



Rex Regis

L.E. Modesitt Jr.

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The saga of the Imager Quaeryt, Commander in the forces of Lord Bhayar, reaches a new climax as the great struggle to unify the continent of Lydar enters its final phase. Only the land of Khel remains uncommitted to Bhayar's rule. Their decision could mean a lasting peace, or more conflict across an already war-ravaged realm.

While the conqueror of Bovaria awaits emissaries to arrive with news of Khel's decision, other weighty matters occupy Bhayar, his sister Velora, and her husband Quaeryt—not the least of which is the fulfillment of Quaeryt's dream to create the world's first Imager academy, where the magical abilities of these powerful casters may be honed, managed, and put to the service of the common good.

But before that dream may be realized, or Khel's fateful choice made known, the spectre of high treason threatens to unravel all that Quaeryt has achieved, catapulting him toward a fateful confrontation with Bhayar's most powerful military leaders.

Rex Regis Details

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Author : L.E. Modesitt Jr.

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From Reader Review Rex Regis for online ebook

Daniel says

Odlican zavrsetak koji fino odgovori na sva pitanja, nagradi pravedne i kazni negativne likove.

Jedino sto mi je smetalo sto ume relativno cesto da se ponavljaju neka objasnjenja i razgovori Koje glavni lik vodi posto istu stvar objasnjava gomili drugih likova. Ima smisla sto se price tice ali majko nervira kada moram nesto treci put da citam unutar 10 strana, al dobro to su vec manje zalbe.

Pedro Marroquín says

Buen final a esta serie de 5 libros, en la que todo queda resuelto, e incluso habla de dónde salen algunos conflicto de la primera trilogía. Como siempre, a ratos es demasiado cansino con sus ideas sobre el buen gobierno, sobre todo tras 8 libros hablando de lo mismo, pero es algo que no debe impedirte disfrutar de la historia, y como el protagonista sienta la bases de todo. A-

Stefan says

Rex Regis is the eighth overall novel in L.E. Modesitt Jr.'s Imager Portfolio and the fifth one in the series-within-a-series about Quaeryt. The first three novels, with Rhennthyl as their protagonist, were set later in this fictional world's timeline. Scholar, the first Quaeryt novel, moved the story several centuries into the past, initially making these books feel somewhat like prequels that mainly served to show the origins of the world of Imager, Imager's Challenge and Imager's Intrigue.

However, five books later, this second series of Imager books actually feels more solid than the first one. Quaeryt has become a more interesting character, and the plot has slowly but inexorably gained momentum. Even though I was initially sceptical about benching Rhenn, I now feel that the five Quaeryt novels are stronger and more rewarding than the initial three Imager books.

In case it isn't clear by now, this review is about the eighth book in a series. What follows will contain spoilers for earlier volumes.

Read the entire review on my site Far Beyond Reality!

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

This volume in the second part of the Imager Portfolio, which started with Scholar, has been about the consolidation of Bhayar's rule over Tilbor and conquest of the rest of the continent in order to create the continental empire that becomes the Solidar we know in the first volume Imager. It's been a long ride, or

read.

Rex Regis is Bhayar's title, or it will be if Quaeryt gets the job done, because Quaeryt has been the mover and shaker (sometimes literally) behind many events. Quaeryt's goal is to create a College where imagers like himself can be trained and protected. In return, those imagers will back the crown against the High Holders (Lords) and Factors (Merchant Princes).

In case it's not obvious, imagers are mages. If they manage to live long enough, in a world that reviles them, they can become very powerful mages.

Quaeryt Ryterson is the most powerful imager his country has ever seen. More importantly, he seems to be the most intelligent. His story, told in the books *Scholar*, *Princes*, *Imager's Battalion*, *Antiagon Fire* and now *Rex Regis*, have made the journey of someone who goes through life intending to be the power behind the throne, fascinating beyond description. Quaeryt has always known that his safety, his prosperity, the best legacy he can leave behind him, lie in making imagers as a group useful to the best ruler he can find, or make, and that the ruler in question can never ever be himself with his imaging "sorcery". His resistance to temptation is steadfast.

Bhayar thinks early in Quaeryt's career that he can make him more compliant by arranging for a marriage between Quaeryt and Bhayar's youngest sister, Vaelora. Instead, it becomes a love match that gives both of those strong-willed people a partner they can rely on no matter what fate brings them.

Rex Regis seems to be the story of the final consolidation of the empire. All of the conquered territories have been brought into line, except, now that the war is over, the jockeying for position among the conquerors has begun. Some of the senior military commanders feel that Bhayar is too young to truly be the firm leader that the new world demands. And he listens to Quaeryt much too much, when he should be listening to them!

But are there really traitors within their midst, or is Quaeryt seeing shadows in men's hearts at the end of a long and dangerous campaign? Or have fugitive imagers from the defeated rulers suborned loyal men?

Some campaigns never end. Some victories are hard won. And some warriors who deserve to see the peace they have fought for are not fortunate enough to live to see it arrive.

