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D2OWUI - MATHIAS GEORGE

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Wrath and the Dawn*, comes a sweeping, action-packed YA adventure set against the backdrop of Feudal Japan where *Mulan* meets *Throne of Glass*. The daughter of a prominent samurai, Mariko has long known her place—she may be an accomplished alchemist, whose cunning rivals that of her brother Kenshin, but because she is not a boy, her future has always been out of her hands. At just seventeen years old, Mariko is promised to Minamoto Raiden, the son of the emperor's favorite consort—a political marriage that will elevate her family's standing. But en route to the imperial city of Inako, Mariko narrowly escapes a bloody ambush by a

dangerous gang of bandits known as the Black Clan, who she learns has been hired to kill her before she reaches the palace. Dressed as a peasant boy, Mariko sets out to infiltrate the Black Clan and track down those responsible for the target on her back. Once she's within their ranks, though, Mariko finds for the first time she's appreciated for her intellect and abilities. She even finds herself falling in love—a love that will force her to question everything she's ever known about her family, her purpose, and her deepest desires.

Based on the life of King Arthur.

A kingdom hangs in the balance...and a young boy answers the call. Carrying a sealed message from the war-hero Dragon King to the queen, Quentin and his outlaw companion, Theido, plunge headlong into

a fantastic odyssey and mystic quest. Danger lurks everywhere in the brutal terrain, and particularly in the threats from merciless creatures, both human and not-so-human. While at the castle, the wicked Prince Jaspin schemes to secure the crown for himself, and an evil sorcerer concocts his own monstrous plan. A plan that Quentin and Theido could never imagine. In the youth's valiant efforts to save the kingdom and fulfill his unique destiny, he will cross strange and wondrous lands; encounter brave knights, beautiful maidens, and a mysterious hermit; and battle a giant, deadly serpent. In this first book of the *Dragon King Trilogy*, Stephen R. Lawhead has deftly woven a timeless epic of war, adventure, fantasy, and political intrigue.

Mazael Cravenlock is the lord of the Grim Marches, and no one dares to attack his lands or the people under his protection. He has crushed every enemy...but it will take more than swords to defeat his new foe. When the dreaded necromancer Lucan Mandragon returns from the grave, Mazael will need to rally all his allies and followers to face the threat. But the things hunting Lucan are far more dangerous... Sometimes the greatest evil lies within. The Dragon King who rules the land of Mensandor is none other than Quentin, whose courage and heroism have slowly transformed him from an orphaned servant into a war hero, respected leader, and a fierce man of faith. But even the powerful can fall prey to weakness. The world is turned upside-down when the dark sorcerer Nimrood--long thought dead after a battle with the previous Dragon King--returns with a fearsome plan. Shattered by the death of a dear and trusted friend, the abduction of his beloved son, and the loss of his enchanted sword, Quentin finds his faith tested like never before. In *The Sword and the Flame*, the final volume of Stephen R. Lawhead's captivating Dragon King Trilogy, the fate of the en-

tire world depends on the outcome of this climactic battle between good and evil. This first novel of an epic fantasy trilogy reintroduces readers to the beloved and bestselling world of Deverry, blending magic, politics, and adventure in an unforgettable setting. The bards are the people's voice--and their sword. All over the kingdom of Deverry, the common people are demanding reform of the corrupt law courts. In Aberwyn, the situation catches fire when Gwerbret Ladoic, second in authority only to the High King, allows a bard to starve to death rather than hear their grievances. Guildwoman Alyssa, a student at the local scholars' collegium, and Lady Dovina, the gwerbret's own daughter, know that evidence exists to overthrow the so-called traditional legal system, if they can only get it into the right hands. The powerful lords will kill anyone who threatens their privileges. To retrieve the proof, Alyssa must make a dangerous journey that will either change her life forever--or end it.

A sword of green glass. A key that opens passages between the worlds. The nameless warrior has nothing else. No allies, no

armor, not even the memory of how he came to be trapped within this dying land, pursued across a red waste by the monstrous Shriven. But all hope is not lost. There are other survivors amidst the desolation, holding clues as to where he has come from and what he must do: Amara, the Red Sword of her tribe, a beautiful and fiery swordswoman obsessed with destroying the demons that plague her people, and Valyra, a young sorceress who can weave the broken threads of this reality into something whole once more. Together they will try to resist the evil that stalks the wastes. But this world is only one among many, and in order to unravel his mysteries the warrior must find the doorways which will allow him to stride between the stars and pass into even stranger lands . . .

