



Beastslayer

William King

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The storm clouds are gathering over the icy city of Praag as the evil forces of Chaos lay murderous siege to the frozen lands of Kislev. Standing between the massed hordes of darkness and the city's destruction are dwarf slayer Gotrek Gurnisson and his sworn human companion, Felix Jaeger. But Gotrek's quest to die a heroic death in battle may soon be granted as the enemy advance to claim the city for their dark gods.

Beastslayer Details

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From Reader Review Beastslayer for online ebook

Matthew says

Series stutters as Gotrek and Felix have a wander

A much poorer outing for the duo, 2 of the 3 books here are 2 star (Dragon and Vampire) with only Beastslayer making the trilogy worth reading, this is where William King started losing sight of what made the series a major hit first off, the wit and plot twists of Skavenslayer and epic-ness of Daemonslayer are completely missing and the series shows for it.

Paulo "paper books always" Carvalho says

this is the fifth book in William King's ongoing epic series (after Trollslayer, Skavenslayer, Daemonslayer and Dragonslayer) about the Dwarf Gotrek who has vowed to find his death in glorious battle in order to pay for past misdeeds, and his human companion Felix who has sworn to accompany him on his quest and record his bravery. If you liked or seen Helm's Deep siege or Pelennor Fields in LOTR then this book is for you.

Trollslayer or Skavenslayer could be read separately but the next four are to be read one after the other... First Daemonslayer, Dragonslayer, Beastslayer and Vampireslayer. Each starts immediately where the other end. (that's why some persons say the end was anti-climatic or so... It's not imperative to read any of the previous but it helps... Each book of the Saga (and this one is no exception) the first couple of chapters have a brief synopsis and the reason why Felix follows Gotrek and other loose ends...

Several familiar characters from previous books are back. After defeating a Daemon and a Dragon I wondered what a heck could be more difficult than them. This book showed me that... but I think that they weren't harder than the Daemon. The Vampire in the next book wasn't harder also.

Now the Main plot of the Saga: Slayer Gotrek Gurnisson is a dwarf on a death quest. He roams the land searching for the mightiest of evils to fight and slay until he is finally rewarded with a glorious death that will long be remembered and talked about for generations to come. Felix Jaeger is sworn to accompany the Slayer, however long it takes, even though it could end in his own death. Should he survive, it will be Felix's job to record and report the heroic dwarf's many battles, as well as how Gotrek fell in combat.

Now the main plot of the Book: Our two main heroes, along with Ulrika Magdova (female warrior), Max Schreiber (battle mage), and the Dwarves Bjorni, Ulli, Snorri reach the legendary city of Praag by a mighty flying ship to bring word of the invasion and orders from Ice Queen Katarina. A huge Chaos army led by Arek Deamonclaw is approaching and all blades are needed. This means the group must put up with many fanatic bigots and blow-hards within the city too. No force such as this has emerged from the Wastes in two centuries.

There are several sub-plots...

Grey Seer Thanquol, a cunning Skaven, has a secondary role in the story this time. His mutated minion, Lurk, has turned upon him. Lurk is now worshipped and has amassed his own army of followers.

The love triangle between Felix Jaeger, Ulrika and Max.

And another interesting sub-plot involving traitors within the city which never really seems to live up to its potential.

There are two things that bothered me (made me think). First it's the Felix and Gotrek likeness. They are becoming with each book more alike. It's understandable since they are travelling together and I think Felix is becoming influenced with Gotrek's doom. The other it's own it ends... William King builds the plot so nicely and in the end you can't help feeling a bit of anticlimax. Maybe the book should have more 100 pages...

I hope to read some more stories with the evil twin mages Kellmain and Lhoigor as we are reading with the Skaven Grey Seer Thanquol. William King shows us that not all the bad guys have to die.

I can't decide which one was better... If I had to choose I would choose Skavenslayer because of Thanquol. He is my second most favourite character after Gilead and Lothain (in Gilead's Blood).

Luke Lybert says

Haha. I am biased. It's great!!

Marco Baier says

Siege and the City!

Staring Gotrek, Felix, and a whole lot of New Yorkers... erm... I mean Chaos marauders and stuff.

So easy to mix up the two...

