



# The Last Dragon Slayer

*Martyn Stanley*

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## **The Last Dragon Slayer** Martyn Stanley

Saul Karza, wizard of the Empire, has been given a quest by the Empress herself: To find and slay a mythical 'noble dragon' - said to be near invulnerable.

Instead of leading a large band of soldiers, archers and spell-casters; he sets out with two immigrant dock-workers and a homeless dwarf.

What Saul needs is the legendary 'Last Dragon Slayer' on his side, because on this deadly quest, it's not only Saul's favour with the Empress that's at stake - but also his life.

The Deathsworn Arc Series of Dark, Epic Fantasy Adventure Novels:-

Deathsworn Arc : The Last Dragon Slayer

Deathsworn Arc 2 : The Verkreath Horror

Deathsworn Arc 3 : The Blood Queen

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Deathsworn Arc 5: The Temple of the Mad God

The Deathsworn Arc is a fantasy series with themes of atheism and pragmatism, it contains graphic violence and mature themes.

Recommended for readers 14+ only.

## **The Last Dragon Slayer Details**

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# From Reader Review The Last Dragon Slayer for online ebook

## Mimi says

'The Last Dragon Slayer' starts with a wizard named Saul Karza, travelling with three others (two men and a dwarf). He has been given the mission to kill a dragon which is rumoured to be about.

Lacking in skilled warriors, he tries to recruit Silus Mendelson, who is known as the last dragon slayer. Once he is recruited they set about travelling to complete their quest. On their way, they come across Brael, a Gravian and he decides to join them.

Shortly after that, when they run into trouble they meet Vashni, a elf who can whisper. After finding out what they plan to do, Vashni joins them feeling as though they will not win without her. Together the group set out to take on the dragon.

After finishing this book my first thought was that I wanted to read the next one. This story was well written and had characters that I really liked.

Vashni, was intriguing because she could whisper and get into people's minds. It made her seem very powerful and someone who you wouldn't want to cross. Silus Mendelson, was good as well and at the beginning I didn't think he was going to join the mission.

Saul and Brael were the only characters that I found disappointing. I just felt as though you didn't see enough of them. But I think you will when you read the rest of the books in the series. I liked Thrax, and thought that he seemed clever and cunning.

As well as the characters, I found the setting interesting and was reminded of stories such as Lord of the Rings.

Overall I enjoyed this book. I would recommend this to fans of fantasy.

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## L.J. Capehart says

The story that I read was not what I was expecting! It developed into mostly a story about two of the characters, with very little of the first character introduced. But it was still a good adventure. I'm curious where the story will move on to in the next book.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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## Anna says

When I started reading this, I was looking forward to it. For once no big countries at war, not the whole world at peril, but merely an interesting collection of people out to fulfil a quest. The plot itself is a little simple, but it would do.

The main focus of the author seems to me to lie with the group who go out to kill a dragon anyway. Since I do enjoy character-centred story telling the most, that is fine with me. However, there are few characters in the book who are fleshed out. The elf gains the most profile - she has a strong personality and hints of a background story. The dark elf shows some potential as well. All other characters remain flat. (view spoiler) A main issue I had with the book were the endless, repetitive dialogues. It is not necessary to retell every hour of riding from every character's perspective. Yes, people have a thought and then later discuss it with others. They may have the same conversation several times. That's okay in real life but annoying for the reader. A lot of what was put into plain speech should have been communicated non-verbally or left unsaid but still tangible for the reader.

Likewise, the moral 'dilemmas' that the group discussed at length left me cold. More so because the characters remained wooden, too uniform in their manner of thinking and speech (even the 14 year old village boy talked like a 50 year old scholar).

Overall, this read like a first draft to me that needs much fleshing out to become a genuinely enjoyable read.

