



The Great Book of Amber

Roger Zelazny

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Roger Zelazny's chronicles of Amber have earned their place as all-time classics of imaginative literature. Now, here are all ten novels, together in one magnificent omnibus volume. Witness the titanic battle for supremacy waged on Earth, in the Courts of Chaos, and on a magical world of mystery, adventure and romance.

--back cover

The Great Book of Amber Details

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From Reader Review The Great Book of Amber for online ebook

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

Nine Princes of Amber: It was an ok story. Not great, but not bad. I sort of got annoyed with the faux-medieval language towards the end, and I didn't care that much about the characters, but the cliff-hanger ending did leave me curious and wanting to read the next in the series.

I was a bit annoyed that none of the sisters are relevant characters.

The Guns of Avalon: I just finished this yesterday, and had to think a minute to recall what happened. It was anti-climactic in itself, and generally set up for the rest of the story.

Hand of Oberon: Didn't expect that particular twist, though I did think there was something fishy about "him".

1/15/10

The Corwin Arc

So last night I finished book 5, completing the Corwin Arc of the story.

First off let me state that this is one of those series/arcs which is really one story which is split into parts, and not a series where each book is self-contained. I don't mind this in the least, but I think it's good for people to know so they don't think they can just jump in anywhere. Though each book does have a sort of "reminiscence" of past events, it is something you really need to read in order.

I would say that, overall, this is a story whose whole is better than the sum of its parts. The first two books were a bit slow, books 3 and 4 were rather good, and book 5 and its ups and downs - but since it really is one story, it's best, I think, to take it as a total and not as parts, which is why I aborted my above attempt at per book commentaries.

That said, I give it 3 1/2 stars.

There are two major downfalls to the story. 1) Secondary characters aren't really developed, and it's hard to get a real feel for them. Above I'd mentioned this mostly with the sisters, but, really, it's all of them with few exceptions. But, even those exceptions are scatter-shot. 2) The descriptions of the journeys through Shadows were rather dull and hard to follow. I sort of started zoning in these places, and would perk up again once we got somewhere and something of interest started happening.

Actually, I'll add a third, which is related to the first, but also simply a by-product of it's first person narration - there's a lot of exposition. There's a lot of stuff that happens off-stage because it doesn't happen to Corwin directly, and so we find out about it in dialogue as it's being related to Corwin. This adds to the mystery and intrigue aspect, but also smacks of telling instead of showing. Of course, conversely, this added greatly to the brevity of the story, because if we 'saw' all of the events, the book would probably be at least twice as long. So that's sort of a pro and a con.

There were parts, such as with Corwin and Random, and Corwin and Hugi, where I truly felt for Corwin - where I felt for his plight, empathized with his pain, or was amused by conversations. There were other parts where I felt distanced from the story, such as when a major character died who he loved, but whom you never really see much of in the story, and so are left able to sympathize, but not empathize. It's hard to care about the fate of a character you hardly see, even if the narrator has some ununderstood affection for them.

The parts that worked, as I said, were mostly the intrigue. I was often as confused as Corwin, and as equally desirous of learning what, exactly, was going on and who, precisely, was betraying whom. Also some of the action sequences were quite good. Some of the best parts, though, were being inside Corwin when we truly felt his pain or pleasure, his triumphs or despair. It didn't always work, but, when it did, it worked well.

3.5 - 4 stars

I am now putting this book aside, and will return to Merlin's arc after I've finished off some other stuff I want to get to.

So, I finished the Merlin arc last night. Overall, I didn't think it was as good as the Corwin arc. I think the biggest drawback, for me, was that there wasn't as much as an empathetic connection with Merlin as there was with Corwin.

While we're following Corwin's story, we get a lot of insight into him as a person and how things are affecting him. With Merlin, while there's a little bit of this, it's mostly just one thing after another thing after another. So much happens, with so many different people and things wanting a piece of him, that we don't get a lot of time for real in-depth character stuff.

I mean, I liked Merlin, but I only felt I knew him superficially. And what we do know of him we learn mostly through his actions.

At times I really felt for Corwin. I only remember one time where my heart went out to Merlin.

