



Cloud Castles

Michael Scott Rohan

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Twice before Stephen Fisher has set sail upon that shifting vortex of Space and Time known as the - Spiral once drawn in by chance, another time by need. Now dread forces older than humankind are calling him back once more.

Cloud Castles Details

Date : Published (first published August 1st 1994)

ISBN : 9780575600232

Author : Michael Scott Rohan

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review Cloud Castles for online ebook

Andy says

didn't finish it. Very poor, clunky dialog

Jonathan says

Airships! And powerful forces brought into battle! The Spiral concept is neat.

2Due says

Thrilling and engaging, even more than the other two previous books, I really enjoyed it and I found it as a very satisfying ending to the trilogy. The choice of First-person view and the Present time engulfed me even more into the story, despite at the very beginning was a bit tricky to be used to.

This third final chapter brought back all the pieces of the big puzzle around the protagonist, becoming incredibly fulfilling, since the reader sees everything from the protagonist's point of view, from the troubles and confusions he had at the beginning, to the joys and struggles at the end.

I read the Italian version of the trilogy and the only tiny thing I am not really happy about is that there are no traslations for those different-from-English-and-Italian lines around the books, I would have really appreciated a note or two at the end of the page.

All things considered, I'm pretty proud to have this wonderful trilogy in my little collection and can't wait to try more works from the Author.

Alexandra says

Spoilers for the first two books, Chase the Morning and Gates of Noon - although really, there's three books, surely it's no spoiler to say that Stephen survives and has further adventures?

Stephen Fisher, no longer quite such the hollow man as previously; oh look, the brief love and forgiveness of his ex-girlfriend has worked not quite a miracle, but certainly wrought some change. Whodathunkit. When this novel opens, Stephen is in an intriguing position: he remembers the Spiral all the time when he's in the Core, he's deliberately had many adventures there - but his life in the Core isn't harsh or empty enough to give it up. In fact, he's now the head of his company and he's got a brand new, very interesting project on the go. No on-going relationship, but still - he's not the hollow, use-and-leave type that once was. Which is good, right?

The ultimate reveal is brilliantly constructed. Up to that point... well, the story threatens to feel a bit samey. In fact, it is: there's challenge from the Spiral affecting Stephen's life in the Core, and he goes out and faces it and there are ups and downs, and something Big from out near the Rim challenges Life As We Know It. All of these things happened in the previous novels, and they happen here too. But the great thing about Rohan's writing is that it still manages to be interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. For instance, in the mythos he's

mined: there's been voodoo; and Asian myth from Buddhism to Hindu to animism; and here, Rohan brings it back to Europe. In terms of action, the first two books were similar in involving ships; here, the focus shifts to the possibilities of air travel (AIRSHIPS!). And I swear Rohan must himself have taken up fencing between Gates of Noon and this book, because the fights seemed to get a whole lot more technical... which I kinda skimmed occasionally. And while some of the side characters are the same - really, who could ever get sick of Mall? Really? And there are new characters too: happily, to my mind, especially another woman, who gets a bit more fleshed out than Claire or Jacquie ever managed to be in the previous books.

Yes, there's some annoying repetition with Stephen bemoaning his life - but Gates of Noon was definitely the worst for that, and his growing/filling up has largely curbed that. And yes, the portrayal of women is not always great - Stephen occasionally has a 'private' leer which the reader is privy to - but Mall gets to be Amazing. This could be problematic, because clearly it's not realistic and it's annoying if the only woman has to be so much better than any of the men to warrant any air time: but it does entirely fit the idea of Mall being over 400 years old, and moving outwards on the Spiral, and therefore - like Jyp is, to a lesser extent - becoming... *clarified*. And she's not the only woman, which helps.

So I firmly believe these books deserve their space on my shelf.
