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An Echo Of Things To Come: The Licanus Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

The second book in the acclaimed Licanius Trilogy by James Islington. In the wake of a devastating attack, an amnesty has been declared for all Augurs - finally allowing them to emerge from hiding and openly oppose the dark forces massing against the land of Andarra. As the Augur Davian and his new allies hurry north toward the ever-weakening Boundary, however, fresh horrors along their path suggest that their reprieve may have come far too late. His ally in the Capital, the new Northwarden, contends with assassins and politicians and uncovers a dangerous political secret. Meanwhile, their compatriot Asha begins a secret investigation into the disappearance of the Shadows. And Caeden races against time to fulfill his treacherous bargain with the Lyth, but as more and more of his memories return, he begins to realize that the two sides in this ancient war may not be as clear-cut as they first seemed....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really really enjoyed the ending, especially the whole idea that time is a circle. I was also very impressed with the character development of Tal and Davian, and even how James makes you second guess what side you're on. This isn't a clear cut good vs evil. This is a moral gray area, and I really like that. Very impressed, considering that this is just the author's second book. James, if you ever read this, bravo. You have done a great job, and I can't wait until the third installment. I've gotten your email updates and honestly can't remember whether or not you planned this to be a trilogy, or something longer. But I beg you to keep this going. This thing is too huge for three books

alone. Much too impressive for that. Thank you for the great read.

Great read!!! Timelines are a bit confusing but Tal'Kamar's life and emotional capacity are breathtaking!!

Really good and liked it better than the first. The way it ended tho.. I look forward to book three.

This was a good book to read so read it I did. Eight more words are required. Well I guess.

I loved the first book. Read it three times so far. I was scared, but hopeful that this second entry wouldn't disappoint. It wouldn't be the first time I loved the first book in a series, just to see it go downhill. I am so pleased to say that this book is every bit as great as the first one, and maybe better! How effortlessly it builds upon the mythology is something to behold. The amount of back and future story that interweaves into the current plot can make my head spin. To be blunt, this series is not for the casual. It requires effort to keep it all straight. If the story was even a four star quality book I might not have kept looking up the Glossary to make sure I had the right person or term straight. Yet this book is so good that I gladly did it. The biggest drawback of this book is same as the last book. Mr. Islington does a lot of telling instead of showing. Way too many times he tells you what a person is feeling instead of letting the characters actions show you their feelings. A lot of young authors do this. They do not trust that the audience will get it unless they spell it out. If he can get better at this one thing I think he will stand shoulder to shoulder with the greats. I am giving this book some extra credit. There is so much more I need explained about back and future story moments that the third book will really show if this is to go down as one of the greatest works in fantasy of all time. So far I would say it is two for two! This book sheds some light on the first making that one a better book. Some truly great twist happen. Simply put I cannot wait to read it again... and again. I truly hope this series finds a larger audience. It deserves the attention of a Mistborn or a Game of Thrones. PS. If you have any questions or comments on my review, or if you just want to discuss how awesome this book is feel free to hit me up in the comments.

As someone who enjoyed *The Shadow of What Was Lost* (The Licanus Trilogy), I had high hopes and expectations for this sequel - and I feel that they were blown away. "An Echo of Things to Come" follows the same main four characters of its predecessor: Davian, Caeden, Asha, and Wirr. Islington chooses not to add new perspectives, but continues to tell his story entirely from their

viewpoints. While in the first novel the characters were largely together on a journey and took part in the same events, in "Echo" they have spread across Andarra. The characters do interact, but on a smaller scale. Each one has their own plot and character arc to engage in. Islington provides a detailed synopsis/summary of "Shadow" at the beginning of the novel, which helps set up and keep track of the characters. That being said, I'd recommend re-reading the first book before jumping into the sequel (and not reading this as a stand-alone at all). With the threads of the story becoming more and more spread out, the demand on the reader grows. Helpfully, there's also a glossary of characters and terms in the back of the novel this time around. The plot is good, but not incredible. I found it to be appropriately predictable (the type of predictable where you have a hint at what will happen next, and when you're surprised previous hints become obvious), and very well paced. The weight of the story falls on Caeden's shoulders - an amnesiac who discovers that he is in fact a legendary figure at the end of "Shadow" - and felt very much like the other story threads were interspersed with his. This isn't explicit in the structure, but just as Davian had a great deal of "screentime" in the first novel, so Caeden does in the second. Caeden's sections and characterization are why I loved "An Echo of What Was Lost." We get to watch in the backseat as an immortal of immense power re-discovers his tragic and bloodsoaked past. Caeden and his fellow Venerate (the other 8 legendary immortals he has known for millennia) are the centerpiece and shining star of "Echo." Their ancient history together is well-conveyed, and crafts an emotionally compelling tale. The great question of this novel is if El (God) is who he claims to be, and what actions are correct to do in service to the divine, or to the greater good, and so on. It might not be a novel for all tastes (I find these moral questions fascinating), but for me it was wonderful. Even though I'm fairly certain what Islington's answer is regarding the identity of El (as known to the Venerate), I finished the novel still not-quite-certain that Caeden et al were on the correct side. I'm not sure I've ever read a fantasy with such delicious, fitting ambiguity. Caeden's plot was easily my favorite (is it obvious?), but the others weren't lacking. All in all, "Echo" answers most of the many questions left in the air at the end of "Shadow." Each character arc gets a conclusion, and the cast is brought back together for the final climax. The biggest complaint I have is that the climax felt weak. The largest portion takes place from Asha and Davian's perspectives. Islington does a good job with following his themes of self-sacrifice and moral choice; however, just before the final choices are made a battle occurs in Asha's perspective which feels very out of place. That battle feels like it's just a 'battle for final battle's sake,' and seemed a bit formulaic and disappointing. On the upside, the epilogue was spectacular. Throughout the story we receive Caeden's memories through a sequence of triggered visions, and a good portion of the epilogue is one final, astonishing

recollection.I look forward eagerly to "The Light of All that Falls."

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