



## **Ascendant's Rite**

*David Hair*

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LOVE. BETRAY. FIGHT. ASCEND. The last few months of the moontide - when the bridge connecting East and West rises above the sea - has come, and in the West Emperor Constant prepares the final phase of his plan to conquer the East. For failed mage Alaron and his companion Ramita - widow to the mage who built the Leviathan Bridge - the unthinkable has happened. They have lost the Scytale of Corineus, the key to the Rite of Ascendancy, as well as one of Ramita's infant sons, to the hands of their deadliest enemies. In Javon, Cera Nesti, the imprisoned queen, has been freed, and plots to take on the overwhelming might of the Rondian Empire. But standing between her and her goal is a band of deadly mercenaries playing a dangerous game of their own. And in the East, Seth Korion's Lost Legions must navigate treacherous roads to gain safety, bearing secrets that could bring down the Emperor. The time has come for the Rite of Ascendancy to be performed. New powers must rise to save or damn Urte, and on the mighty Leviathan Bridge itself, all will be decided.

## Ascendant's Rite Details

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Author : David Hair

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# From Reader Review Ascendant's Rite for online ebook

## Mark Halse says

Boom, baby! I haven't read a more satisfying ending to a series since Riyria! This last installment of The Moontide Quartet does it's very best to wrap each thread of the mammoth storyline into an interestingly lovely package that leaves you wanting more. Not only that but it's coherent the entire way through. I'm talking to you Mr. Anthony Ryan. The promises from the first three books were paid in full.

Though I've never cared much for the world building of this series (being much too closely modeled on Earth) everything else about this book and series was delightful. Well rounded characters whom go through interesting character archs, a very wide ranged magic system and well plotted storyline that propels you quickly through four books.

If this series isn't on your radar yet you may want to get your equipment fixed.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

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## Eco Imp says

Mesmerized! Read straight through the night and finished at 0730 today. Drawn into the world; cried for the losses; celebrated the victories; loved the characters.

So glad I did not know about this series until it was complete. My addictive reading style is not known for patience between releases. As much as I loved this series, I am not sure I can start the Sunsurge Quartet. I am a greedy reader and I want it all at once. Although I have requested my library to purchase the book.

Interesting note: I took a 4-hour break from reading to take girls from my troop to a My Promise, My Faith event. This event identified how the tenets of Islam correspond to the values of the Girl Scout law. The mosque had also invited Judaism and Christianity speakers to the event so it was really a 3 for 1 deal for the girls. This peaceful coming together of different ethnics and religions is exactly the hope this book series represents.

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## Gloope says

A strong finish to a fantastic series. If you liked the previous books, fear not, you will be satisfied with the conclusion. It is nonstop action from all your favorite characters. As with the previous books, I was impressed at how much material was covered. So many series tend to slow down a lot in the later books because the multiple points of view, not so with Mooontide. A few of the plot twists are fairly easy to anticipate, but then every so often the reader is blindsided along with the characters. I have no idea why this series has gotten so little attention compared to so many recent epic fantasy series. I think of the Moontide Quartet a bit like the much more satisfying mirror image of the Raven's Shadow books (Moontide gets progressively better while Raven's Shadow gets steadily worse). I'm sad for the end of the series but am

excited about reading Hair's next work. He seems to be nearly as productive as Sanderson when it comes to pages/year which is quite a feat. I feel like I have seen way too many inferior series compared to Sanderson's work but I would make the case that Moontide is a sort of R-rated Mistborn or Stormlight. A complex magical system with believable protagonists that you can really root for inhabiting a rich and well fleshed out world. What more could a person ask for?

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### **Farès says**

When the author just twisted established religions and traditions to create his world, I kinda disliked it (no, hated it really) and wished he would just have created some thing of his own or pushed the twisting further.. But by this book I Got over it, and concentratd more on the characters and events. Nice book with nice magic system. Some of the characters were super interesting and some of the deaths were unexpected and morbidly satisfying.

