

# Mage-Guard of Hamor (Saga of Recluce, 15)

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L.E. Modesitt, Jr.'s Mage-Guard of Hamor continues his bestselling fantasy series the Saga of Recluce, which is one the most popular in contemporary epic fantasy.

As young apprentice on the island of Recluce, Rahl was sent to the mages training school for testing before he was banished to Hamor. Now, Rahl is a powerful mage and still just as dangerous to himself and to others. His education continues, but Rahl soon finds that as his powers have increased, so has the amount of trouble he attracts.

"An intriguing fantasy in a fascinating world."-Robert Jordan, New York Times bestselling author of The Wheel of Time<sup>®</sup> series

### Saga of Recluce

#1 The Magic of Recluce / #2 The Towers of Sunset / #3 The Magic Engineer / #4 The Order War / #5 The Death of Chaos / #6 Fall of Angels / #7 The Chaos Balance / #8 The White Order / #9 Colors of Chaos / #10 Magii of Cyador / #11 Scion of Cyador / #12 Wellspring of Chaos / #13 Ordermaster / #14 Natural Order Mage / #15 Mage-Guard of Hamor / #16 Arms-Commander / #17 Cyador's Heirs / #18 Heritage of Cyador / #19 The Mongrel Mage / #20 Outcasts of Order / #21 The Mage-Fire War (forthcoming)

### Story Collection: Recluce Tales

Other Series by L.E. Modesitt, Jr.

The Imager Portfolio

The Corean Chronicles

The Spellsong Cycle

The Ghost Books

The Ecolitan Matter

L. E. MODESITT, JR. is the bestselling author of more than seventy novels encompassing two science fiction series, the Ghost Books and the Ecolitan Matter, and four fantasy series, the Imager Portfolio, the Saga of Recluce, the Spellsong Cycle and the Corean Chronicles. He lives in Cedar City, Utah.

Chapter One Rahl stood on the port wing of the fast frigate's bridge, looking out at the seemingly endless gray-blue waters of the Eastern Ocean. Even in midocean, the early-fall air seemed hazy and cool, and the cloudless green-blue sky held a hint of silver. Below the iron decks, he could sense the controlled chaos of the boilers and engines of the E.S.

Ascadya as she steamed northeast-toward Recluce. He could also feel the latent chaos of the powder in the locked iron magazines below the forward gun turret with its twin guns.

He glanced toward the covered center of the bridge where Captain Jaracyn stood beside the officer of the day, both slightly back of the helmsman. Although the captain had been polite and courteous to both Rahl and Taryl-particularly toward the older mage-guard-Rahl could sense Jaracyn's distaste for his mission. As a fighting commander of the Hamorian Navy, the captain would have preferred a more active role in dealing with the rebellion in Merowey than to transport two mage-guard envoys to Nylan, even though the

mission was designed to keep the black ships of Nylan from becoming involved in hostilities against the Emperor.

Rahl glanced back as the frigate pitched forward, slicing through a heavy swell that sent spray flying back from the bow. Two ratings in khaki trousers and collarless khaki shirts didn't even duck as the cool spray showered them.

Rahl couldn't help but shake his head at how his life had twisted since he'd left Land's End more than a year before. He'd been exiled from the north of Recluce to the Black City of Nylan, and from there to Hamor because he could not control his abilities with order. He'd been drugged with nemysa to destroy his memory after he'd discovered the thefts by the director of the Nylan Merchant Association, and ended up as laborer in the ironworks of Luba, where he'd been rescued and trained by a self-exiled mage-guard-Taryl-who had once been the Emperor's Mage-Guard Triad. Then Rahl had been posted to Swartheld as a junior mage-guard, where he'd uncovered the Jeranyi pirate plot to destroy the merchant sector of the harbor-and killed his superior and destroyed the entire Nylan Merchant Association in the process of saving the rest of the merchant houses. As a result, he and Taryl were now being dispatched to Nylan to explain all that had happened.

Yet, because Rahl had not learned enough about handling order, he knew he could not return permanently to Nylan. After his exile from Nylan and the conditions set forth for his return, if it were not for Deybri, the healer whose image and warmth he could not forget, he would not have been looking forward to returning at all-because he had little more control over his abilities to handle order than when he had been dispatched and because every time he thought about the events leading to his exile, he had to fight the anger and rage those memories sparked.

