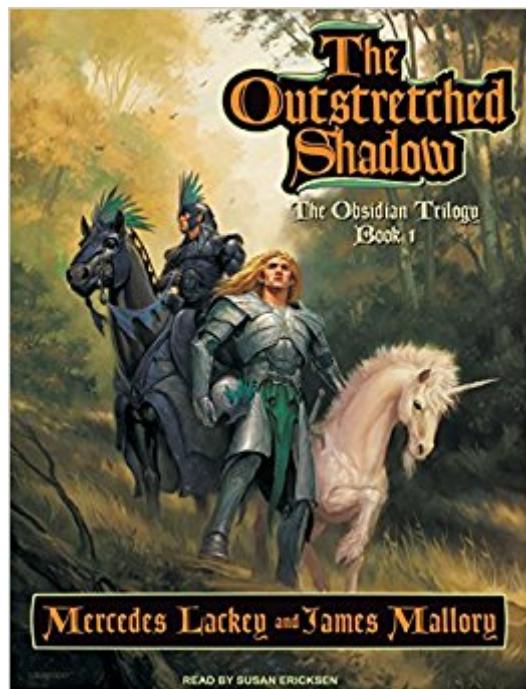


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# The Outstretched Shadow (Obsidian)



## Synopsis

Kellen Tavadon, son of the Arch-Mage Lycaelon, thought he knew the way the world worked. His father, leading the wise and benevolent Council of Mages, protected and guided the citizens of the Golden City of the Bells. Young Mages in training-all men, for women were unfit to practice magic-memorized the intricate details of High Magic and aspired to seats on the council. Then Kellen found the forbidden Books of Wild Magic-or did they find him? Their Magic felt like a living thing, guided by the hearts and minds of those who practiced it and benefited from it. Questioning everything he has known, Kellen discovers too many of the City's dark secrets. Banished, with the Outlaw Hunt on his heels, Kellen invokes Wild Magic-and finds himself running for his life with a unicorn at his side. Rescued by a unicorn, healed by a female Wild Mage who knows more about Kellen than anyone outside the City should, meeting Elven royalty and Elven warriors, and plunged into a world full of magical beings, Kellen both revels in and fears his new freedom. The one thing all the Mages of the City agreed on was that practicing Wild Magic corrupted a Mage-turned him into a Demon. Would that be Kellen's fate? Deep in Obsidian Mountain, the Demons are waiting. Since their defeat in the last great War, they've been biding their time, sowing the seeds of distrust and discontent between their human and Elven enemies. Very soon now, when the Demons rise to make war, there will be no alliance between High and Wild Magic to stand against them. And then all the world will belong to the Endarkened.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the captivating world conjured by veteran Lackey (Exile's Honor) and classical scholar Mallory (Merlin: The Old Magic) in this first of a high fantasy trilogy, there are three types of magic, each of which has its own rules, limits and variables. But it is the Wild Magic-anathema to Armethalieh, "the Golden City of the Bells," and considered by its residents to be heresy and truly evil-that has the most unusual aspects, for its practitioners must bargain for what they need and pay an often high price for power. Kellen Tavadon, son of Arch-Mage Lycaelon of Armethalieh, has been raised (indoctrinated, actually) to believe that High Magick is the only true magic and that his father and the Council of Mages have the final word. But Kellen isn't so sure. He's always been a bit suspicious of the council's tight control over the city. One day, while playing hooky from his lessons in imagery, Kellen finds a set of books about Wild Magic. He knows he shouldn't touch them. To open the books and read them is to court a death sentence, no matter if your father is the Arch-Mage. But Kellen can't resist. And thus, after a bit of a slow start, Kellen sets down a road he never expected to take, on a journey of dire importance to both humans and nonhumans (the latter including elves, unicorns and other enchanting creatures). The narrative speeds to the end, avoiding a jarring halt while leaving the reader satisfied and wanting to know more. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bored to tears with the predictability of his life, Kellen has only more of the same to look forward to. As the son of the City's ruling archmage, he is high born and mage trained, intended one day to take his place in the City's governing body of magicians, who protect and shepherd its citizens by means of the very structured, closely held secrets of High Magick. Things change drastically for Kellen, though, when he discovers three volumes of forbidden magic in a used-book stall. Forbidden equals old, equals wild, magic, you see, and once Kellen realizes there is a world full of wonders, diversity, and people who think and live differently, he cannot return to the oppressive sameness of City life. When he refuses to give up the books, his father banishes him forever from the City and to a horrific death prearranged by the mages. The Wild Magic has another agenda for him, however, involving an acerbic unicorn and a woman--heavens!--to learn the Wild (but not sex) Magic from. Delightful. Paula LuedtkeCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a fantastic book of magic and action! The magic is simple and deeply intricate, the world is storied with layers of history and the characters are vibrant and memorable. Any lover of high

fantasy should read this. Full review at [ReadingOverTheShoulder.com](http://ReadingOverTheShoulder.com)

