



# The Guns of Avalon

*Roger Zelazny*

Download now

Read Online ➞

# The Guns of Avalon

*Roger Zelazny*

## **The Guns of Avalon** Roger Zelazny

Across the worlds of Shadow, Corwin, prince of blood royal, heir to the throne of Amber, gathers his forces for an assault that will yield up to him the crown that is rightfully his. But, a growing darkness of his own doing threatens his plans, an evil that stretches to the heart of the perfect kingdom itself where the demonic forces of Chaos mass to annihilate Amber and all who would rule there.

One of the most revered names in sf and fantasy, the incomparable Roger Zelazny was honored with numerous prizes—including six Hugo and three Nebula Awards—over the course of his legendary career. Among his more than fifty books, arguably Zelazny's most popular literary creations were his extraordinary Amber novels. The Guns of Avalon is the second book of The Chronicles of Amber.

## **The Guns of Avalon Details**

Date : Published April 1986 by Avon Books (first published 1972)

ISBN : 9780380000838

Author : Roger Zelazny

Format : Mass Market Paperback 223 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

 [Download The Guns of Avalon ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Guns of Avalon ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Guns of Avalon Roger Zelazny**

---

# From Reader Review The Guns of Avalon for online ebook

## Morgan says

While still compelling, it is a little bit of a let down from the first book. The noir element is lost entirely, sci-fi is minimal and this become merely a fun fantasy story. That's fine, I guess. The writing is actually still quite good, but I felt some of what made the first book special is now stripped away. That doesn't stop me from wanting to know what happens. This series may feature the most screwed up families in literature. Still good pulpy stuff.

---

## Mike (the Paladin) says

This was the first volume of this series I read. The Amber series...one of fantasy's best. I stumbled on this not knowing it was a series. Then It was years before I found the first volume (Nine Princes in Amber. Also, this book ends in a somewhat cliffhangerish way and it was years before I got the next volume...

Happily for you, the entire series is there waiting for you. Enjoy.

---

## Darwin8u says

*"Now I had to find a place, a place resembling another place -- one which no longer existed. I located the path. I took it."*

- Roger Zelazny, The Guns of Avalon

A missing father, siblings that aren't very filial, a dark road, dark circles, a contested throne, faceless figures, flying daemons, etc. This book has a lot of action and a pretty clear arc. The protagonist has been cast low and is now fighting to regain what he lost (besides just weight) AND gain what he feels is his right (and not just the crown).

The positives of this book is the ambiguity of the characters. Even the focal point of the book (Prince Corwin) is an ambiguous character. At times, the reader feels he isn't much better than half of his siblings. He has also made situations a lot worse for EVERYBODY because of his own sufferings. Think of it as the inverse of Jesus. Instead of suffering for the sins of the world, Corwin, through his sufferings - subjects the worlds to a multitude of evil and sins. And now, he has to deal with the mess he made.

Again, like the first in this series, this isn't GREAT literature but it is entertaining enough and does have a compelling narrative drive to it. They are little trashy treats. 120 page pulp bites. It is nice to throw a couple of these in-between longer, more dense and serious reads. They are entertaining.

---

## Kevin says

Picks up right where the first novel ended and is just as fast moving. You learn a lot more about Amber, and Corwin's family

---

## A. Dawes says

Zelazny was one of my go-to writers back in the day. And with the Amber series you were almost always ensured of an entertaining read, with the right dash of complexity so that along with the amusement and intrigue, it also gave the old noggin just enough to chew on.

In this sequel of world hopping fantasy, Prince Corwin prepares to take his rightful throne. But Chaos is also gathering its dark forces... Any reader of fantasy is in for an escapist treat of the highest magnitude.

I'm biased here, it may have dated, but my love of reading it a few decades ago has stayed with me. It's still a ripper read, at least that's what I think.

