



The Obsidian Throne

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The series finale of the Ballad of Sir Benfro. This stunning dragon fantasy series draws to a close - Errol and Sir Benfro find their destinies drawing closer together, and the fate of the two realms of Gwlad depends entirely on the success or failure of our heroes.

The Obsidian Throne Details

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Author : James Oswald

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December Sunshine says

I finished it!! And thought about giving it 5 stars!

Here's why: the last instalment of this series is a multi-layered tangle of plots woven expertly around each other, dozens of substories slowly getting closer to each other until they meet in the big bang of a finale. It was well-written; despite the many events of the previous book, the author found ways of raising the stakes even higher, and I'm pretty sure all the stories got resolved in the end, which made for a satisfying read.

Here's why I didn't give it 5 stars on the end: yes, the ending worked out brilliantly, but the way there was a dredge. Benfro, who is one of the characters we are supposed to be the most invested in, has *so many* bad things happen to him, it is never ending, and exhausting to read. I think in the attempt to raise the stakes, the author ended up creating the miserable feeling that Benfro was doomed to fail, as every small success was immediately dashed by another plot point. For all that I loved the book, it was difficult to keep reading through all this relentless misery and feel motivated to turn the page. (This is why I put down GoT in the end - so if it doesn't bother you, you will love this!)

Still, an excellent finale to a consistently great series.

Harj D says

Since discovering the Sir Benfro series last year, I have been avidly following the life of Sir Benfro and his friend Errol, so knowing that this would be the last leg of their adventure, I was a little nervous to pick up 'The Obsidian Throne' and read it; I just did not want it all to end!

'The Obsidian Throne' continued where it left off from in 'The Broken World', with Benfro and Errol both separated, trying to find a way back to each other whilst trying to piece Gwald back to together. So much happens in this book, so many deaths, so much misery, so much pain, so much anguish and although I completed this book with tears in my eyes, I feel like James Oswald did justice to both Benfro and Errol. Even though the ending was incredibly bittersweet, the world of Gwald was renewed, the people and dragons starting anew with the hope of peace between them all and it was all thanks to the hard work, the strife and the selflessness of Benfro and Errol. They brought both mankind and dragons together and fixed all the wrongs which had been done. Knowing this made my heart swell in happiness and made it easier to accept all the cruel things which had befallen our two protagonists thus far.

This book made me feel glad that I had picked up 'Dreamwalker' all that time ago and I am only grateful that a series of books such as this exists, with a magical world about both dragons and man, a world which can easily be imagined and grip you, page by page. I urge anyone who has not started this series yet to do so and if you have not read this last book in the series then-do so soon!

Jane says

OH MY! GUYS, THIS BOOK IS EVERYTHING!!!

It has dragons. Some feral ones. Some more sophisticated ones. Some old ones. A few young ones. And, of course, our lovable hero Benfro who has been through so much in his short life that most dragons a hundred times his age couldn't even imagine. His character and loyalty and perseverance in all things while the world has been throwing all these difficulties at him is nothing but admirable.

The book has magic. Lots of it. The characters in this book supposedly know a lot about the way magic works and is supposed to work, but the events in the previous book are messing everything up and it's simply so interesting to see what all these characters end up doing in the face of all these hardships.

It has intriguing characters who are so complex that it would take A LOT of time for me to even scratch at the surface. Nothing is really black and white and while I, as a reader, would love nothing else but to hate some characters from the bottom of my heart, it is also a bit impossible as Oswald has managed to write them in such a complex way that you cannot help but hate them, but also understand them. The good guys are not all good, either. There's some bad in them and it's all so relatable. The world is not easily distinguishable as good and bad just as it is in the real world.

The plot is intriguing and it's fast-going at all times. I was constantly on the edge of my seat trying to keep myself from nibbling on my nails (and I don't do that!) as it's oh so interesting and if one's characters's chapter ends with a bang and you're kind of irritated that you now have to wait before it's their time again, you're also superglad because now you can finally find out what happened to that other character a few chapters back... Oh, isn't it great!?

And that ending! Guys, that ending blew me away! Without wanting to give away anything to those of you haven't read it yet, but would like to, I'm going to say this much: It's a happy one (at least to most of the characters), but it put shivers all over my body. It was that well written and that's how *in* I was. Oswald's writing really grabbed me and refused to let go of me before I had found out what on Earth happened to Clun and Beulah. What the heck was going on with Melyn and Frecknock? How could Errol, Martha and Benfro EVER be saved? Why on Earth are Iolwen and Dafydd even important? All these questions (and more) find their answers and I'm really glad to say that Oswald tied up the ends in a very neat way. Sure, he could write more books in this world if he wanted to, but I do not think it is necessary anymore and the series is **perfect the way it is**.

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Wendy Galloway says

Really enjoyed that. Thought at one point the end was going to be hurried and incomplete but very satisfying finish to a long read. I have enjoyed the journey with Benfro Errol and Frecknock and Martha.

Bas Groesen says

A great wrap up of the epic Ballad of Sir Benfro saga. Pure satisfaction.

Svensai says

A bit of a slow start but this picks up the pace eventually. Some parts are not that well written so i always looked forwards to the parts with only the maincharacter , Benfro.

Wierd ending maybe we get an after story ?