Preceded by a long introduction on the man and his output.

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When the Gods call, mortals answer. Reaching Solava Proper seemed like the end of their journey, but fate and the Gods have other plans for Gilliam and his friends. Old friendships are rekindled and strained as the friends are forced to find a way to prevent an upcoming war and protect an innocent princess tied to the heart of it all. Through their adventures, the Phoenix watches as he prepares for a possible conflict between the Gods. When a single move could mean failure, will his efforts succeed or be for naught?

What happens when your enemies are

more powerful than you? Everywhere, magic is feared by commoners while revered by the nobility. But, if a mage hunter discovers a peasant with magical potential, their future is changed forever. A life of luxury awaits those who succeed in their training, but failure leads to a much darker destiny. For Natalia, whose magical abilities revealed themselves at an early age, there is no choice. Torn from her mother's arms, she is borne away to the Volstrum, an institution steeped in mystery. There, trained as a battle mage, she has the potential to be one of the most powerful spellcasters ever. Yet the price they demand of her is too high! Athgar's life, however, was shattered the day his magical potential was released by the very fire that nearly consumed him. Even while the Orcs taught him to master his new talents, he could not forget those who were savagely ripped away. Blindly driven by revenge, it's not until he meets Natalia and nearly dies again that he realizes something much more sinister is unfolding. Now, she is on the run from her family, while he desperately hunts for his! Together, they embark on a voyage to unearth a dark conspiracy that has remained secret for years. Discov-

er a land infused with magic and mystery as Paul J Bennett's newest Sword & Sorcery series, The Frozen Flame, begins in Ashes. Curl up with your copy of Ashes, and enjoy a spellbinding tale today! What readers are saying about Paul J Bennett's books: ★★★★★ - "Fabulously written, loved it." ★★★★★ - "Another excellent book series!!" ★★★★★ - "Wow! Best book I've read in a LONG time!" ★★★★★ - "If you like fantasy fiction, then this is a must read!" ★★★★★ - "This story gripped me and kept me turning the pages." ★★★★★ - "Action, Intrigue, Adventure, Romance and some twists!" ★★★★★ - "I love the book, had me on edge and could not put it down!" ★★★★★ - "The most amazing adventure with a strong magical influence." ★★★★★ - "The tale flows effortlessly along, blending action, adventure and heartwarming scenes." ★★★★★ - "It's really difficult to stop reading these books. Looking forward to more books from this author." Other Books by Paul J Bennett The Frozen Flame Series: The Awakening/Into the Fire - Prequels Ashes Embers Flames Inferno Heir to the Crown Series: Battle at the River - Prequel Servant of the Crown Sword of the Crown Mercerian

Tales: Stories of the Past Heart of the Crown Shadow of the Crown Mercerian Tales: The Call of Magic Fate of the Crown Burden of the Crown Mercerian Tales: The Making of a Man Defender of the Crown Fury of the Crown War of the Crown Power Ascending Series: Tempered Steel - Prequel Temple Knight Warrior Knight The Chronicles of Cyric: Into the Maelstrom - Prequel A Midwinter Murder The Beast of Brunhauser

The Many Children of Conan Little did then-obscure Texas writer Robert E. Howard know that with the 1929 publication of "The Shadow Kingdom" in the pulp magazine *Weird Tales*, he had given birth to a new and vibrant subgenre of fantasy fiction. Sword-and-sorcery went from pulp obscurity to mass-market paperback popularity before suffering a spectacular publishing collapse in the 1980s. But it lives on in the broader culture and today enjoys a second life in popular role-playing games, music, and films, and helped give birth to a new literary subgenre known as grimdark, popularized by the likes of George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* fantasy series. *Flame and Crimson: A History of Sword-and-Sorcery* provides much-

needed definitions and critical rigor to this misunderstood fantasy subgenre. It traces its origins in the likes of historical fiction, to its birth in the pages of *Weird Tales*, to its flowering in the Frank Frazetta-illustrated Lancer Conan Saga series in the 1960s. It covers its "barbarian bust" beneath a heap of second-rate pastiche, a pack of colorful and wildly entertaining and awful sword-and-sorcery films, and popular culture second life in the likes of *Dungeons & Dragons* and the bombast of heavy metal music.