---

## Choko says

\*\*\* 4.44 \*\*\*

*"...“Never trust a relative. It is far worse than trusting strangers.”...”*

Corwin, the prince of Amber, is free and plotting. Plotting is the past time of the family, but he has a bit of extra incentive, having been imprisoned and blinded for the last 4-5 years and living in squalor while getting better after his escape. Eric, his eldest brother and currently holder of the throne, wants him dead, but at this moment he and the whole royal family are busy defending the realm and some of the Shadow Worlds against the forces of Chaos, who are currently attacking with unprecedented strength and tenacity. It seems, the curse Corwin put on the realm when condemned by Eric, has come to real life with a vengeance and it doesn't seem he can do much about it. The worlds are degenerating and rotting because of it, so Corwin's plan is to first, take over the throne, and only then figure out a way to fight the Chaos creatures.

*"... "In a fit of passion, compounded of rage, horror, and pain, I had unleashed this thing, and it was reflected in every earth in existence. Such is the blood curse of a Prince of Amber.”...”*

Corwin picks up an old frenemy on his way and they travel the Shadows together, trying to keep alive, being attracted to anything in skirts, playing folks for fools and being played themselves, hoping that the math would eventually work in his favor. There is plenty of traveling and running, and fighting, but overall, I enjoyed it exactly because of it. I love Corwin's internal monologue and I like that he is not perfect at all, for a creature who is gifted with youthful longevity and superhuman strength. I also prefer him ahead of any of his siblings, because the stay on the Shadow Earth - which is our world, has made him look on things a bit more humanely and the loss of his memory gives him a chance to rediscover and reform himself in a manner different than his family's mold. At least I am hoping for an upgrade like that:):):)

*"... “We fought.”*

*'A duel?'*

*'Nothing that formal. A simultaneous decision to murder one another is more like it.'...'*

What a wonderful example of a loving family we have in the Royals of Amber!!!

I love this series, but I do know it is not for everyone. Roger Zelazny marches by his own drums, so he is an acquired taste, which I am lucky enough to enjoy personally. I would recommend it to all fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy, give it a try and see if it is your cup of tea:) I am looking forward to the next book in the series!!!

*"... "Tonight I will suck the marrow from your bones!" it said. "I will dry them and work them most cunningly into instruments of music! Whenever I play upon them, your spirit will writhe in bodiless agony!"*

*"You burn prettily," I said."..."*

Now I wish you Happy Reading and may you find what you Need in the pages of a Good Book!!!

---

## **Adam says**

Even better and more exciting than "The Nine Princes in Amber." Corwin continues his adventures through time and space and gets involved in a complicated political struggle for Amber. Plus Zelazny details more of the back story involving the Courts of Chaos and make up of various realms of the series. Outstanding science fiction fantasy written in concise and beautiful language. Zelazny is an amazing writer.

---

## **Pietro says**

The universe is made of an infinite number of worlds, covering the entire spectrum of probability, but all such worlds are merely shadows of the only true world: Amber.

Princes of Amber are gods in the shadow worlds: they're immortal, strong, fast, clever and capable of creating everything they wish out of sheer will.

Corwin, the protagonist of the chronicles of Amber, is one of those Princes.

What unimaginable intelligence must such a being possess?

What bits of infinite wisdom might he gift to us mere mortals?

What sacred words might he utter to open a grand Epic like "The guns of Avalon"?

"Good-by, butterfly"

.  
. .  
.

Really??????

He's a friggin' god, one who lived countless human lives in more worlds than mortal mind might count and THAT is the kind of stuff he comes up with?

That's atmosphere murder and it should be illegal.

I was SO hoping for this book to be better than Nine Princes in Amber, but right from the start it was made quite clear that I was wrong, Oh so wrong.  
If anything it was worse, at least book 1 had a decent start.

The plot (a.k.a. The Random Plot of Random Randomness) involves Corwin running around doing completely pointless quests in the shadow worlds for no real reason... and the amount of totally random plot elements just thrown in for their own sake is simply staggering.