Other issues:

- Why is there just one (the standard alibi) female character (that is of course pretty, dressed in tight clothes and hard to get)? She's mildly interesting, but considering that none of the men is properly fleshed out and essential (apart from the dark elf and perhaps Saul), why could there not be a second woman or an interesting, significant female they encounter on the road (I don't count 'Ellen' into that category)?
- Punctuation is a big issue with commas missing in one spot and being completely misplaced in others. Many apostrophes are missing.
- If someone coughs, please *describe* it, rather than letting him say 'Cough... I don't feel so good.'
- There were words missing, others misplaced.

Please consider this an honest, well-meant review, even if it contains a lot of criticism.

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## **Tiffany says**

The Last Dragon Slayer is my return to High Fantasy novels, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Martyn Stanley's style of writing appeals to me in it's directness and non-usage of "typical" High Fantasy flowery type language. The characters were interesting. Their interactions and relationships that developed were entertaining, especially the female elf Vashni and the male human Korhan. I also enjoyed and appreciated the ethical and moral decisions that the characters made. It was nice to see characters that didn't just go around maiming and stabbing things all willy-nilly. While I felt the fight scene with the Dragon could have been a little longer (it is supposed to be an extremely difficult to kill creature right?), it was written well. All in all The Last Dragon Slayer has accomplished in way fewer pages what most take hundreds to achieve. A very likable, and good read. I look forward to reading the rest of the books in this series.

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## **Simon Oakden says**

I liked this story. It's well written and interesting, and different. I think it's the kinky relationship between the warrior and the elf, it's a bit weird, but it's intriguing and makes you want to read on to see how it develops. All in all it's kind of strange, we don't get too much background information on the characters involved, but I think we get enough to be interested. The pace is pretty good and the constant moral and ethical debating is

interesting.

I didn't like the weird elvish language bits, trying to imagine how to pronounce words with the funny symbol in the middle gave me a bit of a headache at times, I wish the writer had left this out!

Having said that, there's not that many bits like that and I ended up just reading the common ones as 'Mirsha' and 'Rishine' even though they are supposed to sound different according to the notes at the front of the book. I can see why he did it, I don't like it though.

The battle at the end should have gone on longer too, but I liked the gritty realism, I'll defo read part 2 if it ever comes out.

I suppose it was a bit short, could have done with a bit more 'meat'. Enjoyable though.

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## **Clarice says**

It surprised me just how much I liked this book. I am a fan of The Hobbit series but admittedly have never read the book and I haven't read The Lord of the Rings Trilogy either. However, this book reminded me of the movies and it was quite an intriguing journey as this little group go off to fight a huge dragon. There's already a dragon slayer in the midst, a cursed dark elf, an elf, a dwarf, a wizard, and two dock workers. They don't sound like much, but together they become quite the group and must endure a few trials and humiliations (mainly one character's humiliation) to even reach their destination. There is little hope that they will make it out alive without some intervention and the female elf that joins them provides them with some help. However, the dark elf stays cursed and one of the dock workers becomes quite enamored with the elf, who seems to also have some trouble tailing her as well. She takes this worker under her wing to attempt to teach him some mental defense against magic and those that can bend other's minds to their will and to help him become a better swordsman. After all she puts him through, it's amazing the man puts up with it. But he does and is rewarded for it. Quite a fascinating read!!

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## **D.elliott says**

Saul Karza, a licensed wizard, is in charge with assembling a group of warriors to aid him with the perilous quest of defeating a noble dragon, a creature that is almost invincible, manipulative, magical and deadly. The dragon - vain, blood thirsty and power hungry - threatens to bring both chaos and enslavement to Empress Jade's peoples, and it is under her orders Saul Karza accepts the challenge. The group Saul gathers are a misfit bunch, an unlikely band of characters thrown together who form uneasy alliances with each other. There are two strong dockland workers seeking fame and fortune. A former soldier of the Empire, who is a jaded and broken drunkard, wallowing in the former glory of being the only survivor from a previous dragon attack. Vortex, a homeless dwarf locked out from his underground home of Durheimholt due to an unknown enchantment. Brael a Gravian (or dark elf) who was an esteemed magical researcher but has been banished from his homeland and cursed due to uncovering a disagreeable truth that is revealed at the end of the novel. There is also Lady Vashni, a mistress elf over a century old who is a skilled warrior and knowledgeable in the magical art of whispering, but unlike Brael she has chosen self exile from her lands for personal reasons and to indulge her caprices by pursuing adventure.