Going back to so much happening, at times the story was confusing and hard to follow. There was an odd jerkiness to it in places, again, and I would flip back a page to see if I skipped something. It was hard keeping people and motives straight, and some of it didn't really make a lot of sense (like most of the Julia thing.)

Other parts were slogging. I think most of book three and about 1/2 of book 4 were just painfully slow. I had to sort of force my way through.

It picked up a lot at the end, which was good, and things were moving along at a good pace - and then things just ended. It's a very open-ended ending, and there are a lot of loose threads which could be picked up, which could be fine, except this is all there is. (Well, there were short stories written, but I don't think they're collected anywhere, and Zelazny died before it was all completed.)

Overall, I liked the Merlin arc well enough, just not as much as the first cycle.

3 starts

Evgeny says

This book has a special place on my bookshelf. It was the second fantasy series I read after LotR. These two are the reasons I love fantasy genre. Since that time no other books forced me to use my imagination to the same extent as Amber. Each book (there are 10) completely changed how I thought Amber world works. Some people feel the last five books are weaker than the first five, but they are still very entertaining (my feeling - Corwin is better storyteller than Merlin).

For those curious how Zelazny planned to proceed: hunt down Amber short stories. They are really short and leave you with craving for more, but the sequel will never come, sadly.

To make a long story short - for those who have not read it yet: what are you waiting for? These are really great.

Elena says

- ❶ Nine Princes in Amber: ★★★
- ❷ The Guns of Avalon: ★★★

Such a hard couple of books to give a rating for. The worldbuilding is spectacular. The overall story arc of the series is truly ambitious in its epic scope: Zelazny's writing serves such a vast narrative well - dry and to the point, sometimes witty, other times quietly poetic. I find the pace to be a bit unbalanced in places, but even in their slower moments, both **Nine Princes in Amber** and **Guns of Avalon** make up for the lack of action thanks to the author's extraordinary imagination. Dialogues are a bit awkward and clunky, but your eyes can always rest upon the wildly creative scenery Zelazny sketches around his characters while they prattle away.

Now, about the characters... here's where Zelazny loses me. Take Corwin: one moment the author's cynicism is unflinching in its depiction of this god-like superman hellbent in his terrible - and blind to any consequence - quest for power; the next, the Prince of Amber comes across as a textbook example of a Gary Stu - no feat is too impossible for him, no enemy is beyond his power to defeat, no woman can resist his charms. And speaking about women... Zelazny seems to be caught somewhere along the Neanderthal stage of human evolution in his characterization of them: the only saving grace is that there are *very* few of them around - small mercies, I guess.

So... tentative three stars to both books, and finger crossed for Sign of the Unicorn: maybe Corwin will be dismembered and eaten by a manticore soon, yay!

Chris says

Well, it took about two months, but I finished the "Great Book of Amber." I feel a little better knowing that it was technically TEN books in one, but only moderately better. It was partially due to things going on in the "real world", but for some reason this book was a fairly slow read for me.

My initial reactions after the first "book" were that:

- 1) I enjoyed the world/characters
- 2) I thought the author was very imaginative and had some cool ideas
- 3) I didn't like the narrative voice
- 4) The copy-editing was awful (numerous typos/grammar errors)

After having finished the entire saga, I would say that those reactions stand but I would expand them a bit and add a couple of other comments.

World/Characters

The world itself was very intriguing...the concept of a "true" reality and everything else is a "shadow" of that reality is cool. It's not a new idea per se (I've had soooo many discussions in similar veins in many of my English classes as we talk about meaning and ideas...discussing Plato's concept of the "real" or "true" ideal thing and everything else is just a reflection that helps to understand or draw near to the ideal). But it was still cool.

It was both comforting and annoying to have so much of the story based in our "own shadow Earth." It was good to have a foothold that was familiar and relatable. Still, it seemed that by relying on our "own" Earth so much and using it as the comparisons for Amber, it almost made Amber become the shadow and Earth become the ideal. This was never presented as the case, and was often spoken of in the contrary, but the overarching presence of Earth in terms of plot usage and in terms of the characters comparing points in Amber to memories on Earth made the distinction difficult at times.