The entire plot develops from a (guess what?) random encounter Corwin makes on the road to nowhere in particular.

Want to know what's EVEN MORE random?

The wounded guy Corwin meets is Lancelot.

An infinite number of worlds, and our protagonist just stumbles upon the Round Table replica.

MEH.

From then on it only gets worse: goatlike demons sprouting out of nowhere, demonic cats, a 2 pages long relationship with a "camp follower" and on and on and on...

The more I read of it, the more Zelazny's prose feels like an army of tiny inky talons raking at my eyes with every word.

He doesn't show, he doesn't tell: he just lists facts.

In a single page I counted a dozen sentences starting with "then".

Then I went there.

Then I did this.

Then I did that.

Then (insert random demonic being) came.

Then we fought.

Then he died.

Then I went away.

Dialogues would be even worse if not for one reason: they're faster to read.

Characters reactions are completely fucked up, and there isn't one that makes sense in the entire book.

To make the whole thing even more unbearable, everyone speaks 70s American slang.

I'm afraid this is the last I'll see of the Chronicles of Amber and I'm seriously regretting buying the omnibus.

---

**XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

? **Zelazny Freaks Regulars** buddy read with my fellow ~~Freaks~~ Regulars Evgeny, Choko, Eilonwy, Elena and Lee ?

**Actual rating: 1.5 stars.**

**Disclaimer:** my copy of this book has obviously been **tampered with**. Look at the **average rating** for this delightfully entertaining piece (4.15 stars) and look at my rating (1.5 stars, just to rehash a little bit). See what I mean? It seems crystal-clear to me that the Evil Russians™ have **most viciously hacked into** my bookshelves once again. It's the only possible way to explain this **slight difference in assessment**. Well it's either that or **everyone but me read the book wrong**. Which do you think is the most likely explanation? **Evil Russian Shenanigans** (ERS™), huh? Funny, I thought **you'd say that**.

**I don't intend** to write a pit-stop requiring non-review for this one (view spoiler), so **let the crap be cut!**

① **This book is boring as fish.**

That straightforward enough for you? No need to expand/analyze/whatever? Good, I'll do it anyway. Let's see, how could I **put it nicely**? Oops, ~~sorry~~, don't think I can. So here goes and stuff: this story is naught but the **aimless, pointless** and slightly **futile** tale of a guy running around in a moderately **haphazard manner**. It was all quite fascinating to read about. Especially the part where the guy (Corwin is his name, by the way) who's doing all the **inconsequential dashing about** starts dashing about inconsequentially. Yeah, that was definitely my favourite chapter in the book. But I **did like the parts** where Zelazny failed to exploit and completely wasted his **Potentially Awesome World's Potential** (PAWP™), too. Really cool that was! I mean, this could have easily been one of the **most original worlds** in Fantasy, and I'm so glad Zelazny didn't lose his **precious time** telling us more about it. That would have been a real shame indeed. And it was much more interesting to read about a **whole lot of nothing** instead, if you ask me. That really was **brilliantly done**, Mr Zelazny.

② **Lovely Corwin is lovely:**

Okay, I might have **exaggerated** a little bit (which is very uncharacteristic of me, I know) in the previous paragraph. **To be fair**, the book wasn't all insignificant and trivial and meaningless stuff. No it wasn't. Because **Corwin has a Purpose**, you see. He has an Ambition. Yes, he does indeed. **He wants to be the king**. Isn't that amazing? Why, you ask? Why what? Why is it amazing, or why does Corwin want to be the king? Oh, you're curious about Corwin. **You know how it is**, some guys want to overthrow the evil dude currently sitting on the throne because they have a **calling** and stuff. They want to **rescue the poor plebe** from years of oppression at the hands of the bad, bad, king, and **protect** the young and the innocent and the widows and the orphans and all that crap. **Corwin**? Oh, he is way above such petty concerns. **The plebe can go fish itself and spontaneously combust for all he cares**. Then why does the bloody shrimp does he want to be the king, you ask? **Because he does, that's why**. Because he can, that's why. And also, I believe, because:

