

joe abercrombie last argument of kings

Joe Abercrombie Last Argument of Kings: A Deep Dive into the Gritty Fantasy Masterpiece

joe abercrombie last argument of kings is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of dark fantasy and immersive storytelling. As the second installment in Abercrombie's acclaimed First Law trilogy, "Last Argument of Kings" offers a compelling blend of brutal realism, morally complex characters, and sharp, witty prose. This novel has cemented Joe Abercrombie's reputation as one of the leading voices in modern fantasy, redefining traditional genre tropes with a refreshing dose of cynicism and humanity.

In this article, we'll explore the key elements that make "Last Argument of Kings" a standout work, from its intricate plot and memorable characters to its thematic depth and unique style. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Abercrombie's world, this guide will provide valuable insights and enrich your reading experience.

Understanding the Context of Joe Abercrombie's Last Argument of Kings

To fully appreciate "Last Argument of Kings," it's important to understand where it fits within the broader First Law trilogy and Abercrombie's writing approach. The book is the final chapter following "The Blade Itself" and "Before They Are Hanged," wrapping up several complex storylines with unexpected twists and emotional weight.

The First Law Trilogy Overview

Joe Abercrombie created a gritty, low-fantasy world where traditional notions of heroism are challenged. The trilogy unfolds in a land brimming with political intrigue, brutal warfare, and morally ambiguous characters. Unlike many fantasy novels that feature clear-cut good versus evil, Abercrombie's work thrives on shades of gray.

By the time readers reach "Last Argument of Kings," they are deeply invested in the fates of characters like Logen Ninefingers, Sand dan Glokta, and Jezal dan Luthar. Abercrombie takes care to develop these protagonists through complex motivations and flaws, making their journeys feel authentic and unpredictable.

Joe Abercrombie's Writing Style and Themes

One of the defining features of Abercrombie's writing is his sharp, often darkly humorous prose. His narrative voice balances grim realities with moments of biting wit, which keeps readers engaged even during intense or violent scenes.

Themes in "Last Argument of Kings" revolve around power, betrayal, survival, and the cost of

ambition. Abercrombie doesn't shy away from depicting violence and its consequences but also explores the psychological toll on his characters. The novel questions traditional heroic ideals, presenting a world where moral compromise is often necessary.

Plot Highlights and Character Arcs in Last Argument of Kings

"Joe Abercrombie last argument of kings" is famous for delivering a complex, interwoven plot that culminates in a dramatic and satisfying conclusion. Let's delve into some of the key plot points and character developments that define the novel.

Logen Ninefingers: The Reluctant Warrior

Logen Ninefingers, also known as "The Bloody-Nine," is one of the most iconic characters in the series. In "Last Argument of Kings," his journey comes to a head as he grapples with his violent past and uncertain future. Abercrombie masterfully explores Logen's internal conflict, emphasizing themes of redemption and fate.

Logen's struggle is representative of the book's broader exploration of whether people can truly change or if they are doomed to repeat their mistakes. His raw, visceral combat scenes contrast with his more contemplative moments, making him a deeply human and relatable figure.

Sand dan Glokta: The Tortured Inquisitor

Glokta is perhaps the most complex character in Abercrombie's trilogy—once a dashing swordsman, now a bitter and crippled inquisitor. "Last Argument of Kings" delves deeper into Glokta's machinations within the political landscape, showcasing his cunning and ruthless pragmatism.

His storyline demonstrates the dark underbelly of power and corruption. Glokta's perspective offers readers a cynical but insightful view into the mechanisms of control and the sacrifices made in the name of survival.

Jezal dan Luthar and Political Intrigue

Jezal's transformation from a self-centered nobleman to a more mature and responsible figure is a crucial element in "Last Argument of Kings." His involvement in the unfolding political drama adds layers of tension and unpredictability.

Abercrombie uses Jezal's arc to critique the superficiality of aristocratic culture and highlight the challenges of leadership. The novel's intricate plotting around court politics, war, and rebellion keeps the stakes high and the narrative compelling.

Why Joe Abercrombie Last Argument of Kings Stands Out in Fantasy Literature

In the crowded field of fantasy novels, "Last Argument of Kings" distinguishes itself through a number of unique qualities that appeal to both traditional fantasy fans and readers seeking something more nuanced.

Subversion of Fantasy Tropes

Abercrombie is often credited with pioneering the "grimdark" subgenre, characterized by morally ambiguous characters and bleak settings. Unlike the archetypal heroes and villains found in classic fantasy, his characters are flawed and unpredictable.

This subversion keeps the story fresh and engaging. Readers never know who to trust or what might happen next, which adds to the suspense and emotional investment.

