



The Lost Library of Cormanthyr

Mel Odom

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"The Lost Library of Cormanthyr"

Is it just a myth? Or does it still stand . . . somewhere in the most ancient corners of Faerun?

An intrepid human explorer sets out to find the truth and what starts as an archaeological expedition soon becomes a race against time as an undying avenger is determined to protect the secrets of the ancient, xenophobic elven empire of Cormanthyr.

Lost Empires is a bold new series that uncovers the secrets of the lost, ancient Forgotten Realms world.

The Lost Library of Cormanthyr Details

Date : Published March 1998 by TSR Inc

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Author : Mel Odom

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From Reader Review The Lost Library of Cormanthyr for online ebook

Kagan Oztarakci says

"Wealth is a burden only weak men choose to carry."

Charles Mitchell says

Fun read.

Daniel Millard says

I've always loved stories of treasure hunting, and so the Lost Empires quantegy appealed to me considerably. Despite enjoying Mel Odom's "Threat From The Sea" trilogy, I felt that the scant 300-page length of this short novel didn't afford him the proper time necessary to carefully unfold the plot. WARNING: SPOILERS BELOW.

While the first hundred pages or so moves at a satisfying rate, is well-detailed, and gets the reader engaged with the book's protagonist, Baylee Arnvold, once the proper quest for the Lost Library of Cormanthyr picks up, pacing is thrown to the wind.

The second half of the book is a rapid, tumultuous rush to a fairly unsatisfying finish. In its hurry to reach its climax, there are a couple of pointedly ridiculous sections - such as relatively young, violence-disdaining Baylee slashing apart a dozen drow singlehandedly (what??). The primary antagonist was built up through so much of the book, only to be given an extremely short and undramatic death, and when the story finally moves into the Lost Library itself, there's precious little description of the wonders that ought to be within.

Ultimately, I was underwhelmed by this book, even though Odom starts strong and has a very good premise. Judging by the prologue and first dozen chapters, this ambitious story would have made a very good trilogy, with the events of this book spread out amongst three.

As it stands, the story is good, but far too much time and ground are covered in 300 pages to make it effective.

David says

Mel Odom's style is mostly efficient and simple to read, while keeping a good brisk pace. The plot was interesting enough, dealing with a search for a vast storehouse of hidden lore. The ending was satisfying too. The problem with this story is that it's marred by the author's inconsistencies. In the early parts of the book, a character was introduced that felt like a main character, but a few chapters in, and that character was never mentioned again (no explanation). The author was unbalanced in its development of male and female

characters, being more concerned with outward appearances only for the females. Also, the main character was never in much real danger or in a really difficult situation, so it was difficult to get into any suspense. The author's style is brisk, but he does have a tendency to over-describe something during an action scene (and most action scenes end too quickly). Overall, the storytelling, the plot, and the characters were good enough, but the story could have been much better.

Mical says

Well, I must say this was a fantastic read. Although the protagonist was a bit too naive for my tastes, he acquitted himself well and was, if nothing else, original in concept and intelligent in execution. This is one of those 'old school' fantasy books that lead the genre, before cliches became, well, cliches; and showing the Forgotten Realms in much of it's glory and prestige.

Brad says

Great book. Outside of the great known authors of the Forgotten Realms books, Mel Odom wrote a good one with this book.

Stuart Schneider says

What a terrific story. Fast moving, loved the characters and particularly the writing. The wit, plot line, its ties to other stories in the Forgotten Realms. This is why when you find an author who can write you just follow the author along at least until he fails to maintain that level of quality and this author has never disappointed. A terrific start to the Lost Empires line of books. I just hope the ones that follow are just as good. Based on the authors to come, I do not think I will be disappointed.

D.E. Chandler says

A fine adventure in true Forgotten Realms style. Very nicely done.

Lauren says

For a book based on an RPG, this was a lot of fun. It's about a library, and the hero likes books, so I figured it was worth a try. Lots of swordfighting & magic, and even skeleton warriors. Plus a talking bat. Who could resist all that? :)

Geoff says

Great read.
Odom is one of my favourite Realms authors.

Jesse says

I liked this one.

Some good history. The plot was a bit long winded, getting around to what was really going on and stuff. But, as always, I was looking for some good history about the realms, and this one did deliver.

The best part is that in the end, the Library is still hidden! Wow!

I liked the main character's familiar, a telepathic bat with twin tails that shoot lightning! I know there was other things I liked, so check it out if you like the realms stuff.

Eran says

Dry and dull writing, mediocre characters, and hardly any plot for most of the book (it gets a bit better towards the end). Mostly feels that the author cares more about expressing how DND savvy he is rather than telling a story. Luckily this the series seems to be of standalone books by different authors, maybe the next would be better.

Ed says

really great read.

K. Axel says

One of the absolute best Realms books written to date, mostly because it keeps true to the high adventure theme of the setting. The hero(es) travel around in the realms, uncovering the ancient realms, revealing secrets... a good Forgotten Realms book by an author who went on to write more than just shared world books.

Shinjak says

Good fast read. I liked the main character and the world around him, despite some inconsistencies in the author's narrative. I'm not sure if there are more books about this character, but I for one would like to see

more of his exploits.
