



## Road Brothers

*Mark Lawrence*

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A volume of short stories by the bestselling author of THE BROKEN EMPIRE series, Mark Lawrence

This is a collection of fourteen stories of murder, mayhem, pathos, and philosophy, all set in the world of the Broken Empire.

Within these pages, you will find tales of men such as Red Kent, Sir Makin, Rike, Burlow and the Nuban, telling of their origins and the events that forged them. There is Jorg himself, striding the page as a child of six, as a teenage wanderer and as a young king. And then there is a tale about Prince Jalan Kendeth – liar, cheat, womaniser and coward.

To the new reader, welcome to a lawless world where wit and sword are the most useful weapons, and danger lurks as much in candle-lit palaces as in dark alleys and dense woodland. To those who have already journeyed with Jorg, we hope you will enjoy renewing old acquaintances with your favourite characters.

## Road Brothers Details

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Author : Mark Lawrence

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## From Reader Review Road Brothers for online ebook

### Ajonae Cain says

This collection of short stories made me so nostalgic and made me remember why I have and will always love the Broken Empire trilogy. I plan to re-read it very soon.

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### Chloë says

'When are they going to let up with this boy-king nonsense? I'm nineteen and married. I'm a good hand over six foot and I've killed more men than cholera. You'd think they could just call me "the king".'

Average rating = 3.7

Actual rating 4

If you're not already a big fan of the Broken Empire trilogy, I don't think you will get much from this. At the beginning of the book Mark Lawrence says that you don't need to have read the original trilogy to read this (which is technically true) but I think that you'll miss a lot. Most of the stories are character studies and I don't think you would appreciate them as much if you aren't already familiar with them.

A Rescue: ?????

I've always loved Makin. His loyalty to Jorg is unwavering. I want to know what happened to him at the end of the last book though!

Sleeping Beauty: ??

I didn't like this one. I found it to be way too confusing.

Bad Seed: ???

Nice to read about Red Kent and his origin story but nothing spectacular.

The Nature of the Beast: ?????

I loved this one! I loved the POV and how the story played out. Rike is a bastard but the ending got me in the feels.

The Weight of Command: ?????

Even though this is about Fat Burlow, I love how it shows Jorg's character.

Select Mode: ????\*

I really liked this one. Jorg and the Nuban are two of my favourites characters. Like most of the short stories set in this world there are slight sci fi/future references but it wasn't too heavy handed.

Mercy: ?????

I also enjoyed this one. I love Makin as a character and I like the addition of Sister Ellen.

A Good Name: ????\*

I really loved this one. I think it's my favourite so far. I liked how different it was from the others and I love

the characters it revolves around. I haven't read The Red Queen's War trilogy yet but I definitely will soon.

Choices: ????\*

Again, I really enjoyed this! Gorgoth is one of my favourite characters in the trilogy and I loved reading from his perspective and I loved learning more about Jane and Gog and Magog.

No other Troy: ????\*

Okay. This is definitely my favourite so far. I could read about Jorg and his tactics for hours and hours. He is so sneaky and manipulative and I love it. It's really interesting reading about how he achieved so much especially since much of his conquest isn't shown on page. This was fab.

The Secret: ?????

Surprise surprise, I also really enjoyed this one. Although he is barely seen/mentioned in the books I really liked Brother Sim. I'm happy to have read more about him and his capabilities as an assassin.

Escape: ?????

Kashta is such a great character. I love reading about his life.

Know Thyself: ?????

At this point I'm running out of things to say. I also really enjoyed this one. It was nice to read from Gomst's perspective and how it involved young Jorg and William.

Three is the Charm: ???

This follows the main character of The Red Queen's War trilogy, Prince Jalan. Straight off the bat I don't like him as much as I like Jorg but I am still interested in reading the trilogy.

\* = my favourites.