"You're looking somber," observed Taryl. The thin-faced and angular mage-guard stepped to the bridge railing inboard of where Rahl stood. "You're concerned about the reception you might get?"

Rahl nodded. He was concerned about two reactions-that of the board of magisters in Nylan and that of Deybri.

"You're an official envoy of the Emperor," Taryl said. "The most they can do is tell you to depart once we've delivered our messages."

"You're really the envoy, ser. You're a former Triad, and I still don't see why anyone really needed me."

"I suppose Jyrolt told you about the Triad?"

"Yes, ser. He didn't tell me much, except that all the rumors were wrong, and that I was to tell anyone who suggested such that they were."

Taryl shook his head. "They won't believe you. Rumors are far more attractive, as you will discover."

"Ah... ser... you didn't say why anyone needs me."

"Because, as I've told you several times," Taryl replied patiently, "they know who you are, and what you are, and they'll be able to tell that you're telling them the truth. Also, you're the only one alive who has firsthand knowledge about the way the managing director of the Nylan Merchant Association in Swartheld was linked to the Jeranyi."

Rahl supposed that was true, but what difference would it make? The magisters hadn't ever really listened to him before. Why would they now, especially since he was a mage-guard of Hamor?

"The engineers aren't the Council of Recluce," Rahl pointed out.

"Exactly." Taryl smiled. "But they are the real power on the isle. Most of the trade comes through Nylan. They have the only warships that can challenge Hamor. By dealing with the magisters of Nylan, we will foment a certain amount of internal unrest in Recluce. That may focus their interest internally, rather than on Hamor, because the Emperor is suggesting that the true power lies in Nylan and not at Land's End."

"You said that Fairhaven might be aiding the rebels in Merowey. If that is so, why would Recluce want to get involved? They wouldn't want to do anything to help Fairhaven."

"No, they wouldn't. You're right about that. But..." Taryl paused. "If they thought that they could weaken us by restricting trade or some other means, they might. That's why we need to point out that the Jeranyi were behind the attack on Swartheld and that the Jeranyi were willing to sacrifice the Nylan Merchant Association and all its goods and revenues in order to strike at Hamor. That confirms the Jeranyi as an enemy of both Recluce and Hamor. That's also why the captain is making speed. We need to be the ones to explain what happened first, to show good faith and concern."

"The Council in Land's End has already declared the Jeranyi as an enemy and restricted trade," Rahl said. "They did that more than a year ago."

"But Nylan still trades with them, according to our people there. That embargo only applies north of the black wall."

Rahl hadn't known that.

"Most trade comes through Nylan now, remember," added Taryl. "You'll need to make the Jeranyi role clear. I will tell them the truth. They will be skeptical, and they will ask you. You are to convey what you know completely truthfully. You will tell them exactly what happened, and you will also tell them that the Emperor will announce that the Jeranyi were acting to cripple trade in Swartheld, but that they were stopped before they could complete their efforts."

"What if they ask about what I did?"

"You tell them. If you'd done nothing, the merchant association still would have lost everything."

Rahl nodded. That was certainly true enough, but he wondered if the magisters would see it that way, and, even if they did, whether the traders would.

He put his hand on the bridge railing to steady himself as the frigate pitched forward slightly, then rolled a bit to starboard on the recovery before righting herself. His eyes took in the port lookout, standing at the outboard end of the bridge, five cubits beyond the two mages. The rating had not even budged while Rahl was grasping to keep his balance.