*As good a reason as any, if you ask me.*

**I love it** when MCs have such **purposeful missions** in life. It really adds tons of depth to their characters, don't you think? Talking about depth, Corwin has truckloads of it. I mean, he is deeply **unlikable**. And deeply **selfish**. And deeply **superficial**. Oh, and he is deeply **condescending**, too. And deeply **disrespectful of women**. Which is the character trait I **admire most** in him, obviously. But more on that later. Because I like to **keep the best for last** and all that crap.

③ **The Flat as a Herd of Ironing Boards Virus (FaaHoIBV™) is here to stay.**

Flat flat flat and unemotional as fish book one was, **flat flat flat and unemotional as fish** book two remains. I didn't give a shrimp **about anything**. I didn't give a shrimp **about anyone**. Everything and everyone could

have just died a **horribly excruciating deadly death**, for all I cared. Apart maybe from the **tiger-sized Siamese cats**. Cool kitties those (if a little homicidal). I think they'd make great **play mates** for my murderous children. They'd compare the efficiency of **claws vs pincers** in times of slaughter and stuff like that. Pretty sure they'd all have a blast together. But I slightly digress. So, were where we? Oh yes, **I didn't give a stinking fish** about this book, the plot, or the characters. **The end.**

#### ④ **The Misogynistic Bullshit Festival (MBF™).**

Such fond memories of Promise of Blood this book brought. How delightful indeed. I mean, how can you love not a story where women are **portrayed so wonderfully**? And **respected** always? ?? Spoiler alert: a woman can be a **super hot and yummy and sexy piece of meat**, even when she is slightly being burned to death. Yes, she can ?? Beautiful. **This is simply beautiful**. You know what really sucks, though? There are very few female characters in this book, which means that very few of them **stupid bitches and sluts** are on display. Sigh. It really is a shame, given what **faithful depiction** Zelazny gives of them here. Heavenly. **It is simply heavenly**. Almost nearly as heavenly as **Corwin's most deferential attitude** towards women, actually. Ah, Lovely Corwin! The guy really is the embodiment of consideration and graciousness. It's not like he is a **300-year-old scumbag in a position of power who bonked his 17-year-old relation!** Oh no, absolutely not. Besides, even if he was, I'm pretty sure he would have given into his **seumbag** baser instincts **only** because the chick *"asked for it."* Such an **irreproachable conduct** on his part would have instantly absolved him of all **Slightly Despicable Scumbag Like Behavior-Induced Sins (SDSLBIS™)**, of course. Also, if events such as the one described above were to **hypothetically happen** (they wouldn't, because Lovely Corwin is a total gentleman and stuff), how could he be blamed for it? I mean, this would all be **quite beyond his control**. Because he is **such a stud** that women just can't help falling at his feet. Yes, he is **that hot**. And yes, they are **that slutty**.

► And the moral of this **Some Covers are Insults to their Books but Some Books are Insults to their Covers Crappy Non Review (SCaIttBbSBaIttCCNR™)** is: Zelazny dear, let's pretend this series **never happened**, shall we? You just keep feeding me stuff like Doorways in the Sand, and I promise **never to unleash the crustaceans on you** and stuff. **Maybe.**

🔪 **Book 1: Nine Princes of Amber ★★**

[Pre-review nonsense]

?? **Spoiler warning:** I slightly didn't like this book. Slightly **not at all**.