In terms of character development, I really liked Corwin being an amnesiac to begin with so that I was learning everything with him. It also helped set the tone of knowledge development for the rest of the stories since lack of knowledge was an underlying plot driver...since the 'amnesiac reader' was already in place, it was easy to continue that mode and provide lots of questions and expository monologue.

By the end of book 10, I felt like I'd read Dickens' Bleak House or some other novel with a ridiculous amount of characters each with their own individual plot threads drawn out to indeterminate conclusions. All of these were seen from a singular point of view and loaded with the narrator's own insight and bias, which made the multiple characters' threads all that much more difficult.

I loved the characters and many of them were well developed and rather unique. A lot of them were composites of one another and blended together at times. This was especially true of their voices which were indistinguishable.

Imagination/Plot

While I can see a lot of external influences creating various plot elements and concepts (such as Plato's ideal as mentioned above), I applaud the author for a very imaginative world with dynamic characters and a very intriguing plot line. While the novel itself is likely wholly classified as "Fantasy" on a large level, I could almost see it sub-classified as "mystery"/"suspense" or possibly "political thriller."

Because of the "amnesiac reader" syndrome, the plot arc was able to change many times through the ~1200 pages and still maintain a good flow. The overarching plot remained largely unchanged from a general sense...in that the plot was that of a power struggle...the players seeking the power changed over the course of the novel, mainly as the scope of the power changed. First it was a struggle for intellectual power, then for a throne, then for vindictive power, then a struggle for knowledge or freedom from persecution (not quite sure how to classify Merlin's first stories as power struggles), then for power over enemies, then larger power struggles between the powers of the universe.

The overall plot was actually fairly simple. Where it got complicated was in the delivery of the plot as well as the wide range of subplots within the adventure.

I rather enjoyed a lot of the subplots and the deviations from the main plot mainly because they helped maintain momentum which was vital because frankly I felt the story really dragging at many points. In looking back, I suspect that the main plotline could be followed through effectively in about 1/3 of the real estate used (so ~400 pages instead of ~1200).

The subplots helped maintain my interest level as a reader while also providing small nuggets of information that was vital or at least intriguing with relation to the main plot.

My biggest complaint in terms of the wide variety of subplots was that there were SO MANY individual plot threads partially developed. I would have HATED to have read these as 10 individual books published every year or two. Each "book" ends only resolving a portion of the plot lines it introduced or followed (and sometimes completely ignored points introduced in previous books).

The easiest break point is to call books 1-5 the "first story" and books 6-10 the "second story", but that too is oversimplification since at the end of book 5 you have a ton of plot points that are unresolved and never brought up again in 6-10 and at the end of book 10 you have numerous plot points just dropped for good. Since there are literally dozens of plot lines explored through each "book", this is a ton of information that the reader is invested in but never achieves resolution for.

I've spoken briefly to the delivery of the plot. It was effective initially because of Corwin's state of being. It was intriguing throughout the entire story because it kept the reader as much in the dark as the main protagonist trying to figure out the mystery/conspiracy. My main complaint with the delivery method is due to the narrative voice which is one of my initial observations and complaints so it deserves its own section.

Narrative Voice

I've already commented that I found that even though there are dozens and dozens of characters, most of them had nearly indistinguishable voices. That in itself was confusing at times. Add to that the sections with full pages of dialogue with no identifiers. Numerous times I had to back up to near the beginning of a dialogue and then count from the first identifier...HOPING that the author stuck with a normal pattern (which was a very optimistic hope, since he very frequently diverted from convention with regards to spoken word...sometimes within multiple speakers within what page/paragraph formatting would designate for a single speaker...for example: *"What do you mean?" Eric asked to which I replied "Nothing".* It's not awful...and not as bad as no identifiers, but was still troubling).

