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Storm Warning (The Mage Storms)



Synopsis

With her phenomenal Mage Winds trilogy, bestselling author Mercedes Lackey captivated fans across the country. Now in the first volume of the series' sequel, she continues the same storyline, returning listeners to a war-torn Valdemar in preparation to confront an ancient Eastern Empire ruled by a monarch whose magical tactics may be beyond any sorcery known to the western kingdoms.

Book Information

Series: The Mage Storms (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Audible Studios on Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (April 7, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501231073

ISBN-13: 978-1501231070

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (80 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,042,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Karse and Valdemar have long been enemies, each hating the other without ever really knowing anything about how each truly operates. Since Ancar of Hardorn's attempted invasions of each country, an uneasy alliance has been formed. Now Ancar is dead and his conquests along with him, but a new and more dangerous enemy has emerged: the mysterious and powerful Eastern Empire. Karse and Valdemar must decide what exactly their alliance entails. The Son of the Sun, Solaris, High Priestess of Karse, sends an envoy consisting of Ulrich, a black-robe priest, and his secretary, Karal, to Valdemar to negotiate the terms of the alliance. While the two countries work together to try to determine a way to defend against the Eastern Empire, a new and deadlier threat makes itself known, one so ancient and powerful that it may be impossible to stop... "Storm Warning" is the first book in Mercedes Lackey's Mage Storms Trilogy. I absolutely loved this book. It was a refreshing change after reading the Mage Winds Trilogy. The story seemed much more about the characters than about the events, which really gave it a more human feel. Similar to Mage Winds, it had

alternating perspectives, which made me want to keep reading. The characters, as always, were wonderful to read about, particularly Karal. He is one of the most remarkable Lackey characters I have encountered yet (and this was my fifteenth Valdemar book). I absolutely loved him. He was an extremely compassionate, caring, sensitive individual, almost on the same level as Talia of the Arrows Trilogy. I was able to feel every step of his journey as if I were there with him. An'desha developed nicely, and I'm anxious to see what will become of him.

For years Valdemar and Karse were traditional enemies. The Karsites, under the rule of the Son of Sun, would send demons against Valdemar and tell their children the tale of the White Demons and their riders until the fear was ingrained - and with the fear came hatred, perpetuating war. Within a short span though, Valdemar and Karse went from being deadly enemies to allies, fighting together. The new Son of Sun in Karse reversed many of the teachings of the old regime. When the call came for discussion of permanent treaties between several countries, Karse was invited to Valdemar's capital. Ulrich, a priest and one of the new Son of Sun's strongest supporters, and his apprentice, Karal, were sent as envoy and secretary. Lackey offers a look into Valdemar that hasn't been seen before, by letting us observe it through the eyes of someone raised to hate and fear the very people he now has to work with. Karal, though more open-minded than others would be, still harbors fear from the tales that he'd been told as a child. His relationship with Ulrich offers the needed tempering viewpoint, being one of both mentor/student and father/son. The look into Karsite culture is an interesting one - for the first time, we're offered a glance into what had been a culture with little known about it. Karse is not the only new culture approached; Lackey also introduces us to Tremane, hopeful successor to the Iron Throne. His story is one of another touching character - a human leader who makes mistakes while trying to act in the best interest of his people. While this subplot seems disjointed from the rest of the story, the background information makes it much easier to understand what happens later on, as well as endears you to the characters.

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