Overall 'The Last Dragon Slayer,' is an entertaining read. There is plenty within the novel - it is not simply a straight forward high fantasy quest. There is action, philosophical moments, character development as well as a detailed and atmospheric secondary world against which the narrative plays out. The novel also explores an interesting learner/mentor dynamic which is unusually charged with sexual tension. The narrative is also teeming with high fantasy creatures and tropes: magic, medievalism, trolls, wizards, elves, dwarfs, orcs, hippogriffs and dragons. However, where the novel deviates from high fantasy is its focus on character development and the individual relationships within the group, which gives it a flavour of the 'sword and sorcery' genre. It is this focus on the characters personal battles that playfully subverts the high fantasy genre the novel is working within and will, I believe, become a feature further developed in the following instalment.

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## Inge says

A wizard, a dwarf, an elf, a dark elf, and three humans walk into a bar. Sounds like the beginning of a joke, doesn't it? But it really happens in *The Last Dragon Slayer*. They're an unusual collection of creatures who work together to reach their shared goal – to slay a Noble Dragon. It feels like a modern cross-over between the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hobbit* in the beginning, which is why I keep comparing this story to Tolkien's, but the author added his own spin to it. That was not always a good thing, which I will explain in a bit, but it was a damn good effort.

P.S. This dragon battle is superior in every single way.

I didn't like the female character, Vashni the elf, much. Yes, she is strong, but sometimes she comes across as a spoiled brat, even a bully. She enjoys humiliating others for the sake of entertaining herself, because everything is "boring". She takes a buff warrior and literally turns him into her bitch – she takes away his sight and hearing, makes him kiss her boot, has him act as her handmaiden, the list is endless. Worst of all, he actually allows all this because he has the hots for her. She "trains" him to be a better warrior in return, and teaches him to defend himself against mental intrusion, but that still doesn't take away the fact that she was a bit of a bitch. I felt like the story focussed way too much on Vashni's training of Korhan, and not enough on the other characters.

My feelings toward Saul, the wizard, were perfectly voiced by Vashni:

*"I was beginning to think your title of wizard was a ceremonial one, granted to you for your excellent beard growing and the fact that long robes become you. Now we're ready to face Thrax, I find it reassuring that your magical abilities extend beyond juggling apples and pulling flowers from your sleeve."*

Okay, so I appreciated Vashni *sometimes*. At least she wasn't afraid to voice her opinion. Saul is supposed to be this great wizard and I was really excited about him, but he didn't start showing promise until 86% in. He didn't really bring anything to the story except that he was the one who started the quest. I'm hoping to see him come to life more in the sequel, and have him show some true power. Vashni did a whole lot more magic than Saul.

I was very intrigued by Brael, the dark elf. The group saves him from being executed in the beginning, after which we learn that he is in fact cursed and can therefore not perform magic or speak 'The Truth'. What that is, I still don't know for sure, but I'm looking forward to that curse being lifted, because I think Brael could be very badass when he's able to wield magic.

I also wanted to know more about Votrex, our dwarf. I realise this is only the first part in a series and we've only gotten an introduction, so we'll likely still get an intricate view of these characters' pasts, but I still would've liked to know more by now. I couldn't really mourn for the characters who died, because I didn't get to know them well enough, which was a pity.

