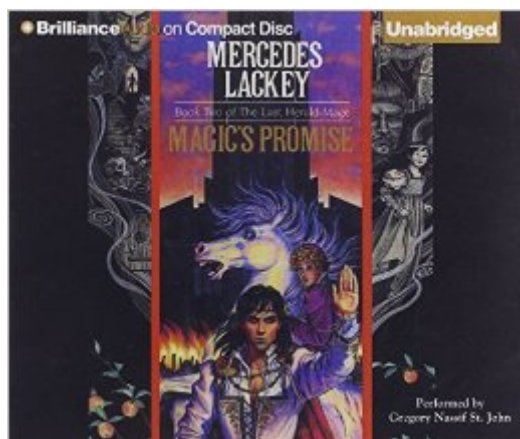


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# Magic's Promise (The Last Herald-Mage)



## Synopsis

The wild magic is taking its toll on the land. Many Heralds and Herald-Mages have died fighting to preserve the peace. Even Vanyel, the most powerful of the Herald-Mages is almost at the end of his strength, in need of a respite from the dual threats of war and dark magic. But for Vanyel, there can be no rest. Not when his Companion, Yfandes, receives a summons which can't be ignored—a desperate cry for help which draws them both into the heart of a magical holocaust in the neighboring kingdom. Almost overwhelmed by the devastation they discover there, Herald-Mage and Companion must try to unravel this tragic mystery. Is the young Prince Tashir, a newly Chosen Herald who can't control his own magic, responsible for the destruction? Or is Tashir a pawn in a deeper, more deadly game—and, if so, will Vanyel be able to find and defeat the true destroyer before this master of dark powers can strike again? Don't miss MAGIC'S PAWN, the first novel in The Last-Herald Mage trilogy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are very few writers as flawed as Mercedes Lackey who can manage to keep my interest for so long. Although I LOVE the Last Herald Mage series, I was annoyed by her faults, which include a tendency to be melodramatic, sentimental and use predictable writing devices (like never-ending interior monologues). The editing is also pretty poor. And yet she has managed to get me so hooked I have devoured 9 of her novels in the space of 3 weeks. Magic's Promise is not as gripping as the other books of this series for the simple reason that there is no love interest. Lots of teasing little

comments about how drop dead gorgeous Vanyel is and how starved for affection (setting the reader up for Stefen in the next book) but no real action (and yes, I do like a good love story). But this is still one of her best books because the main aim is the development of Vanyel's character and he is one of the most appealing characters she has ever created. It bridges the gap between Vanyel as confused brat (in Magic's Pawn) and Vanyel as legend (in Magic's Price). It has a gripping enough plot, interesting characters and a nice tidy ending. The only bone I have to pick with this novel is that the reconciliation b/w Jervis and Vanyel and Vanyel and his parents is much too pretty. In the real world there ARE parents who couldn't care less if their kid was dead or alive and there ARE sadistic teachers. And however mature you grow, there are some gaps you simply cannot bridge or just should not. Given the brutal treatment he received at the hands of his family, I think it would have been much more plausible if Lackey had made Vanyel wash his hands of the whole lot of them. And which descriptions of the family and Jervis are we to believe?

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