This is one of my very favorite books! I really love it, and I am going to try to write a review that does it justice, but here is the thing: it is easy to review a book you don't like because then you know exactly what it is about the book that you thought was bad, but for me it is hard to write a review for a book that I DO like - because I end up sounding like a raving airhead! But I am going to try to actually think about this book and write a review that will be helpful to all of the potential readers. Ok, so here is the one downside to the book: A lot of people who read this book are going to think it is slow in the beginning, and I can understand why they might think that. I, myself, loved every part of the book. I did like the beginning, although I will admit not nearly as much as when the plot REALLY starts. And the plot REALLY starts about a quarter into the book - and then all of the sudden it is just one thing after another! I really loved the main plot of the book, the premise was so interesting, and the world was just captivating - it held my attention like you can't even believe. If you love fantasy, then you will absolutely LOVE this book - it has all the fantastical elements you love without coming off as cliched and old. There is never a dull moment - there is always something going on! One of the things I love about this book is that it isn't just one overarching story line - I mean of course there is one, but that's not ALL there is. There are tons of little things going on in addition to the main plot, and I absolutely loved every second of it! I also adored the characters in this book - you love to love the good guys and you love to hate the bad guys. But the character development is great, it is so cool to see all of them evolve and grow into who they are meant to be, and the interactions between all of them just made me smile nonstop! I literally could not put this trilogy down - I had many a late night because I would rather read these books than go to sleep. There are so many more things that I wish I could put into this review, but it's so hard to put into words all the reasons that I LOVE this book! All I know is that this trilogy is one of my top five of ALL series, not just fantasy series. Its world was so amazing that it made me want to live there, I know how that sounds, but it's true! I loved how the magic was set up, and I loved all of the different races in the world. The plot and characters were so incredibly spellbinding that I still think about this trilogy long after I have read it - and I plan on reading it again soon! I just really can't put into words how much I love these books, and I hope that I have written something useful to all the potential buyers! I recommend this book to all fantasy lovers, and basically just everyone! I hope you love reading this book, and the rest of the trilogy, as much as I did!

I have bought this book 3 times and will continue to buy it for a re read every time I loan it out

without a return or it gets lost in a move. This is a fantastic book and series. It has been a top 5 of mine since it's first printing. It is hard to stay in the top 5 when up against the likes of "Lord of the Rings", The first Shannara trilogy and Jack Whyte's Camulod Chronicles But the Obsidian Trilogy does this and more. It is fantastic. Give it a try.

I have found Ms. Lackey's novels somewhat hit or miss in the past (for my taste at least). Some I've loved, others I had a hard time finishing. This one a really enjoyed though. Perhaps it does not bring anything new to the epic fantasy genre, but the authors have woven the old stereotypes together well and combined them into an exciting story. The only two minor criticisms I might offer are that the conflicts are rather black and white, and the protagonist's worrying and refusal to ask questions does get a little tedious at times. Still a good book overall and I will definitely be reading the other two novels in this trilogy.

This book's story, while to some may seem to be just another boy saves world through magic, type of story, there is a lot beneath the surface. The one main fault I have with this story is at time it seems to leap ahead on the story and at others drive you insane through minutiae. I feel it is important to get an understanding of the history but as another reviewer mentioned, the story seems to be a bit slow on the uptake. Aside from all that though, I truly really enjoyed this story. A young man faces his own fears, and also learn to stand on his own. This story is one my absolute favorites from an author who already has hooked. Mercedes Lackey is definitely one of the best in the genre.

I really enjoy Mercedes Lackey's books, and having discovered them and read them ALL within the last six months, I was delighted to find another series with her voice/creative world building. This is just as original and engaging as her Arrow or Paks series. However, the villians are horrible. I soon learned that if I skimmed the chapters about them (with one eye shut because the descriptions are gory and waaaay over the top violent) I could find the three sentences per chapter that carried the plot forward, and skip the rest. The main story is pure Lackey: entertaining, creative, thoughtful and fun. I have to wonder if Mallory wrote the Demon's story inserts. If I had been the editor, I would have cut those "interludes" down to two paragraphs each or sent them back for extensive overhaul. I can recommend the book--the whole Obsidian Trilogy, but buy an eye patch for the Demon chapters. Oh, and I am GLAD it is really long, I want something like this to last!

Enjoyed the tale. A very talented writer, the magic system is thought out and I like how the system

works. The character's are very likable and the villains sometimes I just want skip over..very creepy enough to make my skin crawl.Like all good tales it starts abit slow with a good foundation and necessary character development.then slowly unravels revealing a Journey that many a hero follows.. Can't wait to read the second book

Mercedes Lackey is one of my favorite authors, and with this trilogy has done it again! Her characters are real and alive and draw you in - to love or loathe!

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