My favourite part was obviously the dragon bit. I was intrigued from the very beginning when it became clear that they were off to slay a dragon. They even teamed up with Silus, the last person alive to have battled a dragon. When the *Lord of the Rings* feeling faded to make room for the Vashni/Korhan story in the middle, I couldn't help but be disappointed. Luckily, it picked up again at the end, and the battle was a *lot* better than that disappointing thing at the end of *The Hobbit*. This battle scene actually lived up to its build-up.

It's different from other high fantasy books in the sense that it's very talky. The bulk of the story consists of our characters conversing with each other as they ride to the town where the dragon is reigning. There isn't a lot of talk about their surroundings, or four pages discussing trees (I'm looking at you, Tolkien), which kept the pace going for me. That's not to say some characters didn't need to put a sock in it (\*coughVASHNIcough\*), but I liked the writing style.

Overall, I thought it was a pretty decent start to an up-to-now very fun series, and I can't wait to see what happens next.

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## **Nicko (The Cover Hoarder) says**

This book is the first in a series that I was asked to read and give my opinions on. Well I finished it and I have mixed feelings about it :/ To tell the truth, I expected it be less random than it turned out to be and, I dunno, I wanted the author to make me care about the characters, but unfortunately, with just 2 exceptions, I did not. Which is a shame because if done well these characters would have been badass.

### **May contain spoilers! Read at your own risk!**

First off this book should have not been called "The Last Dragon Slayer" (pff, like there aren't any other dragons out there and Korhan's gonna be the only one who's gonna kill'em all - the title I am guessing does not refer to Silus by any chance, he's almost ignored after they leave Trest). I think this book should have had a small subtitle at the bottom "Korhan gets humiliated" because that's what most of the plot revolved around at it was... jarring to say the least, but I'll get to that a bit later.

This book was too short, it did not explain enough, it just went in a linear pattern and the things it showed such as culture and whatnot, but the rest was either repetitive or unimportant (they bring up at least five times the discussion of what to do with a brain-dumb bandit... I had no fucks to give anymore by the time they were leaving Briem).

The races presented here are stereotypical: on the good side we have: humans (that I believe are separated into normal humans, barbarian and wizards), dwarves, gravians (or dark elves - which I found quite interesting) and the prerequisite elves; and on the bad side we have: dragons, orcs, trolls, goblins. I mean no offence, but this seems like a really poor attempt at diversity, because I don't understand what they are all doing crammed in that tiny patch of land.

Ok now, on to the characters... Oh, boy.

I have to say from the get-go, 70 % in the story I was feeling like I knew next to nothing about the characters. In my opinion there is no character development, except for one which is rather a downgrade. **Korhan** is the one who gets character development, but in the negative sense of the word because he is downgraded, to a stableboy, workhorse, handmaiden and slave all in one, by - guess who? - a woman ofc. But not just any woman, a slender, feisty, elf woman that humiliates him just to better him.

My sister gave me the clue and when I thought about it, I realised she was right, **Vashni** is a high-functioning sociopath (highly intelligent individual that does not empathize with people unless they get something out of their relationship with said people and that look down on people, toying with them for their own amusement) < this is the very definition of Vashni. She's a freaking high-functioning sociopath! No wonder I couldn't stand her. She may have her strong moments, but my god, can she be a bitch! And that happens most of the times.

**Saul** is not the character I thought he would be. I thought that, as the leader of the group he would be more authoritative, both in and outside of it. However he's more the negotiable type and, as I said in one of my status messages, his way of handling some situations borders on Ned Stark stupidity.

Of all the characters I wanted **Brael** to be the one the author focused on, him and his banishment (and Martyn, you were really subtle with that "There is no Kirkfell. No Ishar and no halls of the afterlife" thing, there goes your super secret "truth" down the drain). I would have preferred to read more about him than about Vashni/Korhan. it would have been a welcoming change of subject.

