

raymond e feist reading order

raymond e feist reading order is essential knowledge for fans and newcomers eager to explore the expansive and immersive worlds created by Raymond E. Feist. As one of the most prolific and celebrated fantasy authors, Feist has penned numerous series that span decades and dimensions, each interwoven with rich characters, intricate plots, and vibrant settings. Understanding the chronological and publication order of his works can greatly enhance the reading experience, allowing readers to follow character development and storyline arcs with clarity. This article provides a comprehensive guide to the Raymond E. Feist reading order, covering the main series, spin-offs, and companion books. Additionally, it outlines the best sequence to approach the books to fully appreciate the narrative flow and thematic connections. Whether you are diving into Feist's fantasy universe for the first time or revisiting it, this guide will help you navigate his literary world with ease.

- Main Series Reading Order
- Chronological Order of Feist's Books
- Spin-Off Series and Companion Novels
- Tips for New Readers
- Additional Resources and Collections

Main Series Reading Order

The core of Raymond E. Feist's literary universe is centered around the Riftwar Cycle, a multi-series saga that spans several decades and multiple trilogies. The main series is the foundation for understanding the larger world of Midkemia and its neighboring realms. The recommended reading order generally follows the publication sequence, which introduces readers to the evolving storyline in a manner that preserves suspense and character development.

The Riftwar Saga

The Riftwar Saga is the starting point and arguably the most famous of Feist's works. It introduces the conflict between Midkemia and the invading forces from another dimension, known as Kelewan. The trilogy consists of:

1. **Magician** (also published as two volumes: *Magician: Apprentice* and *Magician: Master*)
2. **Silverthorn**
3. **A Darkness at Sethanon**

These books establish key characters such as Pug, Tomas, and Arutha, whose stories resonate throughout the subsequent series.

The Empire Trilogy

Co-written with Janny Wurts, the Empire Trilogy runs parallel to the Riftwar Saga but focuses on the world of Kelewan and the Tsurani Empire. It explores political intrigue, warfare, and cultural clashes through the eyes of Mara of the Acoma:

1. **Daughter of the Empire**
2. **Servant of the Empire**
3. **Mistress of the Empire**

The Serpentwar Saga

Following the Riftwar Saga, the Serpentwar Saga chronicles a new conflict threatening Midkemia. This series deepens the political and military dimensions of Feist's world and introduces new heroes and villains:

1. **Shadow of a Dark Queen**
2. **Rise of a Merchant Prince**
3. **Rage of a Demon King**
4. **Shards of a Broken Crown**

Chronological Order of Feist's Books

For readers interested in experiencing the story in the timeline's chronological order, adjustments are necessary. This approach helps in understanding the historical context and character backgrounds more cohesively. The chronological reading order includes prequels and interludes that are not strictly in the publication order.

Prequel: The Riftwar Legacy

The Riftwar Legacy bridges gaps between the Riftwar Saga and the Serpentwar Saga, following the aftermath and fallout of earlier conflicts. It includes:

1. **Krondor: The Betrayal**

2. **Krondor: The Assassins**
3. **Krondor: Tear of the Gods**
4. **Krondor: Jimmy and the Crawler** (novella)

Additional Prequels and Side Stories

Several works fill in the backstory of key characters or provide historical context for the Riftwar universe:

- **Honoured Enemy** – set during the Riftwar, focusing on Tsurani and Midkemian military cooperation
- **Murder in LaMut** and **Jimmy the Hand** – follow characters introduced in the main saga
- **Faerie Tale** – a standalone novel with fantasy elements but separate from the Riftwar universe

Spin-Off Series and Companion Novels

Raymond E. Feist's universe extends beyond the main saga with several spin-offs that explore different perspectives, locations, and timelines. These series deepen the lore and provide fresh narratives for established fans.

The Darkwar Saga

This trilogy follows the events of the Serpentwar Saga, introducing new threats from other worlds and dimensions. It includes:

1. **Flight of the Nighthawks**
2. **Into a Dark Realm**
3. **Wrath of a Mad God**

The Demonwar Saga

Continuing the chronological progression, the Demonwar Saga deals with demonic invasions and the consequences of previous wars:

1. **Rides a Dread Legion**
2. **At the Gates of Darkness**

The Chaoswar Saga

The Chaoswar Saga is the climactic conclusion to the Riftwar Cycle, resolving long-standing conflicts and mysteries:

1. **A Kingdom Besieged**
2. **A Crown Imperiled**
3. **Magician's End**

Tips for New Readers

Approaching the Raymond E. Feist reading order can be daunting due to the breadth of his works. New readers should consider several factors to maximize enjoyment and comprehension:

- **Start with the Riftwar Saga:** This trilogy provides a solid introduction to Feist's style, characters, and world-building.
- **Follow publication order:** Reading in the order the books were released preserves plot surprises and character development.
- **Explore spin-offs after main series:** Once familiar with the world, spin-offs offer additional perspectives and stories enriching the lore.
- **Use chronological order cautiously:** Some prequels and side stories may reveal spoilers or diminish the impact of the original narrative.
- **Pay attention to co-authored works:** The Empire Trilogy, co-written with Janny Wurts, complements the Riftwar Saga and enhances understanding of Kelewan.

Additional Resources and Collections

For dedicated fans, several omnibus editions and companion guides compile Raymond E. Feist's works for ease of reading. These collections often include maps, glossaries, and author notes, providing a richer context to the stories.

