



The Destruction of the Books

Mel Odom

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THE ROVER RETURNS

After his adventures on the mainland Wick, the Rover, returned to his duties at the Vault of All Known Knowledge and quickly worked his way up the hierarchy , continuing his quest for the preservation of books and the knowledge contained therein.

And now that quest is threatened.

AN APPRENTICE ACQUIRED

It is many years later and lowly Wick is now Grandmagister Lamplighter of the Great Library. His trips to the mainland are fewer due to his advanced age, and lately he has enlisted an apprentice researcher by the name of Jugh to undertake those roving duties he used to relish.

An encounter with a goblin ship on the high seas leads to Jugh's discovery of a book in goblin hands, a most urgent matter that must be investigated.

A SHADOW DESCENDS

This single event , the acquisition of a single book, leads to startling revelations that forewarns of a great evil that exists that is every bit as powerful as the Vault of All Known Knowledge, and whose presence in the Great Library may indeed result in *The Destruction of the Books*

And perhaps much worse.

The Destruction of the Books Details

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Author : Mel Odom

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From Reader Review The Destruction of the Books for online ebook

Mike says

Second book in a series that is a somewhat formulaic heroic fantasy. There's your good guys, there's your bad guys, there's a librarian. What's that you say?, a Librarian?

Yup. Librarian. In fact a whole island (ok, not all of the island, just most of it) of 'em. That's our "hero". a slightly different, more imaginative (or is that motivated) librarian.

Lauren says

Not as good as the first in the series, and even more blatant with the LOTR references. Also noticed typos like the other reviewer did--and not just typos, but words that were wrong or grammatically incorrect sentences. Odom got shortchanged on the editing here.

Alex says

A great continuation of the series. The story is fresh and captivating, and not at all rehashing of the previous book (unlike some reviewers suggested).

Parent rating: graphic fights, no indecency.

Allison says

I picked up The Destruction of the Books because I really enjoyed The Rover. While Rover was very Hobbit-esque, this one attempts to be LOTR-esque. Mainly in that it is long and overwritten. This book has some of the worst pacing I have ever read. A conversation will take an entire chapter because the narrator stops after every few lines to explain a comment with one to three paragraphs. Even the exciting battle scenes take forever because of all the extra narration and quotations. Plus, there are several facts that you will be reminded of on a regular basis. Juhg was a slave in goblin mines. Craugh likes to turn people into frogs when he's angry. The Vault of All Known Knowledge must be kept secret. Lord Kharriion tried to wipe everyone out. You can now skip about eighty pages throughout the book. (Without being too spoiler-y, the important elements like the climax and character motivations weren't placed right either.) I wish it was more about Wick again....

A.M. Reynwood says

A few weeks ago I read The Rover and found it an engaging read, so when I found out there were more I was eager to continue my adventures with Wick and gang. Not necessarily bad but nevertheless to my

disappointment, the sequel takes place many, many years later, when Wick has been Grandmagister for ages already. He isn't even the main character in this story, giving way to his apprentice, Juhg, a mainlander dweller 'adopted' by Wick some thirty years ago and brought to the Vault.

The opening was enticing for me, the prologue dark and mysterious, but the chapters that followed didn't keep me as enthralled. The narrative was sluggish, going off on explanations to various details that, while they do flesh out the world and history a little bit, unnecessarily interrupted dialogue and confused the conversation some. This happened throughout the book and contributed to why the story felt so slow and didn't catch me.

The two detail typos that bugged me the most were, firstly, in relation to Raisho's eyes. Unless I read it wrong, one page described his eyes as brown and a couple pages later said they were blue, then they went back to brown. I could have misread it, though. Secondly (and this happened late in the second half) was when Juhg stood up at one point and a couple paragraphs down he's still holding (unnamed person's) head in his lap. That's hard even if you're four feet tall. These are nitpicky grievances, I'll admit, but as a writer they stood out and bothered me.