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## **The Tattooed Book Geek (Drew). says**

As always you can find this review on my blog The Tattooed Book Geek:

<https://thetattooedbookgeek.wordpress...>

I received a free copy of this book courtesy of the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

One thing that I find with short story collections is that you can pick up the book, read a story, go off and do something else and then come back and read another. Which of course is true for any book as you pick it back up to continue reading! But reading a short story collection isn't like a full-length book where each time you come back to it you pick up the story where you left off and have to remember what's gone on before. With shorts you get self-contained tales and a book that you can jump in and out of as you please, reading one or two shorts here and there or as life dictates making the collection easy to read whenever you have a spare moment and this sentiment holds true for Road Brothers. It's a book that is infinitely easy to pick up, lose yourself in a tale or two told by Lawrence, put the book down and then come back to it later when you need another quick fix of escapism and that's just what I did, reading Road Brothers over a span of days and dipping in and out as life allowed.

Road Brothers is a collection of 14 short stories that centre around Jorg Ancrath and his band of brothers

from Lawrence's The Broken Empire trilogy with the final short in the collection being about Prince Jalan Kendeth from Lawrence's other trilogy The Red Queen's War.

Road Brothers was previously released as an e-book and contains shorts that have been included in various anthologies. As such, some readers will already own the e-book and/or have read some of the included stories from those other collections. This new hardback version includes additional content in the form of some new short stories and footnotes at the end of each story as well as a shiny new paint job in the form of a stunning cover depicting Jorg Ancrath. The footnotes themselves are very interesting small asides giving you additional insight into the reason behind the story you've just read and are a fantastic little inclusion by Lawrence.?

The stories found within the pages of Road Brothers are an eclectic mix of tales featuring additional insights, shenanigans, forays and origins into the characters, their lives and their world and I enjoyed them all, finding that each held my attention and offered the reader something different. Without giving away any spoilers (you all know by now that's not my style) my favourite stories were: Sleeping Beauty featuring Jorg. The Weight of Command featuring Jorg, Sim and Brother Burlow. Select Mode featuring Jorg and the Nuban. Mercy featuring Makin. A Good Name featuring the Nuban. No other Troy featuring Jorg. The Secret featuring Sim. Escape featuring the Nuban. Know Thyself featuring a young Jorg, his younger brother William and Father Gomst (who I always found to be an intriguing character in The Broken Empire). And finally, Three is the Charm featuring Jalan Kendeth.

Lawrence's writing is as good as ever, even in the shorter length he knows how to tell a tale and includes great characterisation, emotion, a dark style of humour and action, everything that you could want in a story.?

If you've never read anything by Mark Lawrence before then Road Brothers is very accessible and as a starting point to his work, it is a great place to begin. The short stories included offer you brief glimpses and snippets into the lives of characters that will make you want to see and read more about them in his other works. But! Why not just start from the beginning anyway?! If you do then you are in for an absolute treat as both The Broken Empire and Red Queen's War are utterly fantastic and for me, are two of the best fantasy trilogies to be released (Red Sister, the first book in The Book of the Ancestor trilogy is also an outstanding read).

If however, you are like me, have already read all of Lawrence's previous books and are a massive fan of his work then Road Brothers takes on a new meaning (ever since my initial foray into the work of Mark Lawrence with Prince of Thorns, the first book in his Broken Empire trilogy I've always held an affinity towards Jorg and his band of merry ruffian degenerate riff-raff miscreant rabble – yes, I'm not sure what that says about me! But there was something immediately appealing about them all that just enamoured them to me. Jorg himself is such a complex and fascinating character and Grumlow, Rike, Sim, Makin, the Nuban, Gorgoth et al all add that extra touch to Jorg's story) and it transcends just reading about various characters into something deeper. It's a snapshot into the lives of characters you already know and love, it's akin to visiting with and becoming reacquainted with old friends and I loved every moment I got to spend back in the company of these brothers. It was also an utter joy to get a brief glimpse and foray into Jalan's life and read a short about him that was in all honesty, a typically Jalanesque tale too.

Regardless of whether you are an old or new reader to the work of Lawrence, there's a lot to like in Road Brothers and it is a worthy addition to any fantasy fans bookshelf.

With Road Brothers, it was an absolute pleasure to once again read about and visit Jorg and his brothers.

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### **Rebecca says**

Another excellent book by Mark Lawrence. I missed Jorg and the brothers. Worth reading

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### **Sarah says**

I loved every single story but my personal favourites were No Other Troy and Know Thyself. I'm a huge fan of the Broken Empire trilogy and thoroughly enjoyed reading more from my favourite characters :)

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### **Callum says**

Feels good to catch up with old fiends.