Escape Rating A: Quaeryt's journey has been a never-ending pleasure to read. I say this having been up until 2 am the first night reading *Rex Regis* because I didn't want to stop. But each book has been just that way. Even though Quaeryt has usually been in the position of either bureaucrat or soldier on campaign, he's always been a self-aware observer of his situation, and his observations are interesting. His mind is never idle, and he's always trying to make things better.

Modesitt has managed to make both bureaucracy and the hurry-up-and-wait of a long military campaign into compelling reading.

There's also a bit of the "head, heart, synthesis" trio, or classic Freudian Power Trio among Quaeryt, Bhayar and Vaelora. (Think Kirk, Spock and McCoy from the original *Star Trek* series.) Quaeryt represents cold logical analysis, Vaelora is the emotional heart, and Bhayar as the ruler has to make the final decisions.

Quaeryt has earned the loyalty of the men who serve with him. He could have used that loyalty to become ruler himself. He could even have become a tyrant. Listening to the logic of why he doesn't, it's refreshing. It's not often that the hero is also in effect a beta character; someone who sets out to create a power structure

behind the throne.

I'm not 100% positive whether Quaeryt's entire saga is done, or not. Rex Regis ends at a point where we can see the "empire that will be", the place that it is at the start of Imager. Quaeryt's entire story has been a prequel for the first trilogy. But, there are also loose ends that could still be tied up. I would love to visit this world again.

Karen says

Rex Regis is a well written conclusion to a long story. The 5th book following Quaeryt and Vaelora consolidating Bhayar's rule, the book nicely ties up loose ends while leaving intriguing hints at the continuation of the world with a female imager. I appreciated the conclusion of Quaeryt's story but it was not the action packed adventure the other books were, nor was the intrigue as compelling.

Ron says

"A fool has many choices, a wise man far fewer."

Another rousing fantasy in the imaging world. The final story of the Quaeryt thread.

"Quaeryt Rytersyn ... you may be the most powerful imager ever and a hand of Erion, but you are an idiot!"

Well done. The usual quibbles about slow pace, repetition and poor editing, but it's great fun to read. Probably even better on audio.

"Only the Nameless is infallible. The rest of us must do the best we can." And Sometimes I wonder about just how infallible the Nameless is, thought Quarry, if there even is a Nameless."

Quaeryt is a skeptic. He doubts just about everything, including himself and god. But ... three epiphanies (two witnessed by others, one accompanied by tangible evidence), and he still doubts. (Quibble: Erion, not Quaeryt, is victorious at the climax.)

"That was what I saw as well." He shook his head. "I still doubt the existence of either the Nameless or Erion. But that was what I saw."

Lupine Smile says

Another solid book in the series. Not a lot of action, but plenty of thought provoking insights.

Denae Christine says

Reader thoughts: This was the fifth and last Quaeryt book, and it was anti-climactic. There was hardly any danger, no new imaging techniques, and most of the problems had to do with personnel rather than explosions. The one real tense moment was ruined with a literal deus ex machina. Nothing says, "This character has it easy," better than when Arion (moon god guy) shows up to kill the bad guys with a glowing silver knife.

I'll still read the next ones.

Oh, and his wife, Vaelara, was uninteresting in this book. She says a few clever things and figures out the author of the Rolan volume (which I knew two books ago), but she doesn't actually DO anything. She's not really in charge of anything special, and the Khel council gives in without much fuss.

I still think someone should try to stab an imager.

The bad guys try shooting at the imagers with crossbows, with guns, with cannons, and with antiagon fire. Nothing gets through! (Except mosquitoes, which are too slow and small to be stopped.) Why does no one walk up next to an imager and stab them with a knife?? Am I the only one to think about this? Are none of the bad guys creative? Or have none of them survived enough attacks to think of anything else?

Writer thoughts: You have to raise the stakes, not lower them! I, as a reader, wanted more danger, not less!

Rachel Aaron does this really well in her The Spirit Thief books. Book 1 involves a kingdom (and a vengeful lake and angry sandstorm). Book 2 involves several kingdoms (and a river). Book 3 involves an entire region (and a demon and bandit king). Book 4 involves several continents (and a warlord and immortal empress from across the sea). Book 5 involves the entire planet (and a petty goddess and many hungry demons).

See? The intensity levels go up, not down.

Thomas says

This novel wraps up Quaeryt's story line as he works to unite the continent under his king and found the Imager's collegium. If you are with me so far, you know what to expect. If you are not with me, you need to go back and read some of the earlier volumes. This is the eighth Imager Portfolio novel.

Modesitt, L. E., Jr. Rex Regis. Imager Portfolio No. 8. Tor, 2014.

Micheal D Pyett says

Review Rex Regis

Another great story. I don't think Modesitt has ever written an even substandard book. I always pre-order and look forward to the next book. I highly recommend all of his books.

