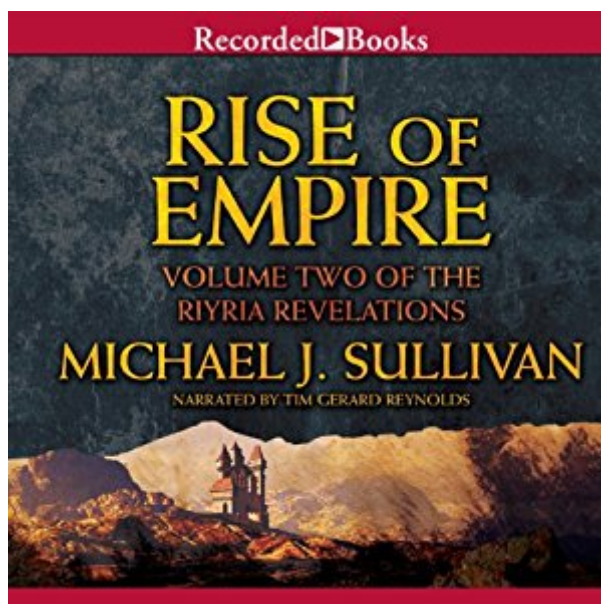


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Rise Of Empire: Riyria Revelations, Volume 2



Synopsis

Best-selling author Michael J. Sullivan's mesmerizing Riyria Revelations series has found a welcome home with fans of magic, clashing swords, and daring heroes. This second volume finds Royce and Hadrian on a quest to enlist the southern Nationalists to aid the ever-weakening kingdom of Melengar. Royce suspects an ancient wizard is manipulating them all, but to find the truth he'll have to decipher Hadrian's past—a past Hadrian wants to keep secret. *Rise of Empire* contains *Nyphron Rising* and *The Emerald Storm*, books 3 and 4 of Riyria Revelations.

Book Information

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#25 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #40 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic

Customer Reviews

Rise of Empire is amazing. While the first two books (found in *Theft of Swords*) were fantastic books, they felt much more like stand alones that happened to contain the same group of characters. Now in books 3 and 4 of the series, Sullivan turns this fantastic series into a continuous series. Readers finally learn more about the heir, we are introduced to new characters that play huge new roles (such as Modina, Amilia, Merrick and Wyatt). And older characters get to play bigger and more important storylines (especially Arista and Saulder). That said my favorite new aspect of the books is the introduction to Royce and Hadrian's pasts. Readers will get to visit the towns these two each grew up from, discover the source of Hadrian's amazing fighting skills, and even see who put Royce in prison. Each of the two characters are much more flushed out, and we really get to see what makes each of them tick. They are tested in ways we never saw in the previous two books and I have to say they will be tested further in the last installments. Of course I also loved Arista's growth

and discovery. Arista goes from becoming a smart yet pampered princess to something altogether more. She becomes a real character that readers will sympathize with. Fans of the series will root for as she defies the odds and feel sorrow for as the people in her life die around her. Through Arista readers are also finally introduced to magic. As her powers grow, so does her importance in the story, and let's just say she's darn important by the end of book 4. Of course while that's all well and good, other things to keep in mind are that this book is chalk full of great action scenes, as Hadrian and Royce battle everything from mythical monsters, to religious soldiers, to goblins. All in all this book is fantastic. Sullivan has created quality characters who deepen the story, filled it with non-stop action, and thrown in a good deal of mystery and deception, to the degree that readers themselves won't know what will happen next. All in all a great book and I can't wait for the last in the series.

Michael Sullivan's *Rise of Empire* is a compelling story. It resumes after about a year has passed from its prequel's finish, *Theft of Swords*. Business has been good for the Riyria; the assassins are now professionally employed by the new King Alric. However, foreboding is a constant taste in the air. The new empire is absorbing the entire land, threatening to assimilate Alric's tiny kingdom Melengar. His sister Arista is failing as ambassador to form any alliances willing to withstand the young empress. Yet the vivacious and sacrificial Thrace from the previous adventure who slew the monster and became empress is recognizable to no one. Catatonic with grief and abuse, she is a pawn of the archbishop who uses her name to further his own insatiable desire for power. On the smaller scale, Hadrian is dissatisfied with life, feeling like he should be doing something worthwhile. Royce knows Hadrian's true destiny yet, for ambivalent feelings, cannot bring himself to share it with his friend. Princess Arista is herself feeling like a failure at life, and when her brother decides to replace her as ambassador with a man, she steals away from the castle, enlists the Riyria for one last job, and sets out on a harrowing adventure to find help for her kingdom. The book is an absolutely thrilling read. The complexity of the plot is mind-blowing, a mixture of castle intrigue and court politics, barbarian threats, relationship secrets, self-interests, and manipulated PR. The characters are a kaleidoscope of vibrant personalities; the quirky friendship between Royce and Hadrian especially is entertaining and endearing and gives the reader time to catch a breath after all the heart-stopping adventure. It's a beautiful story about carrying on after grief, striving to do something bigger than oneself, and being there for a friend, no matter what. I absolutely cannot wait until the third book comes out and am sure my siblings and I will as voraciously devour that one as we did with the first two. Would I/Did I buy it? Yes. Would I read it again? Yes. Would I recommend it to

friends? Yes

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