

A Review of Alector's Choice

Aaron Hsu

L.E. Modesitt's latest novel in his Corean Chronicles series is a decent book, and good enough to make sure that he stays around in the top 3 of authors, especially in the fantasy genre. It didn't disappoint, but there were a few things that I felt should have been improved upon in the book. This is most likely because of a rush to produce, and obligations in general.

The first thing that I liked about this book was how it took us back into time before the first three books, and I was able to learn what life was like back then. I think it gave a sort of humanity to the Alector's. It was also in the style of Modesitt, which was great.

One of the pitfalls of this book however, is that it is in Modesitt's style. Unfortunately, this book hails back to the first book a little too much. Modesitt is good at making sure that he does not cover too much of the same ground, and he does present some interesting characters, but the main character, a young officer with an unknowing amount of talent. Sound familiar? It is. And I can catch him using some of the same grammatical phrasings and styles as the first book. That means of course that this book has a bit of repetitious feel in it.

He makes up for this with a new cast of interesting characters, including the star Alector and a more in depth review of the Soarer's. All in all, the repetition is not fatal to the book, like it would be in some others. For this I am glad. I still look forward to the next book, and that's a good sign.

The most glaring error on the part of the production team, and not so much on the author's part is the bad editing. It is obvious that this book feels rushed into production. There are too many spelling mistakes that were not caught, and though there were some of these in the last book, this book also introduces some rather glaring grammatical mistakes as well. This takes away from the flow of the book, and actually hampered my ability to get into the book as much as I would have liked. This is a sorry situation. I do wish that the proof-readers and the general production team on this book would have taken a bit more time to catch these little errors. It is hard on a book lover and a "grammar" perfectionist (at heart) to accept such things, and throws a little bit of an unprofessional light on the book. The book is good enough that this is not going to kill it, and I do still enjoy the book, but it is a problem nonetheless.

All in all, this book presents a great side of the story, and one which brings more detail into the way soarer's acted and behaved back then. It's a great look back in time. There is a hint of philosophy which I can't quite agree with, but it doesn't drive the story, as in some books, and this is good. The cast of character's and altering landscape helps to dampen the effects of a slightly repetitious main character, but the bad proof-reading and rushed feel of the editing makes for a break in rhythm. This book is worth a good read, especially if you like the others in this series. I really hope they get these problems sorted out before the next book. It still remains one of my favorites, so things can't be that bad now, can they?