In addition to the same voice throughout everything, the voice itself annoyed me at times. I understand that Corwin and later Merlin (the primary narrators) spent a lot of time on "our Earth", but it still felt that there was far too much of what felt like earth-specific jargon. This sort of goes to the first point. If I write off Corwin and Merlin (and perhaps also Fiona and some of the others who loved earth) as just really liking Earth...that's one thing. To then take those same conversational nuances to other characters, many of whom never ventured from Amber or the Courts of Chaos or wherever else they lived...that's stretching it too far. My biggest pet peeve was the "Whatever" usage.

My other complaint with the narrative voice doesn't have to do with the dialogue voice, but rather with the narrative presentation itself.

"All my life", I've been taught **"show, don't tell"**. Perhaps this novel is the case study that first coined that

phrase. Pulling a number out of my butt, I would say that this novel is 80% tell vs 20% show. The plot delivery is nearly always handled through expository monologues either from the narrator himself or as presented by a supporting character.

I acknowledge that the novel is done in first person and that as such he "has to" tell us what's going on. My point is that he can "tell" without "telling"....describe the action, describe the scene, describe the emotions...*describe* rather than *explain*.

Summary

I really did enjoy the creativity and imagination used throughout the story. I also really had fun with the political intrigue and conspiracies at a universe level. It was very entertaining in that aspect.

However, the "tell" vs. "show" presentation made this novel almost a chore to get through at times. It truly felt a tedious read on numerous occasions and I almost gave up on it. When I finally reached the end and found so many plot threads unresolved, I almost wished I had given up rather than push to the end hoping for a solid resolution.

Still, enough was resolved that I can't hate myself for finishing it.

My suggestion might be to hope for an abridged version or perhaps a movie. In lieu of that, go for it. The story itself and the ideas it might get you thinking about are definitely worth pushing through even the boring segments.

3 stars

Foomy says

The name Zelazny is used in conjunction with words like "Classic" and "Quintessential" high fantasy. So I went into this dictionary-sized tome with high expectations of fantastic locations, rules, and characters. I got the first two.

The idea of Amber, being the only "real" world, with countless other "shadow" worlds branching off (think alternate universes, but not quite), is a great concept. Unfortunately, I'm a big fan of strong characters and their growth, and I just didn't find that here.

None of the characters seem to have any reason for their actions at any point. There is one big overriding motivation for most of the characters, yes, but all the specific actions they take and decisions they make don't make sense in context. And no, they don't have these grand plans where eventually all their little quirks and unexplained actions come together in a giant epiphany at the end; they just do things. It feels like certain things had to happen for the plot to move forward, so the characters make these things happen regardless of how much sense it makes from their point of view.

I was very disappointed by the book, honestly. I feel like an ambitious author could take the setting of Amber and make a spinoff novel or series with strong characters that would make a better story than the original.

Roger says

4 stars is a misleading rating for this collection of 10 books. The first 5 (Corwin Books) deserve a full 5 stars. The Corwin books (1-5) are among my favorite fantasy books of all time. Thanks to fellow GoodReads member "I. Curmudgeon" for recommending them.

Books 6-10 (Merlin Books) deserve 4 stars each...not as good as their predecessors but still good books in their own right. Merlin, son of Corwin, is a much more sympathetic protagonist than his old man...and less interesting by consequence.

Taken as a whole, this series deserves 4.5 stars. Since I only give 5 stars to what I consider to be "perfect" books, I had to round down to 4.

Whitaker says

Update (Please read this first before complaining about my rating)

People keep complaining that my 1 star is unfair because some books were better than others. Here's how I see this work. I don't see it as different books the way one would read say an Agatha Christie novel. Each Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple mystery is a stand alone even if characters recur from book to book. They are meant to be read as stand alone novels and should be treated as such.

This book, on the other hand, is clearly a single narrative telling one story. The fact that was published as separate books does not change that. *The Count of Monte Cristo* was published as a serial. Should I give each chapter of that book a separate rating? Similarly, *War and Peace* is, in the text, divided into several books. Should it be rated on the basis of each book too?

We would never presume to rate *Hamlet* on the basis of each act, nor a symphony on each movement. We understand that these are works that have to be treated as a whole. The publishing or writing decision to split a work into several parts does not change how I approach that work.