Maetco says

Edit. I have now read all Gotrek & Felix books. Here is my order of preference:

Rank Book # Writer

- 1 Skavenslayer 2 William King
- 2 Daemonslayer 3 William King
- 3 Shamanslayer 11 Nathan Long
- 4 Manslayer 9 Nathan Long
- 5 Beastslayer 5 William King
- 5 Elfslayer 10 Nathan Long
- 7 Orcslayer 8 Nathan Long
- 8 Slayer 14 David Guymer

9 Kinslayer 13 David Guymer
10 Zombieslayer 12 Nathan Long
11 Giantslayer 7 William King
12 Dragonslayer 4 William King
13 Vampireslayer 6 William King
14 Trollslayer 1 William King

Jason says

can't stop reading this series....

TwentySomethingReads says

Action Adventure Fantasy, 5/12 of the series

Join Gotrek on his fantastical aim of a heroic death with Felix's oath of chronicling Gotrek's death.

The entire setting of the novel is a castle being under siege. Within this novel the pair fight harpies, beastmen, lesser demons, and chaos warriors.

I realize that this is a junk food read, but shit I still enjoy the series even a decade after reading the earlier novels.

New vocabulary:

inimical, tenements, erstwhile, jakes, bandying, postern, countermanded, harried, doughty, hale, fomenting, doxy, wanton, tableau, licentiousness, mehirs, ducal, nibs, kip, portended, exhorting, conciliator, discomfiture, and buttresses.

Ed C says

Fifth in the series and going strong. King makes another twist into the story, this time it's that of an epic seige as a great chaos army sets upon the mighty walls of Prague. Not much more to say really. It brings the greater story of the previous two books to a creshendo. All the tension of a siege, only with Snorri and co. to distract from the grim reality every now and then.

Sebastien says

Finissant mon université et allant vers ce que je pensais être le dernier opus de la série des slayers, je me suis procuré à sa sortie ce livre et me suis discipliné à le lire un peu à chaque semaines.

Ce roman représente le build-up de 3 romans vers cette histoire. Dans Trollslayer on apprend que la fin du

monde approche, dans Daemonslayer on voit des armées à perte de vue s'assembler dans les chaos waste et qui se dirigent vers le sud et dans Dragonslayer on apprend que le pays de Kislev est assiégé comme il fut fait pendant la seconde grande guerre du Chaos. Les prophéties sont claires à ce sujet, la troisième sera la bonne. Le Chaos s'assemble en Kislev et s'apprête à attaquer l'empire. Ayant enfin le temps de s'y intéresser, Gotrek dit à Félix que c'est là qu'il devrait trouver sa mort (je le croyais aussi, ils n'annonçaient plus de suite sur Black Librairie.com).

Cette fois-ci l'ennemie n'était pas que puissant, il était en quantité innombrable. Un armé de chaos warrior, beast, daemons et sorcerer attaquait Kislev à un compte de 5 contre 1. La seule chose qui faisait que les humains n'avaient pas encore perdu c'est qu'ils avaient de bons murs qui les séparaient de l'ennemi qui les avait pris en siège.

Le roman se lit très bien et l'action est au rendez-vous. J'ai peu de critique ou de commentaire à faire contre ce roman. Sauf le fait qu'il faut bien connaître le monde de Warhammer pour apprécier ce roman. Il y a des batailles épiques au moins trois fois dans l'histoire et le combat final est une mega baston où j'étais sûr et certain que nous avions la mort du Slayer.

Sans vous flancher de punch, disons que le fait qu'il y ait maintenant 7 livres de plus dans la série devrait vous dire que ça n'arrive pas. Il y a sûrement des morts parmi les héros secondaires, mais rien dans les héros majeurs. Après une bataille comme celle à la fin, c'est un miracle qu'ils n'aient même pas été blessés. Gotrek perd un œil dans une bataille beaucoup moins grosse que dans Trollslayer, donc il doit être béni des dieux de ne pas avoir perdu rien cette fois-ci (et aussi dans les prochains romans non plus).

Ce roman est très bon, mais William King semble être tombé dans le piège de certains auteurs qui refusent qu'il arrive quoi que ce soit à leurs créations. En espérant que la suite soit un peu plus réaliste à ce sujet et surtout que l'auteur ne perde pas le contrôle de sa série.

A.J Ito says

I really like the book, a lot, but what makes me give this score is the fact that it seems like it's not the real thing, i mean, is an epic story about a desperate battle for surviving the chaos hordes, but it just seems the function of the whole book is making me understand that is something bigger. Also i recommend it, is a great book.

