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# The Phoenix Unchained: Book One Of The Enduring Flame



## Synopsis

New York Times and USA Today bestselling authors Mercedes Lackey and James Mallory first teamed up to write the Obsidian Trilogy, which was set in a wondrous world filled with magical beings, competing magic systems, and a titanic struggle between good and evil. That world proved so popular with the creators and readers alike that Lackey and Mallory have returned to it again, with *The Phoenix Unchained*, Book One of *The Enduring Flame*, the opening volume of a new epic fantasy trilogy. After 1,000 years of peace, much Magick has faded from the world. The Elves live far from humankind. There are no High Mages, and Wild Mages are seen only rarely. Bisochim, a powerful Wild Mage, is determined to reintroduce Darkness to the world, believing that it is out of Balance. Tiercel, a young Armethalian nobleman, is convinced that High Magick is not just philosophy. He attempts a spell and draws the unwelcome attention of Bisochim. Tiercel survives Bisochim's attack and begins trying to turn himself into a High Mage. Next in line to be Harbormaster of Armethalieh, Harrier instead finds himself regularly saving Tiercel's life and meeting magickal people and creatures. To Harrier's dismay, it seems that he must become a hero. In *The Phoenix Unchained*, Harrier and Tiercel begin a marvelous journey to uncover their destinies. Along the way, they meet a charming female centaur, several snooty Elves, and the most powerful dragon their world has ever known.

## Book Information

Series: Enduring Flame (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged edition (November 26, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400105749

ISBN-13: 978-1400105748

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 77 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,565,672 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > Lackey, Mercedes #1427 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #1700 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

This entertaining series opener takes place more than 1,000 years after events depicted in the Obsidian Trilogy. The city of Armethalieh is no longer ruled by mages, and High Magick itself is forgotten. Elves and dragons are known to exist, but live in distant lands and are never seen. Wielders of Wild Magic are extremely rare. Characters familiar from earlier books have become legends from a dim past. Then Tiercel Rolfort, the scholarly son of lower nobility, rediscovers High Magick. Beset with visions and physically weakening, Tiercel decides his best hope is to take a journey to find a Wild Mage. Meanwhile, Wild Mage Bisochim has become convinced of his calling to set the balance aright by bringing darkness back into the world. Having found and bonded with the dragon Saravasse, he plans to draw on her power to further his dark goals. This beguiling beginning promises a highly readable epic combining vivid characterization with an interesting exploration of how past heroics are twisted over centuries into something both more and less than they were. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“The deft handling of the romance between Kellen and Vestakia helps heighten suspense as the struggle on both the physical and magical planes grows more intense.” High fantasy fans should appreciate the intelligent storytelling with an unmistakable flavor of Andre Norton at her best.

--Publishers Weekly on *When Darkness Falls*

“Gives readers plenty of good-versus-evil action.” Relationships among characters are realistically complex as century-old boundaries are crossed, both literally and figuratively.

--VOYA on *When Darkness Falls*

“Filled with magic, dragons, elves, and other mythical creatures, this title belongs in most fantasy collections.”

--Library Journal on *To Light a Candle*

“Captivating.” The narrative speeds to the end, leaving the reader satisfied and wanting to know more.

--Publishers Weekly on *The Outstretched Shadow*

“An epic fantasy filled with sorcery and swordplay set in a world on the verge of a Demon war.”

--Library Journal on *The Outstretched Shadow*

“Will leave readers eager for the next installment.” Lackey and Mallory create a wide variety of multidimensional characters, especially Kellen who grows to manhood in realistic starts and stops, recognizing and accepting both his heritage and the consequences of his actions.

--VOYA on *The Outstretched Shadow*

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This three-part series of books were fun to read but not terribly engaging. I don't believe they are Lackey's best work. I have enjoyed other of her books much more. If you just want to kill some time,

have fun with these. Otherwise, I couldn't really recommend them.

The "Obsidian Trilogy" started out with the same story that seems to appear in all of Mercedes Lackey's novels lately. A troubled teenager discovers their destiny, etc. I liked the first two books of the "Obsidian Trilogy" pretty well, and the Demons even invoked a few shivers. The third book fell flat and seemed to be rushed. The Demons were defeated too easily after all the references to how evil and clever they were. This book starts out with even less to like than the third "Obsidian" book. The plot is too simple and the characters are too shallow. I found myself wondering when something interesting would actually happen. The writing time would have been better spent on the third "Obsidian" book than this very weak follow on.

I didn't want to buy this book because the story continues 1,000 years after Kellen and Vestakia and Cilarnen. How can a story "continue" a 1,000 years later? But, silly me, this is Mercedes Lackey we are talking about and when I finally bought the book and then actually opened it two months later (I didn't believe for a minute it would be as good as the Obsidian Trilogy), I was almost immediately sucked into the story. Wild Magic and Centaurs and Knight Mages, oh my. And Jermayan and Idalia and Ancaladar!! Completely compelling right down to the last sentence when Harrier says, "I thought we were in trouble. But if the Wild Magic is making me a Knight Mage, then we are really in trouble." And, as usual, I can't wait for the next installment.

Very enjoyable read. I like the Lackey and Mallory team. I enjoyed every book they have written together. The book was a fast read. The elven names and cities are tough to sound out, but the core of the story does not disappoint. BTW: I am still waiting for book 2 of The Dragon Prophecies by the two authors.

This was the next book chosen by one of our book club members. Fantasy has not been my first choice or even second, but I found when I came to the end of this book I would have to order the next two in this Trilogy, because I need to find out what happens in Tiercel's quest to find the woman in the lake of fire. I don't like to be left hanging! So I became intrigued. The next two books are on their way. I am looking forward to reading them.

This is a very well written book...started off slow but picked up speed as you read further along...

I like the Phoenix Unchained, because it has a realistic view of clashing cultures and a well written story the well part of a series can stand on its own. Also the author dose a good job with both the major and minor conflict with in the book, as well as showing realistic charter growth.

Very entertaining. Highly recommend to anyone looking for an alternative to a movie. Looking forward to read the entire trilogy.

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