A sword of green glass. A key that opens passages between the worlds. The nameless warrior has nothing else. No allies, no armor, not even the memory of how he came to be trapped within this dying land, pursued across a red waste by the monstrous Shrivens. But all hope is not lost. There are other survivors amidst the desolation, holding clues as to where he has come from and what he must do: Amara, the Red Sword of her tribe, a beautiful and fiery swordswoman obsessed with destroying the demons that plague her people, and Valyra, a young sorceress who can weave the broken threads of this reality in-

to something whole once more. Together they will try to resist the evil that stalks the wastes. But this world is only one among many, and in order to unravel his mysteries the warrior must find the doorways which will allow him to stride between the stars and pass into even stranger lands . . . *The Cleansing Flame* is for readers over the age of 18. It contains a harem and explicit language and situations.

Captain Vidarian Rulorat's great-grandfather gave up an imperial commission to commit social catastrophe by marrying a fire priestess. For love, he unwittingly doomed his family to generations of a rare genetic disease that follows families who cross elemental boundaries. Now Vidarian, the last surviving member of the Rulorat family, struggles to uphold his family legacy, and finds himself chained to a task as a result of the bride price his great-grandfather paid: The priestess Endera has called upon Vidarian to fulfill his family's obligation by transporting a young fire priestess named Ariadel to a water temple far to the south, through dangerous pirate-controlled territory. Vidarian finds himself at the intersection not only of the world's

most volatile elements, but of the ancient and alien powers that lurk between them... Once there were four magical weapons, fashioned to be used only by the Magefolk, but their history has been lost, together with the artefacts themselves, in the Cataclysm which wrought changes on land and water alike. Now Aurian, child of renegade Mages, joins the Academy to train as a full Mage.

Rescued into another universe by the youngest of eight mage-brothers, world-weary Kelly Doyle finds herself exiled on an island where women are forbidden and surrounded by four sets of twin brothers who are struggling to avoid a curse. Reprint.

The Pendragon is King Arthur and this is the story of his reign as told by Bedivere, Arthur's boyhood companion and comrade-in-arms who witnesses everything, from the unsheathing of Excalibur to the dissolution of the Round Table

Mayhem runs rampant as battle lines are drawn between rival lands in the fifth novel of the #1 New York Times bestselling author's epic fantasy series. Richard Rahl has finally married his true love, Kahlan, and

are enjoying their wedding night in the Village of the Mud People. But their newlywed bliss is cut short as unexplainable deaths begin to occur. Richard realizes that when Kahlan called forth the Chimes in order to save him, they remained free—and now they're causing havoc. Richard's mentor Zedd sends him and Kahlan off to the Wizard's Keep in Aydindril to retrieve a magic spell that will stop the threat. But they are soon sidetracked by the people of Anderith, who wield a powerful weapon known as the Dominie Dirtch. The leadership of Anderith is making a bid to align with the evil Imperial Order. And as Richard tries to persuade them to change their minds, the Chimes continue their dangerous mischief.

Seven college students sit down for an evening of role playing with Professor Deighton. But it quickly turns real, and deadly, and they find themselves in a world where magic works. Their only way home is the Gate Between Worlds—if it really exists.

Excerpt from Sword of Flame, Vol. 3: The Age of Animosity, 1547 1570 F discovery confers right of possession, Spain held first

and best title to the New World, a right she had won through the devoted service of an Italian greater than any Spaniard of them all. Within a century, however, she had taken five billion dollars in treasure from America - and used it to drive the spirit of freedom from earth. Her sole aim had been to plunder; ruin and extermination marched in the van of the Spanish explorers. Colonization meant nothing to her; the proud expanse now thronged with English-speaking people remained untenanted. Spain herself scorned it because of its lack of precious metals; and she forbade its settlement by any other. Under her domination no surprise need be felt if the enlightened men of that age looked upon the discovery of America as a curse to mankind. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing

page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

Sword & Flamelf you were a young woman who had just saved the family's estate from ruin, you'd think your father would be proud, wouldn't you? Sara Featherwood is thrown out of her childhood home and now faces life on her own terms at age seventeen. She returns to the Tarrey Abbey Women's School and is drafted to help with the establishment of the first Women's College in the kingdom of Parthy. Now in the King's capital of Parth, life confronts Sara as she learns about family secrets, which threaten to disrupt her life and about resurgent political turmoil back home that turns her scholarly pursuits upside down as she must take action and use her magic to save her family and her beloved Shattuk Downs. The Sara Featherwood Adventures-Set in Shattuk Downs, a reclusive land in the kingdom of Parthy. Sara Featherwood could be a Jane Austen heroine with a sword in her hand. There are no magicians, wizards, dragons, elves or dwarves in Shattuk Downs, but there is intrigue, no-

bility, hidden secrets, and plenty of adventure and romance with a bit of magic. FANTASY ~ YOUNG ADULT/COLLEGE FICTION ~ WOMEN'S ADVENTURE