My view is that a work stands or falls by all of its parts. If I'd wanted to rate each book separately, I would have given a GR rating to each individual book (Nine Princes in Amber, The Guns of Avalon, etc) listed here and not this edition. I didn't because I didn't read this in parts with each part a stand alone work. Given that the entire narrative is treated as a whole, I think it only fair to the author to treat his work as one whole. Some books benefit by that approach: an apparently weak beginning or middle may be improved when seen in the context of the ending or as a whole. This one, sadly, did not.

I am sure there are those who will disagree with this approach. You are certainly welcome to rate books how you please. There is, however, a reason to my rating this work this way.

Original Review

Seriously? One star? WTF??

Yep, one star. Okay, admittedly, the first half of the series is not bad. I'd have given it 3 stars for its twists

and turns and fairly well constructed plot. The second half is so bad, I just have to wonder if the writer of the second half is the same as the writer of the first half. Maybe the second half was written by some pattern-construct or a shadow Zelazny twenty five tiers down. What did I object to? Let's see, where to start.

1. The inconsistent and wooden characterization--characters change as the plot requires and not through some natural evolution. (view spoiler)
2. The clunky dialogue that made all the characters sound like they were American actors in a bad soap opera despite the fact that they live in some totally foreign and exotic environment like the Courts of Chaos. (view spoiler)
3. The multiple rabbits that get pulled out of a hat. (view spoiler)
4. The plot! The plot that was like yesteryear's stale soap opera. The mad stalker ex-girlfriend, the family feud, the controlling mother, the best friend cum enemy, the possessed friend. Honestly! The only clunker it didn't have was a Bobby Ewing moment. Actually, wait a minute...

Ugh! I feel like I just watched a year's worth of *Jerseylicious* reruns with this book. Shudder!

Mayim de Vries says

Please note: this review applies only to the Corwin Cycle as I have never particularly liked Dara or cared about Merlin.

Can you imagine a world without fantasy books? Can you remember your world before you had read your first one?*

I can.

I snatched the Nine Princes in Amber from my Father's shelf and read it during one afternoon. Then I returned to him – seated in his usual armchair – and asked him breathlessly: "*Dad, are there more books like this one?*" When he nodded, I knew my world is about to change. And it did!

I have been in my teens back then, and so my perception of the book, or rather, the whole series, was that of princes and princesses, unicorns, magic, evil things and saving the world. I most definitely would not have been able to tell you that Zelazny created a Platonic universe of true world and shadows or that he forged the way with so many fresh tropes scattered carelessly on the many pages of the Chronicles of Amber that the genre is still able to scavenge on its carcass. Unbelievable? Take the Lannister siblings and then revisit Corwin and Deirdre. There are many similar examples.

Today, I can say all this. I can also add that the narrative is problematic, the plot jerky, sometimes outright boring sometimes condensed like astronaut's food rations. The protagonists not properly fleshed out, in many cases talked about instead of being shown in action, sometimes clearly not credible. I have read so many better books since then...

All things being equal, this all does not matter. Zelazny took me through the Pattern of all things fantasy and I owe him big times. Up to the Courts of Chaos (probably even there and back again). I see in the Chronicles of Amber, through my nostalgia lenses of the *first ever* all the brilliance in its glory of genius and all its

shortcomings in the vintage halo, dimmed by the patina of time. You have my five stars. And a thank you.

* Attention! Achtung! ???????! The Lord of the Rings does not apply as it talks about reality, not 'fiction'. Tread carefully.

Graeme Rodaughan says

I'm, not sure if I have read Roger Zelazny's masterwork of fantasy (or is it really science fiction) three or four times. It may be five.

Yes, I enjoyed it that much. I wish I could write as well as Roger Zelazny does - he's a personal writing hero of mine.

The Game of Thrones series has nothing on the family conflicts between the children of Oberon, King of Amber, and when their cousins in the Courts of Chaos make their fell appearance - well, all hell does indeed break loose.

Thoughtful, seductive writing that will suck you in and not let you go.