**No cunning ruse** on my part this time I'm afraid, old shrimp. This was a **complete, total, utter debacle** indeed. And I decline all responsibility in it, obviously. I mean, is it my fault if the book magically ticked my main **allergy boxes**? Because, really, absolute **dullness** + all-powerful **flatness** + the author's **Wonderfully Moderate Misogynistic Ways (WMMW™)** =

► Full **Oh Bloody Stinking Fish, Zelazny, What Have You Bloody Shrimping Done Now I'm On The**



## **Nandakishore Varma says**

Dropping it halfway through - not my cup of tea. I enjoyed the first book of the series, Nine Princes in Amber, in a lukewarm sort of way, and decided to try this in case the story picked up speed. Around page 100 or so, I decided I couldn't care less.

Still, it's not badly written - hence the two stars.

---

## **Books-treasureortrash says**

Book Review: 3 Treasure Boxes

The First Chronicles of Amber, includes books 1 - 5

An interesting and compelling concept for a fantasy book and a very different kind of fantasy. Some elements of the story take place in modern times and some elements take place in medieval times. I found the writing to be imaginative and quite deep.

Amber is the only real place upon the real Earth. It is the substance from which all other realities are but a shadow, including the world that we now live in and there are unlimited numbers of shadow worlds that extend from Amber to Chaos and consequently all roads (through shadow) lead to Amber. A prince or princess of Amber has control over shadow and as such can enter and influence shadow worlds. There is no magic, per say in the first five books, instead there is substance and shadow, order (Amber) and Chaos. As such a descendant of Amber can move through shadow with his thoughts. He thinks about what should be next and then it is there, so he thinks about a green sun and purple sky and it becomes so, he thinks about eating and a diner appears or he wants to get to Amber so he thinks about the various shadow worlds near to Amber and eventually Amber will appear.

In the vicinity of Amber the world is more like medieval times where , gun-powder, cars and other electric gadgets do not work, in some shadow worlds, such as our earth, these things do work and are utilized in the story. We learn that the nine Princes of Amber all want to win the crown and since their Dad, the King is missing. As a result of this there is a lot of violence, intrigue and energy going into this pursuit. The four Princesses of Amber are also involved in the conflict in various ways.

The Chronicles are a culmination of 10 small novels that make up the world of Amber into one big book of over 1200 pages, the first 5 books revolve around the protagonist Corwin, who is a prince of Amber and are told in first person from Corwin's point of view. These first 5 books are a complete story in and of themselves and in fact are much better than the last 5 books. The last five stories are told from Corwin's son Merlin's point of view and tell a different story and we learn more of Chaos in the second half.

Corwin is introduced and the premise of the book is set up. I like the way it starts as a mystery where Corwin has amnesia and we learn with him about Amber and about shadow. It should be noted that the Royalty of Amber have incredible speed, strength and regenerative qualities. They all live seemingly endless lives,

unless they are murdered, which they can happen since they are not immortal. The basis of the first five stories stem around the succession of Amber and the various family intrigue and disputes in resolving this. I liked how the story evolved as well as how it concluded at the end of the fifth book. Overall a very good read, at times I found it hard to put the book down.

For more of my reviews go to: <http://books-treasureortrash.com>

---

## **Kat Hooper says**

Originally posted at FanLit.

Warning, from me: If you haven't read *Nine Princes in Amber* yet, don't read this review.

Another warning, from Corwin: "Never trust a relative. It is far worse than trusting strangers."

Corwin has escaped from his brother's prison and he's ready for revenge. He doesn't have the manpower that Eric has, so he needs a technological advantage. Traditional firearms don't work in Amber, but Corwin once noticed that a jeweler's rouge from the shadow world of Avalon, where he used to rule, is combustible in Amber. So here's his plan: get some money (pretty easy to do when you can create your own worlds), purchase a huge amount of jeweler's rouge, and commission some custom-made firearms that use the rouge to shoot silver bullets (he's not sure other metals will work). Oh, and raise an army. No problem!

The problem is that Eric may no longer be the biggest threat in Amber. Because of Corwin's curse, Amber is being assailed by the forces of Chaos. The evil is also manifest in the shadow worlds that Corwin is trying to exploit and he must frequently stop and deal with the nasty creatures it serves up. Along the way Corwin meets old friends and enemies, makes new friends and enemies, and does at least one more impetuous thing that will come back to bite him later.