The rest of the characters are **Votrex, Harald and Silus** which I personally voted as "Most likely to die at the end" (like i do in every midseason and season of The walking Dead). Turns out I was 2/3 right. Votrex lives, but he is rather useless, yeah but I vote him for the next 2 volumes ^\_^. These characters had little to no character development, I still don't know who Harald is. In my mind he is a barbarian-like person with the name Harald slapped across his face and that's it.

I will also take the time to address the idea that these characters, aside from being poorly characterised and developed, did not have distinct speech patterns. When the author fell into the "Talking Head Syndrome" territory, I couldn't figure out who was talking, because they all sounded the same (except for Vashni and Votrex, one was arrogance incarnate and the other used a lot :P).

The plot had little in it. Truth be told it was a 200 page book, but I feel like it could have had more to it than the group going from point A to point B, while talking, solving a problem at point B, going from point B to point C, finding obstacles in their way from B to C, solving problem in C then continuing on to D and then to E.

I felt that all the events that happened in the novel were randomly placed there so that the characters could have something to do. They are not crucial to the plot, but they are there. Oh and one more thing that bugged me. The focus was TOO. MUCH. ON. VASHNI. AND. KORHAN. Seriously at around 80 % when they train in swords I felt the desperate urge to skip the pages because I felt like I was reading the same thing I had read not 15 pages before. It was overwhelmingly intrusive this plot line and most of the times unwelcomed.

The writing style is not spectacular, but it's not bad either. Yes, the author does tend to halt the story to explain this and that thing or to explain this feeling of Korhan or why Vashni did this and that, but aside from these pauses the story flowed... I wouldn't say nicely, but rather, jittery.



As for my enjoyment of the story, I dunno. These elements I've enumerated above kept me from being fully immersed in the story and while I would not recommend it to avid fantasy readers who've probably read a whole lot of the genre, I would recommend it as a light read for uninitiated of the genre. This book, being the beginner of a series, has flaws, however I do admire the effort of this person in trying to make a story that he wanted to tell to the world. I hope that someday I would become just like him. Someone who can publish their book and show the world the story I've been working on for the last...uhh almost 10 years.

### **Let's Rate This - 5.8 / 10**

Setting and Atmosphere - 5

Plot - 6

Main Characters - 6

Secondary Characters - 7

Antagonists - 5

Writing - 6

Enjoyability - 6

Reviews for the Deathsworn Arc series:

The Last Dragon Slayer

The Verkreath Horror

The Blood Queen

Rise of the Archmage

The Temple of the Mad God

My reviews :) | [My Blog](#) | [Twitter](#)

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### **Meghan says**

All I had to be told was that there was a dragon in this book. Dragons are just ... well ... my thing. I love reading the different interpretations of this creature. And this book did not disappoint. It was fun and had a great adventure, reminiscent, in ways, of other books that I have enjoyed, like Lord of the Rings. I can't wait to read the rest of the series and find out just WHAT is going to happen next.

Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Ionia says**

Martyn Stanley is a talented new voice in the fantasy genre, and his book, "Deathsworn: the Last Dragon Slayer" Surprised and delighted me. Just when I thought there was no more room for yet another book about slaying a dragon, came this one--and it made me think twice about that judgement.

Here is what I loved about this book:

First of all, the main character is not your average, "I shall succeed at everything except keeping my ego in

check" type of hero. This was important to me as I have seen this in far too many books. I liked that this character had faults and wasn't perfect. It allowed me to feel closer to him and to identify with his purpose and plight that much more.

I applaud the dynamic between the characters in this book, in particular the relationships between the members of the group that ended up travelling together. I enjoyed wondering what would happen between a burgeoning love interest and two people that could have either become friends or ended up at odds. The author has a talent for creating tension between his characters and keeping the reader engaged for the duration of the story.

The battles scenes are well placed and strategic and reminded me somewhat of a movie. Martyn Stanley is good at anticipating the desires of the reader and fulfilling them in such a way that keeps you wanting to get to the next page. I never felt the pace drop in this story and it kept me reading even late into the night.