"You had said that Swartheld wou

#### Other Books

Bangkitnya Para Naga (Raja dan Penyihir—Buku 1). "Jika Anda pikir bahwa segalanya telah usai seiring tamatnya serial Cincin Bertuah, maka Anda keliru. Dalam BANGKITNYA PARA NAGA, Morgan Rice kembali hadir dengan janjinya akan sebuah serial baru yang brilian, yang akan menghanyutkan kita dalam kisah fantasi tentang para troll dan naga, keberanian, kehormatan, semangat, keajaiban dan keyakinan akan takdir. Morgan sekali lagi berhasil menghadirkan sederet tokoh yang akan menghibur kita pada tiap lembar kisahnya....Inilah karya yang direkomendasikan sebagai koleksi wajib para pencinta kisah fantasi nan apik." --Books and Movie Reviews, Roberto Mattos Buku Terlaris #1! Sebuah serial kisah fantasi epik kembali lahir dari tangan penulis Terlaris #1, Morgan Rice:

BANGKITNYA PARA NAGA (RAJA DAN PENYIHIR-Buku 1). Kyra, gadis berusia 15 tahun, bermimpi menjadi seorang ksatria termashyur seperti ayahnya, meskipun ia adalah satu-satunya anak perempuan di antara saudara-saudara laki-lakinya. Tatkala ia berusaha memahami kemampuan istimewanya, yaitu kekuatan tersembunyi yang misterius, ia menyadari bahwa dirinya berbeda dengan orang lain. Namun ada sebuah rahasia yang tersimpan tentang kelahiran dan ramalan tentang dirinya, hingga membuatnya bertanya-tanya siapakah dirinya yang sesungguhnya. Ketika Kyra telah cukup dewasa dan seorang bangsawan setempat datang untuk mengawininya secara paksa, maka ayahnya terpikir untuk menikahkannya demi menyelamatkan putri satu-satunya itu. Namun Kyra menolak dan ia kabur seorang diri; ia masuk ke sebuah hutan keramat, di mana ia bertemu dengan seekor naga yang terluka--dan sejak saat itulah terjadi berbagai peristiwa yang akan mengubah seluruh kerajaan untuk selamanya. Sementara itu, Alec yang berusia 15 tahun berkorban demi sang kakak, menggantikannya sebagai serdadu apusan yang dipilih untuk dibawa ke Benteng Api, sebuah benteng di sisi timur dengan dinding api setinggi seratus kaki yang menjadi sarang para prajurit Troll. Jauh di sisi lain kerajaan, Merk -seorang prajurit bayaran yang mencoba lari dari masa lalunya nan gelap- berjalan menembus hutan demi menjadi Sang Penjaga Menara dan membantu menjaga Pedang Api, sumber kekuatan ajaib kerajaan. Namun para Troll pun mengincar pedang itu--dan mereka tengah menyiapkan serangan besar-besaran demi menumpas kerajaan itu untuk selamanya. Dengan atmosfer yang kuat dan penokohan nan rumit, BANGKITNYA PARA NAGA menjadi sebuah hikayat besar tentang para ksatria dan pejuang, tentang para raja dan bangsawan, tentang kehormatan dan keberanian, tentang keajaiban, takdir, siluman dan para naga. Ini adalah sebuah kisah tentang cinta dan hati yang remuk redam, tipu muslihat, ambisi dan pengkhianatan. Inilah puncak dari sebuah kisah fantasi, yang mengajak kita masuk ke sebuah alam yang akan terus kita selami, kisah yang memikat pembaca dari segala umur dan jenis kelamin. Buku #2 dari serial RAJA DAN PENYIHIR akan segera terbit. "BANGKITNYA PARA NAGA benar-benar sukses--sejak awalnya.... Sebuah kisah fantasi yang hebat...Seperti yang kita duga, kisah ini diawali dengan perjuangan seorang protagonis dan kemudian mengalir berkisah tentang para ksatria, naga, sihir dan siluman, serta takdir...Semua daya pikat kisah fantasi ada dalam buku ini, dari cerita tentang para prajurit dan peperangannya hingga pergolakan batin mereka...Inilah kisah terbaik yang direkomendasikan bagi para pencinta novel fantasi yang penuh dengan kisah tentang tokoh protagonis muda yang kuat dan handal. --Midwest Book Review, D. Donovan, Pengulas eBook

“ . &quot; --Books and Movie Reviews, Roberto Mattos Buku Terlaris #1! Sebuah serial kisah fantasi epik kembali lahir dari tangan penulis Terlaris #1, Morgan Rice: BANGKITNYA PARA NAGA (RAJA DAN PENYIHIR-Buku 1).”