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The Ancient (Saga of the First King)

By R. A. Salvatore



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The Ancient (Saga of the First King) By R. A. Salvatore

Searching for his long-lost father, Bransen Garibond is tricked into journeying across the Gulf of Corona to the wild lands of Vanguard, where he is pressed into service in a desperate war against the brutal Samhaist, Ancient Badden.

On an Alpinadoran lake, just below Ancient Badden's magical ice castle, several societies, caught in the web of their own conflicts, are oblivious to Ancient Badden's devastating plans to destroy them.

Bransen becomes the link between the wars, and if he fails, all who live on the lake will perish, and all of northern Honce will fall under the shadow of the merciless and vengeful Samhaists.

The Ancient is part of the Saga of the First King, a four-book series that chronicles the early days of Corona, the same world as Salvatore's bestselling DemonWars saga.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This ensemble-driven follow-up to 2004's *The Highwayman* finds bestseller Salvatore liberally borrowing themes and character types from his earlier novels. As in the Cleric Quintet, a disaffected monk (Cormack) contemplates higher wisdom and draws the love of a restless outsider (the shaman Milkeila), while rough-and-ready dwarf Mcwigik provides brute strength and comic relief in similar measure. As in the Drizzt novels, the nominal hero wanders, deals death and addresses his readers in impassioned italics. Bransen Garibond's dual identity as the swashbuckling Highwayman and stuttering Stork recalls the Crimson Shadow. As in the Icewind Dale books, the setting is a remote wintry landscape, with isolated islands standing in for barbarian villages. The scattered cast takes much too long to converge, and druidic arch-villain Ancient Badden never emerges as an effective antagonist. The result is a Frankenstein's monster-like construct of brisk prose and lively combat scenes: imposing at first glance, but awkwardly assembled and doomed to disappoint. (*Mar.*)

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Review

"Salvatore excels in world-building and creating complex, introspective characters who triumph through wit and determination as well as skill in open combat."

--*Library Journal* on R. A. Salvatore

"Bob Salvatore always makes the most fantastic seem real. His heroes become friends we care about, and his foes fascinate."

--Ed Greenwood on R. A. Salvatore

"Salvatore's strongest fantasy to date. [His] potent mixture of detailed historical context, well-rounded characters (including secondary figures torn by conflicted loyalties to their church and state), brisk pacing and exciting battle scenes make for a consuming read."

--*Publishers Weekly* on *The Demon Apostle*

"Lacks nothing in pacing and well-handled battle scenes. This is his most ambitious book to date."

--*Booklist* on *The Demon Awakens*

"*Mortalis* is Salvatore at his best--and even better."

--*New York Times* bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole

About the Author

R. A. Salvatore is one of fantasy's most popular authors, with his books frequently appearing on the *New York Times* bestseller list and more than 10 million copies of his books sold. He is the author of *The Bear*, *The Dame*, and *The Highwayman* as well as *Gauntlgrym*, The Legend of Drizzt books, including the Dark Elf Trilogy—*Homeland*, *Exile*, and *Sojourn*—and the Demon Wars series, among many others. Salvatore was born in Massachusetts, and earned a B.S. in communications and a B.A. in English from Fitchburg State College. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Diane, and their three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patsy Hall:

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