I also liked that the reader was introduced to the characters without miles and miles of pointless back story. You come into the novel where the characters are at in their current life and get to know them via their life from that point forward, rather than wading through the early lives and times of said characters. This was a nice angle for a fantasy author to use.

One of the more exceptional portions of this book, was the language that this author gave to the elves. I liked the original dialect and felt it helped them to stand out from the other characters in the book. I was transported to another world, rather than just reading about it second-hand.

I think this book is evident that Mr. Stanley is an author to watch--a promising new talent with a bright future ahead of him. I am greatly looking forward to his next book.

Overall, this was a wonderfully refreshing fantasy novel with lots of surprises and reasons to love it. I would recommend this to anyone who is tired of the basic formula and is looking for something that has not been done before. Great book.

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## **Martyn Stanley says**

Re-read again. I didn't actually read the latest version because I don't have that in paperback. I think in hindsight it was a good thing to hire pro editor Mike Rose-Steel. The work we did on this book was definitely worthwhile and though this version is good, it does have its flaws.

Re-read again! (August 2016) I wanted to re-read this to see how the series flows into the first 30,000 words of book 5 which I'm currently working on. I like this book, I think it's a great book, but I also think it could have been better. I'm sure my style has developed significantly since I wrote this. I just hope everyone who reads it sees through the odd clunky sentence and continues the series. I feel this book is just the tip of a really huge iceberg. The story I'm telling is only hinted at in this book and you don't really get to know the characters very well. In some respects I wonder if book 1 + 2 would make a better book. I've started reading book 2 and really enjoyed the depiction of a plague infested town. The characters starting to gel is really satisfying too. Still, book 1 is a perma-free, I am considering moving back to paid. I don't know. If I wrote this again, I don't think I'd change the story much, but I'd change the writing in places. I am glad I worked with Mike on this, I just read the version just prior to working with Mike Rose-Steel and I can remember some of the major changes we made and they were all good. Onto a re-read of book 2!

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Re-read (August 2017)

I've just read this back to back with Conan the Barbarian: The Stories that Inspired the Movie you can check my review here:- <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...> . Now I used to read 'The Savage Sword of Conan the Barbarian'. I have to say though, if you take Conan as the archetypal Sword and Sorcery character/story... Then I don't know if my own books are a good fit for the genre. Why? I don't think it's because they're bad, but because they're different. YES! There ARE swords and there IS sorcery! However there isn't a near invulnerable, swarthy, super-warrior, throwing wenches over his saddle and watching pretty much 90% of his comrades getting slaughtered. I suspect the format of a Conan story is more palatable when read as a monthly short rather than a book full of shorts back to back. The stories have a similar framework and become almost a little predictable, though Red Nails [Included in the book I just read ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_Nails](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Nails))] was an exception. That really DID have a few genuine surprises. I like this story, but I think if I'd wanted to trad pub it, I would have had to have expanded it by 30,000 words and developed the characters of the rest of the party more. As it stands I think this is a really decent read for a Kindle, part-one-of-series. I DO think I can understand why it didn't get picked up by any of the agents or publishers I contacted about putting it into print. I've started reading Verkreath again now and this book flows very seamlessly into that. I wonder if a monster, several part volume would be a more publishable paperback, I need to see the whole story flows well into book 5. I'm really keen to finally get book 5 published, I know a lot of people are waiting eagerly for it, but I'd hate to put it out too early. In many respects I wonder if producing a prequel to this story and putting it out as the first book to read, could be a good idea. Why? I like this book, but I'm convinced my writing has improved massively since I wrote it. I've just signed up for Open University A363 Advanced Creative Writing. I'm sure the level two course brought my writing forwards and I'm hoping this will do the same again. I fear in one day, maybe after another twenty years of desperately trying to raise my game I might look back on this saga and think it's terrible. I hope not, but that's a fear I harbour....

October 2018 re-read.