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### **Zachariah Lewis says**

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Broken Empire changed and saved my life. This book allowed me to explore that landscape once again, and not just through the eyes of our beloved Jorg Ancrath. This book shows us the magic Mark Lawrence can do with his short and smooth prose, especially in short stories. I hope for another collection of short stories in the future.

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### **Holly (The Grimdragon) says**

**"A kiss had woken me and I'd found, as we so often do, that the world had moved on without me. And that's the riddle of existence for you. When to move and when to stay. Dwell too long and we become the prisoner of our dreams, or someone else's. Move too fast, live without pause, and you'll miss it all, your whole life a blur of doing. Good lives are built of moments - of times when we step back and truly see. The dream and the dreamer. There's the rub. Does the dream ever let go? Aren't we all only sleepwalking into old age, just waiting, waiting, waiting for that kiss?"**

I've been putting off reading this after I preordered it because I didn't want to be done, fully done, with the Broken Empire universe. It's no secret that I am a massive fan of Mark Lawrence & his brilliant writing! You've probably heard me raving from the rooftops at one point or another!

Road Brothers consisted of fourteen stories focuses on the glorious misfit motley crew from the world of the Broken Empire. To revisit my beloved Jorg throughout various timelines again is worth getting this book alone! Throw in other memorable characters & their perspectives & damn. We have ourselves quite the adventure! With this, we are able to explore in depth the diverse cast of characters more, including background characters from the trilogy.

I don't find myself reading a ton of short fiction, just because I prefer to get lost within the intricacies of a longer tale. Inevitably, short stories tend to come up.. well.. short, for me. *Road Brothers* was one exception, however! These supplemental stories are fan-fucking-tastic! There was such a seamless transition from story to story. Plus this has footnotes! I love me some footnotes! Getting a glimpse inside Lawrence's thoughts added to my enjoyment, for sure.

The in-your-face yet beautiful prose from Mark Lawrence across all of his books is incomparable. I haven't read anyone that has mastered that juxtaposition quite as uniquely as he does! There were some especially gut-punchy, brutal passages within these pages. The quote I highlighted up above, for instance! SO BLOODY STUNNING!

I always find reviewing a collection of short stories difficult, yet here I am.. blathering on. WHY AM I LIKE THIS?!? It's hard not to gush over this mesmerizing world. If you've already read & loved the *Broken Empire* trilogy, then this is a must! Jorg & his brothers are waiting..

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### **Alex says**

After reading *The Broken Empire* and *The Red Queen's War*, I finished it all off with this book. It was such a great read, and made me realize that I was getting misty-eyed because I was closing the chapter on all of these amazing characters. The second to last chapter; *Know Thyself* made me actually choke up...

...luckily Mark was clever enough to end the book on a light and fun note with a short story about Jalan Kendeth.

I will definitely re-read *The Broken Empire* later on, but for now Nona and nuns of Sweet Mercy need all of my attention!

Huge thanks to Mark Lawrence for crafting such a brilliant universe.

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### **Mark Lawrence says**

This is the new *Road Brothers*. UK cover by the late great Kim Kincaid.

50% longer than the original. In hardcover in the UK (or internationally via [bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com) ).

Catch-up supplement available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

Follow Jorg and his friends (individually and in small groups) across the *Broken Empire* and see the events that shaped them.

Contains the short stories:

A Rescue  
Sleeping Beauty

Bad Seed  
The Nature of the Beast  
The Weight of Command  
Select Mode  
Mercy  
A Good Name  
Choices  
No Other Troy  
The Secret  
Escape  
Know Thyself  
Three is the Charm

With brief footnotes.

That's **footnotes people!**

if you've read all of them, vote on which are your favourites:

<http://www.easypolls.net/poll.html?p=...>

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**Mitriel says**

I'm probably far too biased when it comes to this book to write an actual review.

For one thing Bad Seed in June 2014 marked the beginning of my beta-reading work for Mark Lawrence and I was privileged enough to discuss the majority of these stories with him in detail as he was writing them. They are of course all excellent, as it is only to be expected from the author who brought us The Broken Empire and The Red Queen's War trilogies.