Alexander Smith says

I was very disappointed with this final book of the series. Normally I like Modesitt books because they are consistent and are ths a familiar friend. Normal stories have a series of small events that build up to a large event. Sort of like build-up, event, build up, event, build up, EVENT. This book was one long build up to a very small and disappointing event. Basically it flatlined. No new character development was necessary and in fact none was given and instead the author rehashed all the basic character building of previous books. The final event of the book was obvious from the earliest chapters (actually from the earlier books) and then when the main character reaches the main event, he can't solve the problem. Instead the author brings in a completely implausible solution (deus ex machina) to solve the problem. The author then spends another 100 pages (1/4 of the book) wrapping up the story. I kept waiting for a twist, or challenge for the main character to overcome (especially as he didn't even solve the main event of the book) but all we receive is a "king" who has been effectively neutered by the author and who has given nearly all authority (other than name) to the main character and his wife.

Sibylle says

More on the Quaeryt story; entertaining but not earth-shattering.

Bryan Brown says

This was a very satisfying ending to the Imager prequel series. You should know that this set of books is set 750 years in the future of the first three Imager books. It concludes the story of the Rex Regis mentioned in the initial trilogy and more importantly the story of his then unnamed imager.

This story returns from the war stories of the previous two into more of the political and philosophical ruminations of the first one. I found it engaging and fun to read. It is full of your classic Modessitt Jr items like

- descriptions of food
- descriptions of clothes
- really crazy names
- wiping the sweat off your brow
- lots of internal monologs
- a young man growing up in a difficult world
- a really sweet romance story

If you like Modessitt Jr, you will like this book. If you don't you won't in spite of the well designed world and the crafting of the story.

Like most of the imager stories I enjoyed the romance part of this book the best. The continuation of the marriage of Valoria (sp?) and Queyrt (sp?) was enjoyable to watch especially after the difficulties they both faced in the previous story. The conclusion of their romance coincided with the end of this story arc and it

left me satisfied and pleased for the both of them.

I was also very interested in rereading the initial Imager trilogy when I finished this one to see what had become of Queyrt's (sp?) world. I am currently in the middle of the second of that trilogy and it is gratifying to see some of the results of this story reflected in that world.

I think his story craft has much improved from the days of the Magic of Recluse, although, all the elements of classic Modessitt Jr are there, and so I've decided to reread the Recluse novels (and read the ones I've missed) to see how intricately that world was put together.

Liviu says

very appropriate ending to Quaeryt's story though of course one wants more in the Imager universe; more in the vein of book 1 with intrigue rather than battles, and almost all the little things from the first books (eg the fate of the last Khanara of Tilbor or of Eluisa's family or who wrote the book about Rholan that is quoted throughout) are settled here, while in a very nice salute to the Rhenn books, new student Imagers with names like Poincaryt and Chartain appear, as well as the path to ascendance for the Ryel high holder family is established despite the very unpromising beginning here of the current Ryel nobleman being Rex Kharst's confidant so his lands being prime target for dispossession

Great stuff that has a high reread value too and of course it will be one of my top 25 next year...

A more complete review closer to publication date but if you like the series to date, you won't be disappointed in its ending for sure - while here the bar was somewhat lower as from the Rhenn books we know the general outline of the ending, I would still mention that its execution is great as series endings are really hard to do well

Jim says

April 2017 review: This ends Quaeryt's story & it ends pretty well. There is plenty left for him to do & we know some of the results due to the first 3 books in the series. Again, I felt this book was a bit too much of a good thing, especially the fawning over Quaeryt. Not awful, just repetitive. I still didn't like Erion, but it certainly sets the imagers' roles as iron fists in velvet gloves, just as Quaeryt wants.

The simplified economic & political parables were all very well done throughout the series & many were paramount in this part of the story. In our complex, high tech world, it's easy overlook some of the basics like how much a decent road or bridge can mean to the economy. Modesitt mentions it in almost every book, but it is a central point in Quaeryt's story. It underscores the central weakness of a libertarian/anarchist system - too often people don't think ahead & are too self-centered or resource poor to do what is necessary for the society overall. It also shows how a central government can't have too many rules for diverse areas & economies, though.

I enjoyed this & made time to finish it quickly, but it only gets 3 stars for going on a bit too long. It's a must-read, though. I'm at a good stopping point since the next books are some centuries later with Alastar as the central figure. There are 2 books published at this time with a third coming out in a few months. When it

arrives, I'll dive back in & read those.

July 2014 review: 3 stars - A pretty good wrap up to the series, but 5 books was a bit many for this particular character. He had a lot to do with very limited resources & murky problems. Very realistic issues that went well with the theme of hard work making for good fortune. In 5 books, this point became repetitive. Then Modesitt took him in a direction I didn't care for. (view spoiler) The character handles it well & there is quite a bit of doubt as to the reality. It might just be a subconscious manifestation. Still, that doesn't add anything & it would have been a stronger story without that.

All in all, a 4 star series & highly recommended like all his books.