In *The Guns of Avalon* (1972), Corwin, who had gained our sympathies in *Nine Princes in Amber* because of how he was treated by Eric, becomes something of an anti-hero. Because of his rash actions, beautiful Amber has been invaded by horror. Corwin realizes that he has caused much destruction, he knows he has wrought evil, and he tells himself that he hopes to destroy more evil than he creates. The reader begins to wonder, however, if Corwin is blinded by hate for his brother. Is Corwin's claim to the throne legitimate enough to justify all the death and terror that he's caused? We're certainly not convinced that Corwin would be a better King than Eric is. Corwin is a rather ambiguous hero.

Still, it's hard not to root for Amber, if not for Corwin himself. Roger Zelazny has created a magical world that we're eager to explore, preferably in a time of peace. We haven't had much chance to do so yet since we've only seen it from Corwin's perspective, and that means that for most of the time we've been in Amber, we've been in the dungeon. At the end *The Guns of Avalon* Zelazny leaves us with many questions unanswered and two major twists. You'll want to have the next book, *Sign of the Unicorn*, ready to go.

I'm listening to Alessandro Juliani narrate Audible Frontiers' version of *The Guns of Avalon*. He's doing a great job, though I did not like the Southern drawl that he chose for two of the major characters (they call it "Ambuh"). It didn't seem appropriate. With so many characters, I think he feels that he must give each a distinctive voice, so to do that he's using unlikely accents or vocal properties (e.g., hoarseness or high pitch) to make them unique. I think that's a mistake, but other than that, his reading is very good.

---

## **sologdin says**

More of the first volume, without the cumbersome amnesia device. Expressly Arthurian, but with guns. More family dramatics. More platonist wanderings, with the fake realities manifesting to the detriment of the Real. More grotesqueries. More surly siblings. Travel sections wrtten with heavy ellipsis in the style of Celine.

Great passage during the picaresque section regarding how "Half a dozen hairy, albino men, almost completely naked and continuing the process of undressing as they moved, shuffled about, muttering and chuckling, poking at the woman and the fire with sticks that they carried and clutching at their loins repeatedly" (163). Very srancy.

Puts paid to the antagonist of volume I, while focusing on the attempt to undo the narrator's counterstroke against the antagonist in the first installment. New antagonist conveniently arises.

Recommended for goat-horned greasers, ewoks with firearms, and those with dresses sufficiently torn to reveal a lovely, voluptuous form.

---

## **Jim says**

I'll start this today at lunch. It's a re-read, but a wonderful one. I read Nine Princes in Amber for the Zelazny group & I can't just stop reading the series now, even if I do know how it turns out.

It was well worth the re-read. Even knowing basically what happens, it's still a great read. I get to pay more attention to how Zelazny uses words & that's always a pleasure.

This concentrates on Corwin getting back to his old self after many centuries. We learn more about his family & him. We also visit a shadow much like Camelot, which is fun & well done. I love the descriptions of the events, attitudes & feelings. Can't wait to start the next book, Sign of the Unicorn. If this is your first time reading this series, I'd highly suggest reading Nine Princes in Amber before this book. The series really should be read in order.

---

## **Lee says**

The second book in the series is pretty much like turning a page in the first book. It is literally like the next day. I seem to be reading small books at the moment.

The writing continues to show its age, the female characters in this story are pasted in and literally have no impact. I think that Random's wife has huge potential, but she still has not made an appearance. This is all about the princes and their warring, whisky drinking exploits.

But even with its flaws, even with the fact that ~~a few~~ most of my group read buddies have given up on it, I find that I do want to see how the story pans out. So given that I have the omnibus and they are only 150 max pages per book, I will be carrying on with the story.

