



# Flight of the Nighthawks

*Raymond E. Feist*

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A portent of annihilation awakens the powerful sorcerer Pug in the dead of night—a dread vision warning of a vast and terrible army descending upon the exposed heart of Midkemia. Even the formidable might of the Tsurani Empire will not beat back the alien invaders. And in far Stardock town, two boys—untrained, unready, and barely come of age—will be called upon by the mysterious Conclave of Shadows to confront a sinister plot that implicates even the highest-ranking nobles in the land. For a nightmare of treason, intrigue, and murder is brewing among an ancient Brotherhood of Death—a clan of merciless assassins whose name is spoken only in fearful whispers . . .

## Flight of the Nighthawks Details

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Author : Raymond E. Feist

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# From Reader Review Flight of the Nighthawks for online ebook

## Matthew Green says

Flight of the Nighthawks has a good narrative that flows rather nicely. However, the plotline is one of Feist's weaker works, resulting in a somewhat meandering and, in the end, cliched style.

The book begins focusing on the two boys, Tad and Zane, though somewhere along the line, Feist seemed to forget about them, leaving me wondering why he introduced them in the first place. Identifying a main character toward the end seemed rather difficult as it seemed to be spread out over numerous characters. While incorporating a number of different main characters into a storyline is not a poor writing technique, it fails here primarily because Feist seemed to have the two boys in mind, then changed his mind or became too involved with other ideas to continue with them. Therefore, they simply don't hold the book together.

The thrust of the series also seems to have devolved into a simple chasing after Leso Varen, an all-too-familiar plot of one evil wizard threatening the world and a race to stop him. While the threat of the talnoy and Dasati remain, they are relegated to the background. Even the return of the nighthawks, the very threat for which the book is titled, are not particularly threatening and seem only a rung on the ladder toward Leso Varen. For that matter, when dealing with the nighthawks, unlike in A Darkness at Sethanon, there was no real sense of danger. I felt little apprehension at the characters' activities when chasing after a guild of assassins, a deadness that seemed inappropriate.

Finally, the concluding chapters were simply cliché. While Feist took pains to never directly mention what the characters had come to conclude about Varen's hiding place, it was rather obvious and particularly unoriginal. For the author to drop mention of Kaspar and Tal and others' knowledge while not disclosing it to the reader, as if it were to be a great surprise and leaving the reader on the edge of his seat, was simply trite at the reveal. Both more subtlety and creativity was warranted.

Still, I didn't find myself bored with the book until the last few chapters, and most of my frustrations really came about after reflecting on the storyline. Feist's writing style is generally fluid and interesting, which makes this book a reasonably enjoyable read, just not one that anybody should expect much out of in the end.

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## Matthew Ciccone says

[(Midkemia is a bad name... why is the Kingdom's name just 'the Kingdom'? Couldn't he think of anything better? Empire of Great Kesh? What now? Oh, there's a magical island with wizards on

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## Jamie says

Wow, Raymond Feist is really phoning it in here. Feist is one of my guilty pleasures as far as books go, and only one of two high fantasy authors I read everything from any more (the other one being George R. R. Martin). That may have to change, though.

Flight of the Nighthawks really isn't all that well written, what with half the characters using idioms straight

out of the 20th century and with clumsy and distracting phrasing that any editor should have been able to catch. It seems pretty clear that Feist wants to write something in another genre, but can't make himself or is just fulfilling some contract. Two of the characters even get drunk on whiskey (a far cry from the staples of ale or wine) and one of them owns a restaurant. I'm not against breaking out of the mould, but Feist's really not doing anything interesting with it; it's like he's breaking the rules out of boredom, not creativity.

The book doesn't even have a very interesting story, unlike previous installments in this new series. The pacing is completely bizarre, the characters are uniformly uninteresting, and Feist can't seem to let go of old standbys (though that's probably just as well, since his new characters are unremarkable). Oh, and everybody gets a plotline in this book. Magnus? He's got one. Pug? One for him. Nakor? Caleb? Tal Hawkins? Kaspar? Yep, all got their own private plotlines. Miranda? Well, no --she's a woman and for some reason Feist doesn't write women. Just as well, though. And it's not like all these threads weave together in any significant way. It's practically the SAME overall story as the last book --cliched, mad magician disguises self and tries to take over the world only to be suddenly stopped by a party of high level characters once the page count hits a certain mark. Bleh.

I think Feist needs to take another break. Write something in another genre, whatever. I'm sure I'll read the last 2 or however many books in this series just to close it out, but I'm not exactly hopping from one foot to the next in anticipation and I really hope things pick back up.

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### **Paul says**

It's been a while since I've visited the worlds of Feist. His books continue on his established history, with characters ageing and dying (or both) and others coming and going from the narrative. This one was interesting as it seemed to flesh out the Empire of Great Kesh a little more and gave an insight into its politics. Yet at the same time it seemed very pedestrian, like Feist is going through the motions without having any real inspiration.

Not a bad opening number for a trilogy but not particularly riveting either.

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### **Martin Chalupa says**

This book has a pretty good story. I wasn't blown away but I enjoyed meeting all old characters. The story was still quite fast paced with minimum moments when Pug and Nakor ponder about a philosophy of magic. Unfortunately, the stories are becoming a bit repetitive. They are not completely the same but you can recognize the pattern. You can then predict where the direction of the story is heading and you are not as surprised as you should be. I'm Midkemia fan so I don't regret my time with the book. I would recommend older series for someone completely new to Feist's work.

