that her mum was murdered and tries to sniff it out. It's got layer upon layer of intrigue which makes the books so juicy my mouth is watering just remembering it, it's got murder, mayhem, power run amok and wielded like a scalpel, it's even got a love story between Yeine and the bound god of darkness.

Now I read romance books, but nothing I have read in a long time come close to what I saw here between these two characters. Such warmth and emotion...and I am such a sap I almost cried at the end over those two.

Now the reason why I say it's a little lauded gem despite all goodness packed inside it, is because it's the kind of hole-in-the-wall book that would only really get around via word of mouth. The cover art looks more sci fi than fantasy, so there goes a good chunk of fan base right there. It's a dense read with all the political maneuverings and investigating that's going on, so there goes another bit there because not a lot of people are into that.

Plus I don't think it's had the financial/overly enthusiastic backing to really push it into mainstream.

But if you can get past the cover, stick with it through the story, and you like reading stuff that's a little off the beaten path; then please, pick up *Hundred Thousand Kingdoms*. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Enjoy folks.

Outis says

So you made it through #2? What has #3 to offer?

Obviously, more clumsy telling. More infuriating reminders of course. And unbelievably, more Anuket! Not for long because she's got a replacement (I think you can guess who). Reading about this stuff is tedious. But that's not what you wanted to know, right? Yes, you finally get to read the last part of the Book. And while the book remains lightweight in terms of delivery, there is some resolution. I found the brutal and understated resolution disappointing, but I sort of liked it anyway. It's not outrageously bad, predictable or irrelevant. The book kept me guessing about who was going to do something decisive until I realized there weren't enough pages left for my guesses to fit. ;-)

Special lameness prize for the introduction to Tiye.

I haven't read any others but I suspect Pauline Gedge had written better books earlier in her career.

Carrie Slager says

I will still like the first book of the King's Man trilogy the best, but the concluding volume, the aptly named The King's Man, is still a decent book. The ending lets readers use their imaginations, but it also gave me a sense of satisfaction because it took the trilogy full circle. Huy is a confident, powerful old man in this book and that in itself is satisfying because of the drastic change from when he was younger.

The King's Man is slightly faster paced than the two previous novels, but it is by no means a thriller novel. If you love long, winding narratives filled with tiny details and political intrigue, you will love this book. If you will read a book because it has three dimensional characters like I do, you will absolutely love Pauline Gedge's latest novel. The characters of Huy, Mutemwia and Amunhotep develop at natural paces that also make sense when you look at what they actually did as historical figures. The best historical fiction authors are able to assign realistic motivations to historical figures and Pauline Gedge is indeed one of the best.

I give this book 4/5 stars.

Keith says

Disappointing and abrupt end to a great series.

Peter says

The sense of mystery and excitement really tapered off through this trilogy. The first book was great. I kept checking for the release of the 2nd and 3rd books. And yet when it came out and I started to read it, I barely wanted to finish the last book.

Rebecca Huston says

Pauline Gedge fills in the gaps about Queen Tiye, Amunhotep III and the very tangled mess that ensues with this novel. While it was a bit predictable in spots, and at times a bit too cluttered with Egyptian mysticism, it still was a great read. Definitely going onto my keeper shelf, along with the rest of Pauline Gedge's novels.

For the longer review, please go here:
<http://www.epinions.com/review/Paulin...>

Lorina Stephens says

In the conclusion to The King's Man trilogy, Pauline Gedge continues Huy's quest to uncover the truth of the Book of Thoth while handling the increasing burden of Egypt's governance.

Written with Gedge's usual attention to character and environmental detail, the book definitely transports the

reader to ancient Egypt. However, for me the overall arc of the story lacked the kind of tension we usually find in Gedge's other books. *The King's Man* is a good read, but not quite up to Gedge's usual standards. Still, recommended for a good summer escape.