Omnibus Editions

Omnibus editions bundle multiple books into single volumes, ideal for readers wishing to acquire entire series segments at once. Examples include:

- **The Riftwar Saga Omnibus** – combines *Magician*, *Silverthorn*, and *A Darkness at Sethanon*
- **The Empire Trilogy Omnibus** – collects *Daughter*, *Servant*, and *Mistress of the Empire*
- **The Serpentwar Saga Omnibus** – encompasses all four books of the saga

Companion Guides and Maps

Feist's world-building is intricate, with multiple continents, races, and histories. Companion guides provide critical insight into the geography, cultures, and timelines, enhancing the reader's understanding and immersion.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the recommended reading order for Raymond E. Feist's Riftwar Cycle?

The recommended reading order for the Riftwar Cycle starts with *The Riftwar Saga*: 'Magician', 'Silverthorn', 'A Darkness at Sethanon', followed by *The Empire Trilogy*, *The Riftwar Legacy*, *The Serpentwar Saga*, *The Darkwar Saga*, *The Demonwar Saga*, *The Chaoswar Saga*, and then the standalone novels.

Should I read Raymond E. Feist's books in publication order or chronological order?

It is generally recommended to read Raymond E. Feist's books in publication order to experience the story as originally intended and to avoid spoilers or confusion from jumping between timelines.

Where does *The Riftwar Legacy* fit in the Raymond E. Feist reading order?

The *Riftwar Legacy* series is set between *The Riftwar Saga* and *The Serpentwar Saga* and is best read after completing *The Riftwar Saga* to maintain story continuity.

Are the *Empire Trilogy* books by Raymond E. Feist and Janny Wurts part of the main reading order?

Yes, the *Empire Trilogy* ('*Daughter of the Empire*', '*Servant of the Empire*', '*Mistress of the Empire*')

is a parallel storyline set during The Riftwar Saga and is recommended to be read after 'Magician'.

How many series are there in Raymond E. Feist's Riftwar Cycle?

There are several series within the Riftwar Cycle, including The Riftwar Saga, The Empire Trilogy, The Riftwar Legacy, The Serpentwar Saga, The Darkwar Saga, The Demonwar Saga, and The Chaoswar Saga.

Can I start reading Raymond E. Feist's novels with 'Magician'?

Yes, 'Magician' is the first book in The Riftwar Saga and serves as the ideal starting point for new readers of Raymond E. Feist's works.

Are the standalone novels by Raymond E. Feist connected to the main series reading order?

Some standalone novels are connected to the Riftwar Cycle universe and can be read after completing the main series, but they are not essential to the core storyline.

Is there a chronological timeline available for Raymond E. Feist's books?

Yes, fans have created chronological timelines that place the books in the order of events within the world of Midkemia, but reading in publication order is still preferred.

What is the best way to keep track of Raymond E. Feist's extensive series?

Using a detailed reading guide or checklist that includes publication order and series grouping helps readers navigate Raymond E. Feist's complex and extensive body of work.

Additional Resources

1. Magician: Apprentice

This is the first book in Raymond E. Feist's Riftwar Saga. It introduces the young protagonist, Pug, who becomes an apprentice magician amidst a war between two worlds. The novel sets the stage for the epic conflicts and rich world-building Feist is known for.

2. Magician: Master

The direct sequel to *Magician: Apprentice*, this book continues Pug's journey as he grows in power and faces new challenges. The war escalates, and alliances shift, expanding the scope of the story. It deepens the lore of Midkemia and the Riftwar conflict.

3. Silverthorn

Set after the Riftwar Saga, *Silverthorn* follows Prince Arutha as he seeks to save his beloved who has

been poisoned. This novel blends political intrigue, adventure, and romance, adding depth to the characters introduced earlier. It also introduces new threats to the kingdom of Midkemia.

4. *A Darkness at Sethanon*

The conclusion to the original Riftwar Saga, this book brings the conflict to a thrilling climax. Pug and his allies confront a dark and powerful enemy threatening the world. The novel ties up many storylines and showcases Feist's talent for epic fantasy battles.

5. *Prince of the Blood*

This book shifts focus to the next generation, following Prince Borric and Erland as they navigate political intrigue and danger in a foreign land. It explores themes of maturity and responsibility within the royal family. The story expands the world's geography and cultural complexity.

6. *The King's Buccaneer*

Set shortly after Prince of the Blood, this novel follows Nicholas, a young nobleman, as he embarks on a perilous sea adventure. It introduces naval battles and pirate themes while continuing to build the broader Midkemia universe. The story combines action, loyalty, and coming-of-age elements.

7. *Exile's Return*

This book introduces new characters and explores the aftermath of previous conflicts. It focuses on themes of redemption and the search for identity. The narrative weaves personal struggles with larger political and magical developments in Midkemia.

8. *Talons of the Hawk*

Part of the later series in the Riftwar Cycle, this novel follows Talwin Hawkins as he seeks to avenge his family and fight against dark forces. It blends mystery, action, and fantasy, continuing Feist's tradition of complex characters and intricate plots.

9. *Jimmy the Hand*

This novel centers on the popular rogue character Jimmy the Hand, exploring his adventures and growth. It offers a different perspective within the Riftwar universe, focusing on street-level intrigue and survival. Readers gain insight into the less noble but equally important aspects of Midkemia's society.

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