I know this review doesn't exactly tell you much about the book, but, ah well. Give it a go.

---

### **Carol Evans says**

It was a perfect choice for my mood- quick, fairly short, and lots of adventure.

The Guns of Avalon picks up where Nine Princes in Amber left off. Corwin is determined to fight for the throne of Amber. He has some supplies he needs to collect which takes him to Avalon. While there, he must help fight the creatures of the Circle of Evil, a part of the Dark Road to Chaos that he unleashed on the world, both Amber and Shadow, by his curse.

Once again, Corwin doesn't know who to trust and how far to trust them. I enjoy the action in these. they're just fun. Traveling through Shadow plays a big part in this one, with some really interesting descriptions of the terrain changing around them. It's an easy read. This time around, Corwin knows who he is, what he's fighting for, so we can get straight to it. We don't need any explanation of the importance of Amber and that the royal family can travel through Shadow. Reading the first is necessary though, otherwise you'd be lost.

During this adventure, he also meets Dara, who claims to be the granddaughter of one of his brothers. Needless to say, she isn't. I'm not quite sure what she is though, which is the cliff-hanger ending in this episode. Corwin gets the crown, but now he has to defend it.

---

### **Kylie says**

2.5 stars, same as the first book. I don't feel like I know enough about the characters or the world to fully appreciate it. Already 75% of the way through the third one and that's getting remedied slightly.

---

### **Stephen says**

4.0 to 4.5 stars. Another excellent installment in the Amber Chronicles by Roger Zelazny. The world building continues to impress and the magic system and internal workings of Amber continue to be fleshed out and made real. While not quite as good as my two favorite Zelazny works, Lord of Light and This Immortal, these books are well written and a ton of fun. Highly Recommended!!

---

### **Evgeny says**

The book picks up right where the previous left. Corwin, being pissed off at his brother Eric for cruel treatment as well as thinking the guy occupied the throne which is his - Corwin's - by right looked for means to dispose of his dear loving relative.

He thought he knew one, but it required extensive shadow traveling. During these travels he learned that a curse of a person of royal Amber blood really meant something. He also got to meet some of his old acquaintances with only a minor part of them being somewhat friendly - and I am really stretching the

definition of the word.

To his own surprise Corwin realized he acquired some rudimentary conscience despite being a selfish asshole.

He also managed to bring yet another danger to Amber's existence.

This is one of my all-time favorite fantasy series, easily among top 5. At the time when everybody and their brother rushed to make yet another copy of *The Lord of the Rings* Zelazny created something very unique and highly imaginative. I am still fascinated by the concepts of shadow travel and Trumps. I want to be able to do the former and I want to own the latter, dammit!

As usual expect a lot of happening in less than 250 pages. This is still unusual at the time when an average fantasy book can easily reach 1000 pages and have less plot (hi, George R.R. Martin, Robert Jordan, and Steven Erikson).

Unsurprisingly the rating is 5 stars, exactly what it was during my first read. I still remember my friend telling me all fantasy came out of Tolkien's magnum opus. It was highly satisfactory to give her these books and challenge to find anything similar to it. She failed.

---

## **Markus says**

Corwin escapes after four years of blindness and imprisonment at the hand of his brother Eric who usurped the throne in Amber. His search for vengeance and restoration takes him on a journey through the Shadows that at last brings him to his former homeworld of Avalon, and makes him cross paths with a former servant who hates him with a burning passion and a brother thought long lost.

*The Guns of Avalon* is in many aspects a massive improvement on *Nine Princes in Amber*. Zelazny apparently learnt how to write, and while the book retains some of the issues that plagued the first book, that certainly makes it far better.

However, harshly critical as it may be, I'm unable to give it a higher rating, simply because the series is just not on that level. The book as a whole was pretty enjoyable, but still not particularly remarkable or memorable. But there are mysteries enough hidden in Amber and its Shadows that I am determined to keep reading.

---