I was also fortunate to call the cover artist, Kimberly Kincaid, a friend, although we never actually met in person. She was kind enough to come and judge the art contest I ran last year and agreed to an interview I did with her on That Thorn Guy (<https://thatthornguy.com/2016/03/21/a...>). Her sudden death shortly after came as a big shock. She loved Mark's works and I know that seeing her art featuring on the cover would have meant a lot to her. She was a very talented and inspiring artist, and I'm very pleased that HarperVoyager decided to use her work, allowing us to keep her memory in such a moving manner.

And finally, a funny little personal story to end on as even Kim wouldn't want us to feel sad, but to celebrate the long-awaited print edition of this anthology: Last year I was looking for a name for a horse in the story I'd been writing. Mark suggested I called him Mr Clip Clop. Knowing he was only joking I posted the matter on Facebook and received several responses from mutual friends, who mostly chided Mark for trying to mislead me in the serious business of naming horses. Eventually the horse in the book I'm writing became Storn. But Mark wasn't going to let me think his suggestion was anything but serious. And so you might find Mr Clip Clop appearing in one of these stories instead.

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## Petros Triantafyllou says

I loved this like I've never loved a short story collection before. What more is there to say?

*"Every good story tells at least one lie and holds a secret at its heart."*

Reviewing a bunch of short stories is always difficult, especially when your followers are the kind that will check out your reviews to help them choose what to pick up next, instead of looking for a second opinion about something they have already read. *Road Brothers* is a collection of short stories that take place before and during the events of *The Broken Empire*. Although they are great if you want to revisit that world, they are obviously not a good starting point. Therefore, you can read and enjoy them without spoiling yourself only after you've finished the main trilogy. Now, if you've finished and liked the main trilogy, you don't really need me to tell you that you must read this, right? Well, I guess some of you may think that it simply isn't worth reading. That it doesn't add anything to the story. Now, if you think that, I don't want to say that you're wrong, but you're so fucking wrong.

*"They call me a monster and if it were untrue the weight of my crimes would pin me to the ground. I have maimed and I have murdered and if this mountain stood but a little higher I would cut the angels from their heaven. I care less for accusations than for the rain that soaks me, that runs down every limb. I spit both from my lips. Judgment has always left a sour taste."*

*The Broken Empire*, among other things, had a wonderful cast. Although it was Jorg's story through and through, the other characters, and especially Jorg's band of brothers, had their own important role to play. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time for them to shine, which is what they do in *Road Brothers*. We get to see parts of the story from their own perspective, learn about their motives, and see the real characters behind the masks of toughened thieves and soldiers.

Some people think that writing a short story is easier than writing a full novel, but this isn't the case. In the space of a few pages you have to provide a background, a motive, a fast pace, and more importantly to write an enjoyable story. Mark not only does all of those things, but he ties them together with his unique and mesmerizing prose. All in all, *Road Brothers* is an excellent collection of short stories that every fan of *The Broken Empire* should read, but be prepared for the feels!

You can read all of my reviews over on <http://BookNest.eu>

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## Murat says

This book reminded me how much I forgot or even how quick I read the Jorg series. I need to re-read that

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## Charlie - A Reading Machine says

An absolutely marvellous collection of stories that fleshes out the *Broken Empire* beautifully. It was not only great reading about Jorg and the Nuban (who is my favourite) but getting glimpses of Snorri's dad, witches

and Rike willing to wait for some looting made it a full experience and one, like the rest of Mark's books, I'll treasure.

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## **Wayne says**

5 stars

I really should have read this straight after the other books in this Broken Empire universe but it's still a fantastic collection of short stories.

It's very dark and violent like the books but it works and works really well.

The setting and world building are fantastic as always (especially the first story as it's a cracker)

The characters are great and we get a real collection of them and their backstories which is fantastic.

Jorg is quite the conundrum as always but is just so fascinating. Love hate doesn't even come close but he's enthralling (maybe even more so in this which is saying something)

I loved the Red Kent and Nubian stories too as they just explained so so much.

It's very very short but a fantastic addition to the Broken Empire universe.

I also love the author's own notes at the end of each story.

Highly recommended but it probably works best if you've read Broken empire before.

Not essential but you might get more out of it.

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