Emily says

agh, ten books 1200 pages i am obsessive and can't quit reading a book i have started even when i know it will be pointless to finish and i have already read 500 pages!

i do not know what these other people are talking about! the first i would say three books were pretty good, then it kind of lost its train of thought, hmhm really wish i had never started this epic tale i wouldnt have wasted three weeks (i mean three weeks!!!!) of my life. i could have read like six to twelve other books in the same amount of time, i found i skimmed A LOT, and never really regretted it,... too much intrigue not enough guts

Ana Tijani? says

The Corwin Cycle - 5

The Merlin Cycle - 4

Kimberley doruyter says

as a whole this series is the most fantastical fantasy world i have as yet come across.

i did like the first five a little better then the last five.

i loved the character of corwin, he was wonderful and unlike most of the rest of his family he seemed to have more good then bad.

his son has much the as history.

i recommend this book to all how have read fantasy before, it is something different from the mainstream of the genre.

Bradley says

I was still new to fantasy, having been a hardcore horror and sci-fi fan, then going through all of Zelazny's other works, when I decided to sit down to these stories.

Seriously, I was impressed with the easy progression into a multi-universe view delineated between ultimate order and ultimate chaos. Gorgeous magic system where you follow mandalas, epic battles, and the almost requisite tripe of amnesia. (Oh, sorry, i meant trope.) I loved the first 5 books better than the second 5, but Merlin's story did have a more epic feel, in my opinion.

It's still hard to find fantasy as good as what he wrote, although I'm still willing to keep looking. :)

Lasairfiona Smith says

I adore this series. I have read and re-read this book since high school. What can I say? It captured my imagination and has kept ahold of it for years. This was the work that Zelazny worked on through his career. I think it is what he wrote for fun. It isn't complicated but it is epic.

Imagine that there is only one true world and it casts "shadows" that make up the rest of the worlds. All are variations of that true world, Amber. Or are they? Another order vs chaos though this story focuses more on relationships and war. Don't think this is a touchy-feely book. The writing style is very easy to read. I breeze through it every time I read it even though I am enjoying every bit.

The series has two five book sets. The first follows Corwin and the second... well, I'll let you read it. The first set is the most complete. It starts and finishes a story. Most if not all loose ends are tied up.

The second set isn't nearly as complete however, it has many more interesting elements. The problem is that Zelazny planned on having 3 sets to this story (or possibly a much longer 2nd set) but he died before he could even start it. The 2nd set feels rushed and the ending isn't right. You can find a few short stories that Zelazny wrote that were going to be part of the 3rd set but I found them more frustrating than fun. I want to know what happens in the 3rd set but I will never find out. It may be easier to just accept the 2nd set as flawed but final. ::pouts::

It sucks when authors die.

Danyell says

I read this book during hurricane Ivan, when three of my four homes (My dorm, My Parent's house, and my boyfriend's house) were pretty much falling down around me. A very awesome guy named Barry lent me his battered copy...and by battered I mean well loved. This book filled a lot of space that could have been spent in what Floridians know as a hurricane coma. No lights, no Phone, no tv, just snuggling,reading and occasional looting!

I't will definately take you at least a week to read this bad mama-jama, so carve out some serious "me-time" before tackling it. The sub plots are some-what confusing, and the time line jumps around a bit, so notes may be helpful if your into that particular sort of nerdery.

Awesome book, buy it for yourself, and your children, definately in my top 3 favs!

Jim says

This is all 10 books of the Amber series, but is not complete. It is nice to have them all in one place, but the book is a paperback & a bit delicate due to the size. Unless you're extremely careful, you'll only get a few reads out of this & it's a doorstop to put most others to shame. I prefer the smaller paperbacks for normal reading.

The biggest lack in this book is it doesn't have the prologue to Trumps of Doom, but only the HB issued by the book club had that, I think. It's also in Manna from Heaven, the "Collected Works" by NESFA, & possibly elsewhere. It's certainly around on the Internet along with the other Amber shorts. but they're illegal, pirated copies.