Well, I finished A363 Advanced Creative Writing and got a Distinction! That's quite impressive for a third year degree course! I got 88% for my science fiction horror script and I'm hoping to submit it to the BBC Writer's Room later this year. I read this again, to fact check my short story 'Lady Death' which I'm hoping to publish soon, and to prepare to write Deathsworn Arc 6: Emergence. Though I DO wonder if DSA6 should be the last one? I'll see where the story takes me, but if it does finish the saga, then DSA6 will end up being

called 'God Slayer'.

Will there be more adventures in Torea? Yes! I don't know if it's a novel or a series, but I have a tale brewing centering around Fox Zaelwarsh.

So what did I think of this book? I still like it, but I feel like I could write it better now. The experience of writing 6 novels, dozens of short stories, scripts, plays and poems - part of completing two 60 point University Creative Writing courses has improved my game I think. I really think this is perhaps unsurprisingly the weakest book of the series. Should I re-write it? No, I don't think so. I like it, I think it's good. But I think the rest of the series is better, FAR better. I'm still a strong advocate of just writing. You can read about how to write novels and practise with short stories, and scenes and poems forever, but you'll still learn a lot when you try to write your first novel. You'll learn even more when you write your second!

Martyn Stanley

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## **J. Kahele says**

Blurb:

Imperial Wizard Saul Karza has a problem.

He has to kill an invulnerable dragon and he's left his army at home.

There's only one thing that will turn his fatal failure into survivable success - The Last Dragon Slayer.

Saul Karza, wizard of the Empire, has been given a quest by the Empress herself: To find and slay a mythical 'noble dragon'; said to be near invulnerable. Instead of leading a large band of soldiers, archers and spell-casters, he sets out with two immigrant dock-workers and a homeless dwarf. What Saul needs is the legendary 'Last Dragon Slayer' on his side, because on this deadly quest it's not only Saul's favour with the Empress that's at stake - but also his life.

I liked this story. It was very well written, although I didn't like the strange elvish language, I despise when authors create languages that only make sense to them.

I have to tell you if the story wouldn't have been so well written, I probably wouldn't have finished the story, because I found the characters annoying and unlikable and normally that is big no-no for me.

But the story was good and if the characters would have been more likeable, it would have been an excellent read.

My rating 3.5 out of 5.0

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## **Dawn says**

I love a good fantasy novel - especially ones with elves and dragons! - and "Deathsworn Arc: The Last Dragon Slayer" definitely hits the spot.

There's some pretty good re-imagining of elves here which really caught my attention (I can't say more

without giving it away!), and the character illustrations at the end of the eBook are amazing.

(Note to Martyn Stanley: Brilliant move to have those illustrations at the end - was good to see how close my mental pictures came to "real thing".)

There's some dodgy punctuation (more, the further through the book you go), a handful of typos, etc. which was infuriating... but that's me.

Any fan of fantasy should give this a go.

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### **Isis Sousa says**

When I just started reading this book, in the very first pages, when the characters are being introduced, I was a bit skeptical of what was about to come. The reason is that the main characters in this story are a mage, an elf, two barbarians, a human and a dwarf and I was afraid this would be another “very inspired” LOTR plot.

But I went on reading, and once the gang was formed, the story took a very different course. In this first book, the heroes go on a journey to kill a dragon which is harming a village. During their journey, we learn more about the characters, but specially two of them, Korhan and Vashni (a barbarian and a female elf). They develop a very special relationship along the story, which keeps the reader very curious to know how this may evolve and eventually what the author has planned for these two.

I think the character's voices could have been written in a bit more distinguishable way and I think the scene/chapter where the bunch fights the dragon could have been more elaborated.

The plot is however very engaging from the beginning to the end, keeping you entertained and curious during the read. Wherever this group goes, they end up helping those they come across, making the reader captive discovering how they will solve these situations, in different towns and villages.

For those who enjoy a good Fantasy series, this first book is very promising and will make you want to read the sequels

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