Paul says

Gotrek is a slayer dwarf, one who has committed a sin so great the only atonement is seeking out a death in battle worthy of an epic. Felix is a poet and swordsman who is wanted by the Empire for his participation in the window tax riots. Gotrek saved Felix's life from being trampled by the Empire's troops. While hiding in a tavern, very inebriated Felix swears an oath to follow the slayer dwarf and write the epic of his death. In this series of books the duo fight; chaos worshipers, goblin wolf riders, trolls, cultists, beastmen, sorcerers, skaven, a daemon, a dragon, a vampire, giants, men, a wizard, orcs, dark elves, and the undead and a necromancer. Through all of this Gotrek wonders if he will ever find his doom, Felix wonders if Gotrek's doom will be the end of him and if he is crazy for standing at the Slayer's side for as long as it takes. This series was started by William King and is continued by Nathan Long. These were the first books of the

Warhammer/Black Library brand that I had read and got me started reading Warhammer novels. I will keep reading the Slayer series until the very day that Gotrek meets his epic doom.

Dirk Grobbelaar says

Insidious. That's what this is. Like that packet of sweets that, once you've started... I don't know why, but it took me up to this book, which is book 5 in the series, to realize that there is virtually no character development as far as Gotrek is concerned. This makes perfect sense, since, though the story does not make use of a first person narrative, it is told from the viewpoint of the rememberer, Felix Jaeger. Gotrek remains an enigma. I can't remember ever getting a glimpse of what goes on inside his head. Felix, on the other hand, is another story. His metamorphosis from the almost effeminate poet in the first book to battle hardened warrior-poet (if you will) and heroic swordsman has been handled deftly and expertly over the continuation of the series. Beastslayer opens with the siege of Praag by the massive chaos army assembled under Arek Daemonclaw. This plot line is an overflow from book 4, Dragonslayer. The sense of brooding menace King instills in this installment is truly impressive. Overall there isn't all that much that sets this novel apart from its predecessors, but I really enjoyed reading it. It's just a cracking read, what.

The story itself involves war between the chaos army, and the army of Kislev, with some subplots about treachery and other ditties to keep things juicy. Once again, the supporting characters are a treat. Snorri Nosebiter being one I especially enjoy. Be warned though: it is a rather grim and gory piece of work, although not especially more so than the rest of the series.

Warhammer fans should leave with smiles plastered on their faces, wondering how their heads got shaven and tattooed.

Le Petit Chat says

The main story is interesting enough; the Chaos hordes are attacking Praag, the fortress that housed the last battle between dark forces and light forces. The only stain, as usual, is the bloody love triangle again, this time Ulrika and Max hook-up but Felix still cares for her, remove this and the book is a good read.

In this instalment the brother of the Duke turns out to be a conflicted member of one of the Chaos cults (the one of the changer) and betrays him but at the last minute switches sides and saves his brother. It was obvious from the moment the plot was introduced who this conflicted mystery person is but it didn't really matter one way or the other as far as the story goes.

Jevon Knights says

Started off with amazing action and story. I was really hooked when the Chaos army came marching out of the waste and assaulted the city of Praag. I loved the backstory on the antagonist and the dark sorcerers.

But it sagged a bit in the middle as the focus on the army dropped a bit and I found the assault took too long to happen.

Great action and descriptions as usual. A great read.

Travis Bughi says

Another Gotrek and Felix novel down.

Once again, the dynamic duo face against overwhelming odds of evil and triumph. Bad guys are bad, good guys are good, and Gotrek is once again robbed of a mighty doom.

I have to say, in the beginning, I was really looking forward to this one. Like #4, it seemed poised for this epic battle of proportions for the end. However, regrettably, I'm finding King just unable to deliver on pulling me into the battle scene. I feel like I'm gliding over it, nodding as I pass by, and only just getting involved in the final moments when the big boss man goes down to Gotrek's infamous axe.

There was a bit more lore in this one, even a bit more character development. By book #5, Felix seems like a completely different person than he was in #1. Honestly, that's pretty awesome. Felix's character change was so gradual and steady that I didn't even notice it until this book. King really does a great job with Felix. He is such a REAL character. I didn't like him much in #1, but now by #5, I find myself reading solely for Felix.

Oh and there were some other characters in there, blah blah dwarves, blah blah skaven, I can't help but feel their parts could be cut out and just summed up by Felix later on when he finds out what they've been up to.

And what was with that ending, King? It's like you just threw up your arms and said "screw it, I'll deal with the aftermath in #6." Literally less than a page of "and so the battle was won." I have not forgotten how I felt at the end of #2. So much foreshadowing! What happened to that? Eh, oh well.

/sigh, what am I complaining for? I know I'm going to pick up and read #6 eventually.