On the island of Jayangan, old beliefs and magic exist side by side with new pop songs and motorcycles. . . . Adi is a fisherman's son, proud to be studying with the greatest of traditional sword makers. Dewi is the daughter of a healer, curious about the world beyond her quiet village. Neither Adi nor Dewi is prepared for the sudden violence that transforms their lives. Both are propelled into an epic battle in which even the mystical spirits of Jayangan are threatened and helpless. Charged with a desperate quest to find the mysterious Snow, Fire, and Sword, Adi and Dewi know only that if they fail, their beloved homeland will fall to an evil shrouded in impenetrable darkness. Can two children of the modern world succeed where the most powerful and ancient spirits cannot? Set against the backdrop of a mythic Indonesia, Sophie Masson's gripping fantasy will leave readers breathless.

Armies mass, and men and women must choose sides in the mighty conflict for con-

trol of the world and the Artefacts of Power! Though Aurian and her fellow Mage Anvar have escaped the clutches of the dread Archmage, they have yet to lift the curse on Aurian's child, and put an end to Miathan's evil. Only the Sword of Flame, last and greatest of the Artefacts of Power, can help them - but the Sword is hidden. Meanwhile, Death awaits his third and final meeting with the pair... As the Mages set out once more, the world stands poised on the brink of conflict. Miathan is fortifying the city of Nexis and, in the south, the fierce Khazalim are arming for war. The Skyfolk have abandoned their long isolation and the Xandim prepare for their last great ride. Both the Leviathans and the Phaerie have decisions to make which will change their existence forever. The future stands balanced on a knife-edge between hope and destruction. All await the coming of the Sword of Flame - and Aurian.

"An epic tale..."—Library Journal A broken nation in need of a savior. Ravaged by plague, decimated by dark magic, infiltrated by a foreign evil seeking to dominate from within, Brynth is on the eve of its dissolution. When all the good men are dead and gone, who is to answer the call and de-

fy what is wicked for what is right? A Twisted Tale of Three Unlikely Heroes. Heretic monk turned Sorcerer, Aldous Weaver. Infamous crusader turned fugitive, Kendrick the Cold. Aristocrat, rogue, monster hunter, and legend in his own mind, Theron Ward. Three men condemned to die for their crimes find in each other both the will and the means to survive. A dark brotherhood with Sword and Sorcery is forged, and all monsters meek and mighty do fear the three. "Gritty, fast-paced and compelling!" Honorable mention in Library Journal's Indie Ebook Awards and a Shelf Unbound Magazine Notable 100! Read all the books in the dark and gritty Sword and Sorcery Series! Fire and Sword (Volume 1) Catacombs of Time (Volume 2) I Remember My First Time (short story) The Pyres

(Volume 3) Ice and Stone (Volume 4) As They Burn (Volume 5) Black Sun Moon (Volume 6—a complete, stand-alone novel) Embers On The Wind (Volume 7) Graves of the Gods (Volume 8)

Amidst ancient halls of stone, an age-old evil stirs. With a cunning more potent than sorcery, Nimrood the Necromancer has returned, bent on a monstrous vendetta that would strip Quentin of everything he holds dear. His loved ones, his faith, Zhaligkeer, the sword of his kingship, and ultimately, the kingdom itself, sway in the balance as Quentin, unguarded and alone, races toward a confrontation with his cruelest foe. One dragon egg remains—but who is bold enough to claim it? A part-troll mercenary named Garrick is desperate to restore his reputation. His employer, a dark lord of immense power, has given him one final

chance to deliver on his word. If Garrick can retrieve a fabled dragon egg from the depths of an ancient dungeon, all will be restored. But he can't do this job alone. Garrick needs a team, and he needs it fast. He recruits a fugitive mage, a wyvern knight wanted for treason, and a former assassin with a secret mission of his own. Together, they set out to find the dragon egg. But success comes at a high cost. Is Garrick willing to pay the price to restore his reputation...even if it means sacrificing his fellow mercenaries? The Crimson Flame is the first book in the Blood Mercenaries series of sword and sorcery fantasy novels. You'll love this book because of its wild action sequences, its immersive story world, and its dangerously flawed characters. Buy your copy now.