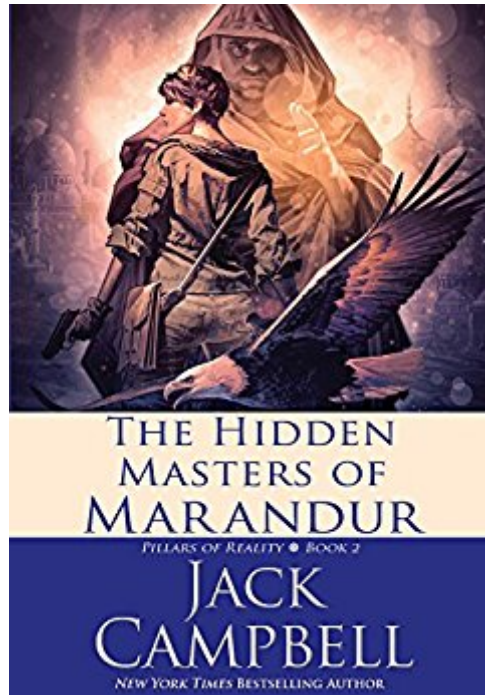




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The Hidden Masters Of Marandur (The Pillars Of Reality Book 2)



Synopsis

When Master Mechanic Mari and Mage Alain took down the Dark Mechanics and Dark Mages at Dorcastle, they thought they'd covered their involvement well enough to divert their Guilds' suspicions. The assassins sent after them by their Guilds, which had trained them from childhood, indicate otherwise. Armed with the knowledge that their respective Guilds are now trying to kill them, and knowing their strengths are greater together, they reunite. Rumor has it the key to saving their world from the Guilds' iron-fisted rule is in the dead city of Marandur. But before they can even attempt to traverse the empty wastelands and avoid the imperial guards surrounding Marandur, they'll have to survive the Guilds' agents, who are determined to capture them at any cost, and by any means necessary.

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Customer Reviews

Campbell continues to develop the story around the Mechanics and Mages of Dematur. We get a glimpse of why the world is 'stuck' in this steampunk phase and a possible clue on the origins of

Mages power. As the story is about Mari and Alain, our hopeless Mechanic-Mage romantic pair, it's no surprise that Campbell has them back together in no-time-flat to continue the quest to determine if Mari is really the daughter of Jules or not. With both guilds hunting them down, our hapless pair must seek out the truth as to what is happening to the world, but first, Mari needs to find out how they arrived at their stagnant society of Guilds over Rulers over Commons. Ok, if you're familiar with Campbell's writing, then you know he'll deliver a tale with good pace and end up at some rather odd stopping points. Here the big discovery is at the very end of this installment, and our characters have no opportunity to act. And so we wait for the next book (ok, we don't have to wait now as it is already written, but you see my point?). Not a big problem for me as I half expect it by now. I enjoy reading Campbell's writing. It's usually a page turner, reads fast, and I might have stayed up late one night to keep reading. The first two books do well at setting the stage for the bigger story to come. I'm interested in the series now and plan to continue reading through the end now unless the story arch takes and major 'wrong' turn somewhere. I like the story premise in 'magic' and science coexisting in society with the masses somewhat clueless on how it all works. And really, how many of us really can understand how our far-talkers, aka iPhones, really work. I'm hoping to see more of the Mages background in future installments. Recommendation: Read it (after you've read the first in the series)

This is a radically different kind of story from the military science fiction that introduced me to Mr. Campbell. It's got steam but is not Victorian steampunk. It's got magic, but is unlike any fantasy magic I've read. It's excellent. Most authors I've read write in the same voice, and any that crossover crash and burn. Mr. Campbell doesn't have the same voice, but retains his skill at making good characters and a fascinating world. The story moves well, modern sensitivities in an odd setting all his own. Hints of twists don't make me wonder at clichés appearing so much as I am excited to see his interpretations. Worth not only a reread, but eager anticipation for the next books.

This continues the story of Alain and Mara; at the end of the first book they were separated, with Mara staying where they had both been for a while and Alain traveling much farther north to the general area where he was born. They have adventures separately and together, ending up in the forbidden city of Marandur, where they find allies. Can't say much else without too much of a spoiler. I've liked both books I've read so far very much.

It's the follow up of the first book in a series, best described as "mage Romeo falls in Love with engineer Juliet". Well written, with good action and strong development. Jack Campbell knows how to spin an engaging yarn, even if his stories rarely reach masterpiece levels of entertainment value. The only thing I disapprove in this series is that it's about the savior who was promised. Going on a tangent, Campbell's series Lost Stars is (In my opinion) superior to Lost Fleet in part because Drakon and Iceni are not heroes promised by the Ancestors, like Blackjack Geary. Rather, they are people trying to do the best with what they have. I, for one, like this kind of story better - and in The Pillars of Reality, we have another savior type of character, struggling to escape/ fulfill her destiny. That said, it's worth mentioning that the world building in this series is exquisite. All in all, I fully intend to keep reading this series (along with just about everything Campbell publishes).

In your scheme you ask the questions if the book contains violence and sex. Not even the bible would not pass that question so why do you ask? These two books about the Mage Alain and the Mechanic Mari is a wonderful romantic history about two oh so different personalities who happens to fall in love, while the society around them, partly is decaying, partly tries to get rid of them. This second book offers a common solution on both the Magician and the Engineering Worlds. The quantum theory and it does not develop without thunder and horrible fights between the different parts involved. And the love story is beyond description, and to be found in a science fiction !! oh, oh, but go read yourselves and if you don't like it so return to technical manuals that saves you from thinking by your self. For every one else enjoy the adventures of Mari and Alain there is two more volume planned wauhhhhh

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