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### **Blake says**

My favorite fantasy author of all time. It's just a joy to read his work, as he continues the story of Pug, and totally keeps you hanging on by having Pug, many books ago, told everyone around him, his loved ones, would die. Amazing character development.

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## **Plesz Roland says**

Sok dolgot nemértettem ezzel a könyvel kapcsolatban. De volt benne tipikus kiképzés, világbemutató... mondjuk leso varen továbbra is csapnivaló f?gonosz. Nagyon gondolkozom a három és a négy pont között; végül négy pontot fog kapni, de csak mert Feist...

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## **Brooke Carter says**

Down to Great Kesh we go again. Which is great because the last time I remember was 12 books ago. I LOVED the first chapter of this. Hopefully without spoiling too much, it's a recreation of the previous part of the series, and I really enjoyed reading it.

This book delves a bit more into Pug's family, which I like as I felt Magnus and Caleb sort of just appeared one book, and I don't know very well. Which is sad considering this world has so many books.

A few new characters are not particularly interesting as they feel similar to others, but are still enjoyable to read. There are references to characters and plot points of Prince of the Blood (the 12 books ago one) that I didn't get as it was so long ago that I visited that story, so I reread of that might make this better in parts.

I liked the spilt between the magician aspects and the more grinding aspects of the everyday conclave agents. Too much of the magicians would make the story and threat less believable. There's also a really great twist and ending as well!

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## **Emilee Powell says**

Since it reads a bit like an extended synopses of every other book the author has ever written, I am forestalling definitive judgement until I read his first book (or possibly books.) However, since the author's focus seems to be equally divided between the books plot and his past accomplishments, it's quite likely my rating will go down.

Amendment: I was correct in my assumptions. This book is equal parts fan service "Hey remember when that character did that cool thing you liked," intermixed with a tepid plot.

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## **Shivesh says**

An inauspicious start to this trilogy... Feist has this down to a formula, with strict ingredients and instructions. A standard trilogy starter, with cardboard characters and a generic plot. Pug, Miranda, Nakor and Tomas take their usual turns in this fantasy, without much reminding us of why we liked them to begin with. Leso Varen, the mad mage from the previous trilogy, is back and madder than ever. This is a guy who can't die! Some cheap theatrics and poorly written intrigue with the court of Kesh lead us to giant plot holes and inconsistencies that will take us through the rest of this muddled mess.

Unlike some of his earlier novels, this one is a fast paced and fast moving tale, with plenty of excitement. But where is our love for the characters? It is simply not there. How many times can Nakor grin after every sentence? How many times can characters shrug nonchalantly? It gets irritating.

Pug is completely lost and confused in this book. For being the leader of the Conclave, and manifestly the most important, most knowledgeable and most powerful magician in the universe, Feist doesn't give him much to do, and certainly makes him an idiot compared to the Pug of the Riftwar. It is a travesty to see major fantasy figure like Pug reduced to this. Magnus, Jommy and the rest of the "kids" are poor imitations of Jimmy the Hand and others. Pity that Erik von Darkmoor of the Serpentwar Saga actually seems like a complex and interesting figure compared to these people.

However, the story moves along quite rapidly and Leso Varen is entertaining in a silly kind of way. As the most powerful necromancer in the world, all he could produce was some black flame and a scary voice. Sheesh. The Dasati are appropriately frightening but they don't measure up to the dread we felt at the entrance of the Tsuaranni so long ago. More's the pity.

Two stars for the story and a decent start to what can be an interesting saga.

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### **Thomas Arvanitis says**

More like 3.5 stars really. A breezy read, interesting without being overly deep. Quite enjoyable, but with many, many jarring typos. The editor of this edition was asleep at the wheel.

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### **Prudence says**

a good start to a new series- good setup for the next novel.

was not enthralled with new characters (tad and zane) but loved the fact that pug and nakor have some "screen time" after being largely distant from feist novels for a while

this is not a series that somebody fresh to feist world can pick up- alot of references to previous books and characters.

I also dislike the use of Varen, he had his moments but hopefully will be pushed aside for the dasati

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### **Gavin says**

Three things. First, someone should rewrite the preface. This isn't really a story of brothers or assassins. It's more politics and sorcery. Second, this book is alright. It's nothing great, but narration flows nicely and the anticipation to the climax is steady. Third, as warning, as I found out, this book is the first of a saga, but is not something brand new. There are more works, more story already built into the world this story takes place in.

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**William Collins says**

This was actually the first Feist book I've read and I think it serves as a great introduction to anyone who also hadn't read his other works.

Nighthawks still remains one of my favourite Feist books too.

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**Sud666 says**

Feist's Darkwar Saga is starting out better than his Riftwar.

So it is set in the future. Pug is now old and his first wife, whom I liked, is gone and he has married the annoying shrew Miranda for some reason. But the true story is about his sons now- Caleb, a non-magical boy, and his brother Magnus, a powerful magus.

In the Kesh Empire something strange is happening. Nobles are being killed off and there are rumors of a secret group operating out of the shadows. The story revolves around Pug and his sons banding together to go to Kesh and root out this mysterious assassin's guild known as Nighthawks.

Fast paced and entertaining I enjoyed this first book in this series. The character of Bek shows real promise and this "fragment of the Namless One" is rather interesting. The Nighthawk operation and the efforts of Pug and his Conclave were well done. A good first book in this trilogy.

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