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### **jD says**

Nice wrap to series. It got ugly, some people had to die, some people didn't get what they wanted, some wrongs were made right, and it's wide open for a new series. The characters were not spared real consequences for their actions. I really liked that. It's how adult fiction works -- characters get hurt. Thank you Mr. Hair for not making me wait forever for this book to come out. None of that GRRM crap. Not sure who selects the narrator on audio book but he was perfect. He pulled those characters off the page and gave them humanity.

I truly appreciate how seamlessly Mr. Hair transitioned between the books. It's a large cast of characters that I am pretty sure I will remember for a long time -- ESPECIALLY RAMEDA!!!  
Not sure who should play which character but this series is destined for a movie or mini-series. Good stuff.

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### **Aristea says**

Very good ending - I am itching to start the new series right away!

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### **Praveen Kumar says**

I loved this book. I would recommend this to those who are looking to read a good fantasy series. Different Cultures, War torn kingdoms, fight for control of thrones, Magical battles, plus a lot of realism - everything that I love put together in one package.

All the books in this series are excellent. The ending was apt - it sure is not a fairy tale ending - but a blend of reality and clever plots.

Thanks David Hair for this saga. Waiting for the next one.

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## **Davis says**

Having just finished the book, I can really only say one word: wow. I was dying with anticipation for the book, and after finally getting it all but consumed it. I was reading it every chance I got and often staying up too late to do so; in fact, it only took me three days to read the whole thing. I have to say that is a huge testament to what David Hair has created here. I started this series with mixed feelings, slugging through the first half of the first book before things picked up, and then it comes to the point where I literally don't even want to put the book down (I sat reading for an hour in a fast food restaurant because I was so close to finishing it!).

The plot-lines themselves end nicely for the most part, though there were a few certain scenes that felt a little anticlimatic, but were still very entertaining and heartwrenching in themselves. And the plot-lines that didn't wrap up make a great starting point for introducing old characters into Hair's next series: Sunsurge. Some things are easy to see coming, but others take you by storm, often dragging you along headfirst with the characters.

Overall, most of the viewpoints I thoroughly enjoyed, with only a few boring me. But, honestly, even those have improved so much since the first book that I was starting to look forward to them. I also must say that Hair revealing the entire plan to the reader but still having characters make certain decisions makes the book tear a reader's heartstrings, since they know things the characters do not.

Overall, my only regret is that this series isn't more widely known. While the similarity between real-world cultures is off-putting at first, this series as a whole, and particularly this book, manages to overcome that and be an excellent addition to the fantasy world: one I wish more people would know about. I definitely recommend this series, and this book, to everyone.

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## **Josh Svenson says**

Am delighted to hear there 'll be another quarter called sunsurge quarter occur after the events of moontide quarter.....can't wait

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## **Craig6844 says**

‘Well, I’ve heard worse,’ she drawled. ‘Once a group of mage-knights decided they wanted to be “The Glorious Knights of the Temple of Golden Redemption” and call each other “Exalted Paladin”. I had to kill them.’

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## **Kaora says**

A very satisfying ending to a strong series that I enjoyed immensely and am a little disappointed that the journey is over.

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## **Zurlo Enrico says**

I liked the first half of the book much better than the end.

I didn't like the fact that everybody was always trying to become Ascendant as if that would make you invincible, but then we see Ascendant guys dying continuously by normal surprise attacks.

Also I didn't like once again all the Javonesi part of the story and in the end it didn't matter much for the rest of the plot. I could have easily skipped all Cera and Elena chapters and I wouldn't have lost much.

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## **Scott Hitchcock says**

Great ending to a good series. Good for readers who like a historical fiction aspect to their fantasy, political intrigue, social and religious conflicts, good magic system, lots of mysticism, myths brought to life, quests and a clear demarcation of the good guys and the bad guys.