Also, all throughout the story we get the idea that Wick and Craugh (the wizard only mentioned by name in the first book but is now part of the close group of friends) know something that Juhg doesn't which has very much to do with the destruction of the books. This enemy doesn't show up until the last few pages of the closing chapter, and we've never heard of him before. There was no real buildup for his entrance, either, he just so happens to spring in during the last attack with a history involving both Wick and Craugh that wasn't even hinted about until right then. Although I'm sure the details will be revealed later.

I don't mean to bash the poor thing black and blue, though. It wasn't the greatest story, but it had its merits. There was some humor between characters who in turn weren't shallowly developed. The arguments between parties were pretty good, too. I especially liked the one between Juhg and Craugh about the reason behind the Cataclysm (more detail would involve spoilers that I'm not so inclined to reveal).

All in all, I wouldn't suggest not reading it because of any of these complaints. I am invested enough in the story to keep going and find out what happens next (especially since this one ended on such a dramatic note that I am neither inclined to spoil). I've never encountered a story before so centered around books, where knowledge and the written word is the focal point of all the action. Books are the damsel in distress. Books are the treasure that must be rescued/kept from evil hands at all costs. Books are what the antagonist wants, not blood (although they aren't too shy in shedding it for the sake of their dastardly cause). In that respect this is a refreshing tale that I'm glad I found.

Jodie says

Having trouble getting through this, but I'm loving the librarian jokes.

Carissa Smith says

loved this from start to finish!

The Third Place A Teen Library says

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Fantasy

Cindy says

This book although it's the second book in the Rover series is more about Juhg then Wick. I loved Wick, although he got on my nerves sometimes a part of me loved him. Juhg was the most annoying thing ever and I had NO connection to him. First off the writing in this book wasn't as good. I felt deja vu every time I read a page because Odom repeated things over and over. Yes I know Juhg was a slave and even mentioning it sometimes was okay but 3 times a page and going into detail about the same stuff I read 3 pages ago was a little boring. The other complaint I have about this is it's 380 pages, the book is slow nothing happens until page 210 or so.

Which brings me back to juhg. This guy was the least grateful, bitter person in the world. I almost wished a monster would eat him and I'd be rid of him.

Also as this is the second book it's really Book 2 part 1 because it ends and of course it goes on to book 3. There is no ending that leaves you satisfied.

Lastly, the thing that annoyed me the most. Was the reference to stuff that was not in Rover and acting like we knew what was going on. This drove me crazy.

I was very disappointed in this book, and I was really excited about the first one.

Martha says

#2. Not as good as the Rover, but still good.

Alain says

Why did I bother reading this to the end if it's not that good? Because there aren't that many fantasy books that deal with librarians and libraries!

Come to think of it, are there any other not written by Odom?

Connie says

so far I like Juhg's character. 4/10/10

I finished the book so long ago I can't recall most of it. I do know that destruction of any books is never a good thing. I know some books are very bad, but somehow we can learn from that also. Juhg's character was good through all of these books that he is in.

He is an adventuresome little person and even when frightened, continues on until the end.

Great read!

Gareth Campbell says

The main character repeats a few things a few too many times. It is clearly a set up for a third book. There are a few misspellings/wrong words mixed into the book. This does not detract from a solid read based in a well defined world.

Brian says

I really looked forward to reading this book. I don't know anyone who has read it, but I love the idea of the main character being a librarian.

It definitely had the feeling of a typical adventure/Fantasy series. A little cliche but overall entertaining.

Enjoyed Jugh and his antics, as well as Craugh and his magic.

The book leaves a big time cliffhanger and I look forward to reading Lord of the Libraries.

On a downside, what's with the covers of the books in this series to be artwork specifically for the LoTR?

JG (The Introverted Reader) says

This was a fun little hobbit-y knockoff, but the writing was pretty terrible. I overlooked it enough to pick up the second, but if there's a third I won't be reading it.