Clio (Bemuzed) says

I've immensely enjoyed reading the Ballad of Sir Benfro (otherwise, I wouldn't have read three books in a row). It is one of those undiscovered jems, or should I say jewels ;-), that you can sometimes still come across. A truly epic fantasy tale that skillfully takes its time to map out the story and intertwine the story lines. You might instinctively know from the beginning of the series that Benfro and Errol's storylines will eventually come together, yet the author doesn't rush to get to this part and even when their storylines finally mesh, they are just as frequently and abruptly thrown apart again. A magical telling that manages to draw you in equally to many different characters, good as well as, let us say not so good and that manages to center around two equally strong and beloved main characters. Tiny flaw: an epilogue. I hate epilogues. They are almost always these highly sweetened story-enders in which all turns out well and no further questions remain. This epilogue was slightly better than others, there was a purpose in one of the storylines presented in this epilogue, but most of it was still unnecessary for me. A warm request to all authors out there: do not write an epilogue, leave your stories open, be confident that they will then continue on in the imaginations of your readers.

Joel says

I'm so bummed I didn't check if this was a part of some series, or if this was the first book. Well, no... It's the fifth part in the series :D This book simply amazing. It wasn't difficult to be immersed in the characters, settings and magics of this beautifully chaotic fantasy world. I loved every page. The way Oswald brought the magic alive, it is astounding. I would've loved to read the whole series first, but sometimes fate can be a bit annoying :D One of the best fantasy novels ever written, deserves a place next to Tolkien and Lewis.

Christine Shilling says

This was a good ending to the series and I did enjoy it. I did have some difficulties with it, though. The Palisander storyline seemed to come from nowhere and I didn't think it was needed as a driver for Benfro's final actions in the book. I also think the author split the action across too many protagonists, maybe spending too much time with characters who should have been more support roles and not putting the switches between storylines in the right order. I wonder if there was just a bit too much left to do but not enough for another book. I would have to see more interaction between Erroll, Benfro, Martha etc. I'd like to be able to understand them and how they've changed like I could in the first few books. still, an enjoyable read and a serviceable end to the series.

Nik Lue says

good book -sad to see the series concluded

Oliver Gateley says

First off, I like the content. Dragons, Magic, Prophecy and all that jazz.

Secondly, I like the writing of that content. Clear and detailed, emotive when relevant and pacy action at the right times.

I must confess that this final book in the series becomes rather repetitive when each character, spread throughout the worlds is given more knowledge on the same historical events. It was a major reveal the first and perhaps second time but soon the result shifts from dramatic to simply frustrating. I found myself thinking, "I already know, world splits apart, millennia ago, magic is unravelling".

Not to mention the flavour text at the start of each chapter is somehow the same as other books and its obviously channeling the subject matter ahead.

Still, these are relatively minor quibbles in an otherwise enjoyable series.

S.S. says

This is the first book I have read by J D Oswald and it was only after I bought it that I realised that it was actually the fifth in the series! I didn't really have too much trouble in picking up the story, however, even though there was obviously a considerable amount of back-story that I'd missed out on. I thought that this book was pretty self-explanatory and as such, I still enjoyed it. I initially picked this book up because I realised that it was about dragons and I'm completely dragon-mad. Speaking of which, I loved the dragons in the story, especially Benfro, Myfanwy and Cerys, but the rest of them were also either cool or creepy-in-a-good-way. The humans were also cool, especially Errol yet Beulah was quite the formidable person! XD

There's so much I loved about this book but the first thing that I really liked was all of the Welsh words and names for things or people/dragons! (by the by, I'm not Welsh myself, but I am English. I just like the Welsh language even though I can't speak a word of it. That is something that can be rectified, though!) There was a lot of action and magical-fantasy stuff which I thought was good and a lot of the scenes and chapters ended on cliff-hangers. That was also something I really liked about the book. I don't think there was a boring moment in it! Which is nice. The writing also was really good, I thought and I could really imagine that it would flow really well if read aloud. I really liked the fact that there was minimal swearing and more importantly, nothing really in the way of sex scenes. (I really am not comfortable with sex-scenes in the media so this book was safe for me.) I would say that this would be perfect for young adults and old adults alike (for the record, I fall in the "old" adults section!) I loved the cover artwork, too. Very nicely set out and very attractive, too. (well, it was one of the main factors that attracted me to the book, with the dragon on the throne and whatnot! Which I suppose is the point of it!) Now that I've read this, I'm really going to have to find the rest of the series at some point and read those too, so I can catch up with all that I've missed. Lovely

job, this book! ;D

Just This says

picked this up in *bargain books*, not realising it was no.5. in the series, so a confusing read. dragons again, and magic, and a world torn in two. a few interesting ideas though. i'll give the first volume a go.

Maura Lyons says

Loved this series

I've waited a long time for the ending to the Sir Benfro saga. It did not disappoint. This isn't the genre I would usually choose, but I have really enjoyed all five books, which have been an absolute joy to read.

Angharad Truelove says

Fantastic end to a brilliant series!!

I really wanted to find out where Benfro's story would take me, but I never wanted this book to end! So much so that I'm feeling rather lost now that I've finished it!

This book is more action packed than its predecessors, but yet still manages to handle the characters and environments with care. I can't rate it highly enough!

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going back to Dreamwalker so I can enjoy the journey all over again!!