While I won't recommend piracy, I will say that publishers have made a good case for it with the lack of availability of the Amber shorts, including the prologue. The prologue is important to the series, but I didn't even know of its existence until years after I'd read it. There's just no mention unless you're a FAN or are told by one. Publishers shouldn't make it so difficult for the reader to get the entire series. **Shame on you, Publishers!!!** You bitch about piracy & then encourage it by being greedy & lazy - or possibly you're just victims of Byzantine contracts & copyright law. I don't know, but you get the blame until I hear otherwise.

Manna from Heaven is expensive, even used, often running \$30 or more. It's worth the price - I've bought two copies & given one to my son who also likes this series & Zelazny a lot. A better deal is to pick up The Road to Amber, one of the NESFA 'Collected Works of Roger Zelazny'. That's a 6 set series with a 7th book, a bibliography, that is a must-have for anyone who really likes Zelazny's work.

Abigail says

This is in the top three of my favorite books (well the whole thing is how I read it) of all time! I LOVE LOVE LOVE these books, LOVE the world of Amber, LOVE everything about it. We are on copy number three in the house because we read it all the time, it is right next to my classics! The BEST epic fantasy novel(s) OUT THERE! Zelazny is one of my heros!~

Nikola Pavlovic says

Perverzija!

Da, cista perverzija za onoga ko uziva u fantastici, posebno Epskoj (mada ova knjiga poseduje i elemente naucne fantastike u sebi).

Zelaznijev stil pisanja je neponovljiv, covek ima svoje "atribute" he he
Delo mu je jako koliko i prezime.

Ni za zivu glavu ne propustajte ovaj serijal, krucijalno je vazno da ga pročitate kako bi mogli da gradite

misljenje o tome sta je dobra, sta vanserijska a sta osrednje napisana fantastika.
Samo cu jos reci da mi Amber u polici stoji pored Hiperiona i Iliona, na najvisoj polici!

Milo says

The Great Book of Amber is trippy people! Roger Zelazny is unlike any other author I have ever read before. He is disinterested in details and gives cursory descriptions of areas and people. Instead he focuses more closely on plot and the thoughts of the main character. The plot always centers around the search for answers. The setting is quite unique and interesting to learn about. Zelazny never makes his reader go through info-dumps and I found it interesting to puzzle out the workings of his world, Amber.

The first five books star a man named Corwin, one of the nine princes of Amber, who wakes up with a strange case of amnesia. In the first book Corwin staggers through Zelazny's version of earth looking for answers. I enjoyed the first book the most, mainly because the beginning was killer!

SPOILER - Corwin wakes up in a hospital and finds he is being forcefully sedated. When the doctor tries to put him under yet again Corwin clobbers him with a crutch! (Now that's what I call a hook.)

The first five books were well written but upon reading books six through ten I began suspecting Zelazny of doing drugs. His plots for the character Merlin start taking erratic turns. Don't get me wrong these peculiar parts are fun to read. Made me wonder what he was taking when he wrote them.(I'm speaking of the Corridor of Mirrors and the in-between shadow chapters here) He even had one of the side characters slipped acid. They then promptly descended into an Alice in Wonderland dream-scape to wait for the effects to wear off. Despite these bemusing plot decisions I still liked the Great Book of Amber. I don't think I'll be rereading it for a while though...

Kat Hooper says

ORIGINALLY POSTED AT Fantasy Literature.

Roger Zelazny's Amber series is one of the best sci-fi/fantasy epics ever written. Not only was it highly imaginative and original when it was published (in the 70s and 80s), but it remains so -- there's nothing else like it.

Corwin and his brothers and sisters are clever, sophisticated, sarcastic, and extremely ambitious. They constantly scheme and plot to outmaneuver each other as they vie for political power. If you knew these people in real life, you'd probably hate them, but in Zelazny's hands they're charming (especially Corwin). Zelazny's writing style is solid: fast-paced, exciting, and witty. Plot twists and cliff-hangers make it hard to stop reading.

With all that praise, I must mention two little problems:

1. The Merlin Cycle is not as good as The Corwin Cycle. Corwin is just more interesting than his son.
2. The story never quite wraps up because Zelazny died before finishing it.

Bottom Line: Read The Corwin Cycle (the first half). If you're hooked, keep going.

Read this review in context at *Fantasy Literature*
