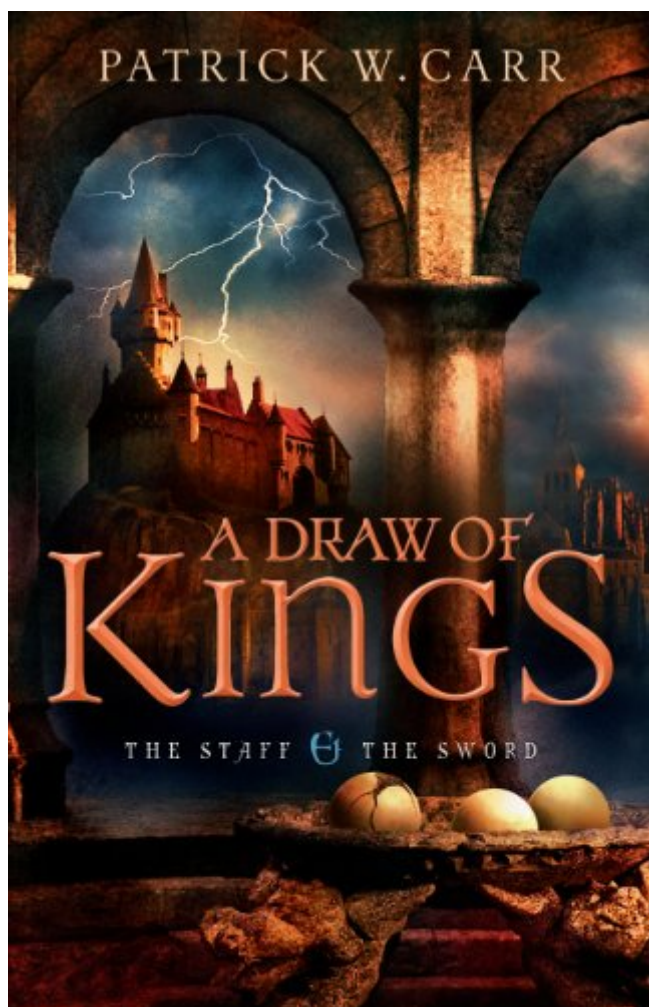


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A Draw Of Kings (The Staff And The Sword Book #3)



Synopsis

Dark Forces Have Gathered and the Final Battle for Illustra Has Begun. Their journey to Merakh should have made Errol and his companions heroes of the realm. Instead, they've been branded enemies of the kingdom. In the wake of the king's death, Duke Weir is ruling the country--and he intends to marry Adora to bring an heir from the royal line. With Errol and the others imprisoned and the identity of the rightful heir to the throne still hidden in secrecy, Illustra is on the verge of civil war--and threatened by hostile forces gathering on every side. A dangerous mission to free Errol is attempted, but the dangers facing the kingdom mount with every passing moment. The barrier has fallen, ferals are swarming toward the land, and their enemies draw ever closer. Will the discovery of the true heir turn back the tide of Illustra's destruction?

Praise for *The Staff and the Sword* series: "This fast-paced fantasy debut set in a medieval world is a winner. Both main and secondary characters are fully drawn and endearing... Fans of epic Christian fantasies will enjoy discovering a new voice." *Library Journal* (starred review) on *A Cast of Stones* "The adrenaline level remains high..." *Publishers Weekly* on *The Hero's Lot* "The Hero's Lot is a spellbinding, edge-of-your-seat thrill ride that will leave you breathless and reeling from the truly masterful and immensely pleasurable writing of Patrick W. Carr." *Radiant Lit*

Book Information

File Size: 4786 KB

Print Length: 466 pages

Publisher: Bethany House Publishers (February 18, 2014)

Publication Date: February 18, 2014

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00DWA699G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #34,633 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Fantasy #31 in Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Fantasy #35 in Â Kindle Store >

Customer Reviews

(This review is the third in a series I wrote on the Patrick Carr trilogy. To check out my review of Book 1 and 2, and trace my thought processes through the whole series, check out the "Book Reviews" tab at [...] for Carr's "A Cast of Stones" and "The Hero's Lot".)The romance element improved more and more as the series went along. Carr gradually put it in with a lighter touch, and though I still wasn't completely endorsing it by the end, I was satisfied with how far he had come. The violence didn't improve. The maluses (evil spirits) and the numerous crush and stab wounds got a bit much; even some of the spiritual difficulties the characters had could have been put in with a little less intensity. Errol's and Martin's spiritual doubts were realistically written, but they also made me struggle too, and there were so many things going on I couldn't remember the way Carr resolved them. Rohka's characterization carries strong all the way to the end of the trilogy. Wonderful! Aside from Errol, she ranked right up there among my favorite characters. She was strong, unique, interesting, and a well-rounded woman. Adora suffered a little the more capable she got. While she wasn't blatantly feministic, she rested on her decision-making powers a bit too much. Liam, though perfect as ever, received some excellent character development and even a surprising twist in the climax--and I enjoyed that. Martin, Luis, Cruk, Merodach, and Rale were all welcome additions, beautiful sidekicks, and well-written. And Errol continued to grow all the way to the end. I've rarely seen a perfect character arc in a trilogy--but I think his wins hands-down. A few characters and plots seemed to be poorly resolved.

I didn't think he could do it. To be blunt, I don't usually read Christian fiction books written by men because I don't think I'll connect very well with their characters. Ask my husband, he'll tell you I'm an emotional person (;)) and I just didn't think a man could write a book that would draw on my emotions. Well..... I was wrong. Very wrong. As a disclaimer, I received this book from Bethany House in exchange for my honest review. Well, my honest review is - this book is great! No, strike that. This SERIES is great! I had somehow rec'd the electronic edition of his first book free and devoured it. When the opportunity arose for me to get a copy of his 3rd in the series to review, I jumped on it. The only problem was, I hadn't read book 2 yet! So, and I have NEVER done this before, I went and bought the Kindle edition of book two so I could read it before starting on this, the last book. Patrick Carr has a way with words that just....works. He captures your attention with the richness of all that goes on in his stories. Errol Stone, the main character - although there are many,

many characters that are imperative to the story, you just know Errol is important - captures your heart with his winsome ways and the trials he has to go through. The supporting characters are just incredible the way Carr writes about them and their exploits. I will not go into all the details of the book, but I will say that even if you aren't familiar with fantasy - this book is a winner. I believe his books are the first Christian fantasy ones I've read, but they have me hooked and I'm usually a Christian romance fiction reader. Bethany House, if you're reading this, I want to read more books from him! He's a master story teller!

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