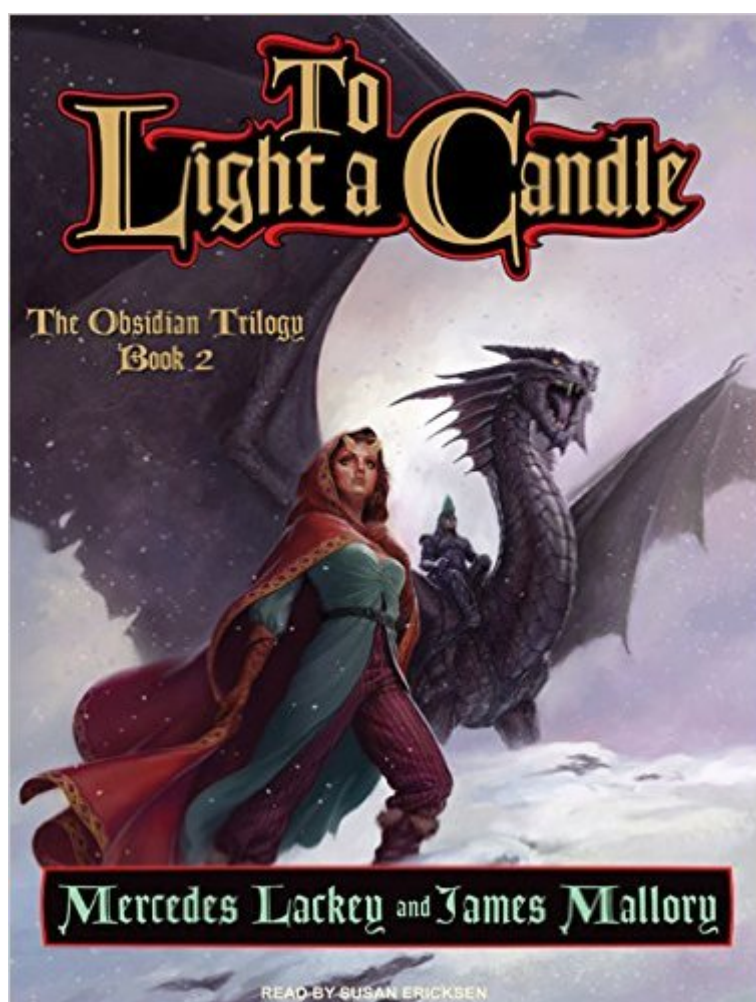


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To Light A Candle (Obsidian)



Synopsis

To his own surprise, young Kellen, once the disappointing son of the great Mage who leads the City's Mage Council, has become a powerful Knight-Mage. Valued for his bravery and his skills as both wizard and warrior, Kellen joins the Elves' war councils. Yet he cannot convince the City of his birth that it is in terrible danger. Kellen's sister Idalia, a Wild Mage with great healing ability, has pledged her heart to Jermayan, a proud Elven warrior. Someday Idalia will pay a tragic price for a world-saving work of Wild Magic, but until then, she will claim any joy life can offer her. Jermayan, who has learned much fighting at Kellen's side and loving the human Idalia, finds that everything changes when he bonds with a dragon while rescuing the Elf Prince and becomes the first Elven Mage in a thousand years. Furious at her enemies' success with the dragon, the Demon Queen attacks in force. Light struggles against Dark, like flickering candle flames buried deep in the shadow of Obsidian Mountain.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (97 customer reviews)

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Fantasy

Customer Reviews

A lot of times the middle book in a series will be considered lame, i.e. horrible. With this one, I was much surprised as the somewhat dull parts of the first book (i.e. overly long/verbose descriptions) were kept to a minimum, as the authors assumed we remembered the locales and didn't need to rehash it for us. I really appreciated that, as I hate when authors regurgitate a lot of previous materials to get the reader up to speed. Kellen's personal development has come a long ways from

where he started. In these books the authors portray the elves as having slightly different mannerisms than humans, which causes a lot of awkward social circumstances. What is neat, however, is that while Kellen causes what seems to be a lot of mishaps, when he is finally confronted with a situation in which he knows more of elvish customs than another, he has suddenly gone from knowing nothing to being uncannily like an elf himself in some aspects. The plot of the book didn't seem like it was dragging or there were a lot of things that happened in the 2nd book that we wouldn't see resolved until the end. The crises in the 2nd book served to advance the plot without making it seem like it was just filler material for the last book. There was also a lot more combat, and the combat sequences were artfully written. I enjoyed the character of Kellen the most, but I would have to say that compared to the first book Jermayan & Edalia (the first an elf & the second his sister) seem to have taken on a one-dimensional aspect. Previously, they each seemed to have their own strong personalities, while in this one Jermayan has more or less become a love-besotted fool and Edalia has turned into the stereotypical woman/sister.

If I had not read the first book of the Obsidian Trilogy, it would be very difficult to avoid being critical of this second book in the trilogy. *To Light A Candle* is less a sequel than it is an opening and a collection of cliffhangers for the final book in the trilogy. It contains so many open-ended introductions of new characters, new threats, new powers, and new applications of ancient powers, that I can't see any way for Lackey to tie up all the loose ends within a single book, but I guess that's why she's writing the books and I'm just puttering around filling up pages with reviews. I am somewhat surprised at the minimal conflict of opinions over this novel demonstrated by the reviews present here at . From my reading of other book reviews, I have come to believe that there is a large group of people who are immediately opposed to any use of clichéd fantasy elements, almost all of which Lackey has used in this trilogy (Please read my review of *The Outstretched Shadow* for a description of those elements). However, the cliché present is minimized by her over-arching world and character-building focus, particularly referring to Kellen's internal, personal doubt and the world's extremely well defined systems of magic. Two things make *To Light A Candle* stand out as an engaging book. The first bit deals with Lackey providing us with a different perspective of Kellen and the changes he has gone through since being kicked out of his old home. One of the newly introduced characters was a star student and classmate of Kellen's in their former home.

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