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## **Liviu says**

Loved the first three volumes of this series a lot but volume 4 left me somewhat cold (browsed it when it came in 2015 to see the ending but didn't have the inclination to read its 700 pages or so then); now that the next book in the series (a new quartet starting with Empress of the Fall and having new main characters but with action immediately following the conclusion of this one) came and seemed interesting I decided to try and read this one and I actually managed that as it was generally readable and on occasion reminded me of the excitement of the early books; still not as good as the others as the authors raises the stakes and prepares things to fit in perfectly for the ending so the book reads kind of like an artificial construct to a large extent - I also generally am much less excited about series ending books as they rarely bring surprises (this for example brings pretty much none as opposed to volumes 2 and 3 especially which had lots of cool twists), so the good but not great feeling comes down partly to intrinsic factors (and the desire of the author to tie things up neatly which is something I started disliking more and more recently), partly to the "things that were fresh 1000 pages in the series are not anymore 2000 pages in), partly to my moving more and more away from pure genre as after a number of similar books, all start becoming fairly predictable

still worth reading for closure and hopefully the new series will bring the excitement back again for me

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## **Kaitlin says**

So, this is the final book in the Moontide Quartet and I have to say I am both happy and sad to reach the end of this series. It's not often that I manage to get through a whole series as quickly as I did with this series (as I don't often marathon series back to back) but I read one of these a month for four months and really enjoyed all of them. I was hoping that this would be a great ending to the series, but I didn't know exactly how things would play out, and I was unsure if all my favourite characters would make it, let alone be in a position I wanted for them. I definitely couldn't have predicted the ending of this book, but I will say it's a very conclusive, good ending. There's a LOT of untapped potential for the world still (which is why I am so

happy that David Hair has announced another Quartet called the Sunsurge Quartet which will be happening very soon and set after the events of this series) but the plotlines for this story are nearly all wrapped up nicely and there's only a few more minor things left for the reader to unravel or guess at.

This story contains many of the characters I have already mentioned in my previous reviews for this series and so I won't go over them all again here, but suffice to say that Ramita is my favourite character for various reasons (basically I relate to her and she's a bit of a badass) and her storyline gripped me the most throughout this whole book.

I do also like the characters of; Alaron, Ramon, Cera, Elena, and Gyle a lot, and each of them have their own [rather major] parts to play within this series (alongside a whole host of others that would take too long to mention).

I think the characterisation of this book really focused mostly on the last few sections of this, with some good moments popped between a lot of the conflict, but as book #3 was so character focused this approach worked well for me.

The general plot of this is hard to describe other than a lot of people are looking for a magical artefact called the Scytale of Corineus, and there's a LOT of different armies, people and groups hunting for it and fighting for it. To say any more than that would spoil a lot of the story, which I don't want to do, but honestly I really enjoyed this and even though there are a lot of battle scenes and crusade moments, it still kept me very engaged.

If you followed my goodreads updates for this then you will see that I raced through the majority of this in just a day (although I had read small sections up to the 15% marker before then). The reason I had to race through this was partially due to uni constraints, but also partially due to the fact that it was just so good and I couldn't once predict how everything would turn out.

There are so many things which are great about this series. We have a whole host of colourful, well-imagined characters who capture your hearts and minds. They are all diverse and from different lives, religions, sexes and countries. This gives them all unique preferences and stances on the various topics which are covered in the pages of these books.

Besides this we also have different influences on the world-building and magic systems. The magic is very complex with a lot to learn and a lot to take in, but it's also pretty wonderful. The blend of West and East makes this a relatable yet foreign book with some cool parallels to our world, but it's equally quite a unique one in many ways such as the event of the Moontide, a low-tide which bridge the gap between two great continents for two years in every 12.

We get to see topics such as sexuality and relationships thoroughly discussed and examined. There are people within the book who question both sides of both arguments, and the topics are well handled. We see a variety of good and bad relationships, from friendships, lovers and husbands and wives over the course of the four books and I think this too helped to flesh out the world and convince me of these characters and their actions.

The pacing of this story is great overall. Although it is a long series (as most fantasy series are) and it has many pages to get through it never felt like a slog to me. I was always enjoying finding out more and seeing what our characters would do next.

Basically I think David Hair is my new second-favourite author (following only in Robin Hobb's footsteps) for this series alone, and I know anything I see him release in the future I will be buying (especially the Sunsurge Quartet). I would highly, highly recommend this series to anyone who is on the lookout for a new epic fantasy series, as it's one of the best I've encountered since Game of Thrones for the level of intricacy and excitement and character attachment. A well-deserved 5\*s overall from me :) :) :