Rich World-Building Without Overload

Though the setting is complex, Abercrombie avoids overwhelming readers with excessive exposition. Instead, the world of the First Law trilogy is revealed organically through character interactions and plot developments.

This approach makes the universe feel lived-in and believable, without sacrificing pacing. Elements like the diverse cultures, religions, and military tactics enrich the story's texture.

Emotional Depth and Realism

One of the reasons "Last Argument of Kings" resonates so strongly is its emotional authenticity. Abercrombie writes characters who suffer, doubt, and grow in ways that mirror real human experiences.

The consequences of violence and political maneuvering are shown in stark, unflinching detail. This emotional depth elevates the novel beyond mere entertainment to a thoughtful exploration of human nature.

Tips for Readers Diving into Joe Abercrombie Last Argument of Kings

If you're preparing to embark on the journey through "Last Argument of Kings," here are some helpful tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Read the previous books first:** The First Law trilogy builds heavily on its established characters and plotlines. Starting with "The Blade Itself" and "Before They Are Hanged" will give you the necessary context.
- **Pay attention to character perspectives:** Abercrombie uses multiple viewpoints to tell the story. Understanding each character's motivations adds depth to the narrative.
- **Embrace the moral ambiguity:** Don't expect clear heroes or villains. Appreciating the complex motivations of each character is key to enjoying the story fully.
- **Prepare for a mix of dark humor and bleak moments:** Abercrombie's style blends grim scenes with witty dialogue—this balance is part of what makes the series unique.
- **Take your time with the political intrigue:** The novel's political machinations can be dense but are essential for understanding the stakes and character decisions.

The Legacy and Impact of Joe Abercrombie Last Argument of Kings

Since its publication, "Last Argument of Kings" has garnered critical acclaim and a devoted readership. It has influenced a new generation of fantasy writers who seek to push boundaries and create more morally complex stories.

The novel's success helped cement Joe Abercrombie's place among the top contemporary fantasy authors, alongside names like George R.R. Martin and Brandon Sanderson. Its gritty realism and unforgettable characters continue to inspire adaptations, fan discussions, and academic analysis.

Many readers appreciate how the book challenges the escapism often associated with fantasy by confronting difficult questions about power, violence, and human nature. This makes "Last Argument of Kings" not only an entertaining read but also a meaningful one.

Exploring "joe abercrombie last argument of kings" reveals a masterclass in storytelling that combines gripping action, rich characterization, and philosophical depth. Whether you're drawn to epic battles, intricate politics, or flawed heroes, this novel offers a powerful and unforgettable experience that stands out in the fantasy genre's landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Last Argument of Kings' by Joe Abercrombie about?

'Last Argument of Kings' is the third book in Joe Abercrombie's First Law trilogy, continuing the story of a gritty, dark fantasy world filled with morally complex characters, political intrigue, and

brutal warfare.

Who are the main characters in 'Last Argument of Kings'?

The main characters include Logen Ninefingers, Jezal dan Luthar, Sand dan Glokta, and Bayaz, each with their own complex motivations and story arcs.

Is 'Last Argument of Kings' the final book in the First Law trilogy?

Yes, 'Last Argument of Kings' is the concluding volume of the First Law trilogy, wrapping up the major storylines introduced in 'The Blade Itself' and 'Before They Are Hanged.'

What themes are explored in 'Last Argument of Kings'?

The novel explores themes like power, betrayal, redemption, the ambiguity of good versus evil, and the harsh realities of war.

How does Joe Abercrombie's writing style in 'Last Argument of Kings' stand out?

Abercrombie's style is known for its dark humor, gritty realism, vivid character development, and subversion of traditional fantasy tropes.

Do I need to read the first two books before 'Last Argument of Kings'?

Yes, it is highly recommended to read 'The Blade Itself' and 'Before They Are Hanged' first, as 'Last Argument of Kings' continues the story directly and builds upon earlier events.

Has 'Last Argument of Kings' received critical acclaim?

Yes, it has been praised for its complex characters, intricate plotting, and its fresh take on the fantasy genre, solidifying Joe Abercrombie's reputation as a leading voice in grimdark fantasy.

Are there any notable battles or key plot points in 'Last Argument of Kings'?

The book features significant battles and political maneuvers, including the Siege of Dagoska and the climactic confrontations that determine the fate of the Union and its characters.

Is 'Last Argument of Kings' suitable for readers new to fantasy?

While the book is accessible, its dark themes, mature content, and complex narrative might be better appreciated by readers familiar with the fantasy genre and comfortable with gritty

storytelling.

Additional Resources

Joe Abercrombie *Last Argument of Kings*: A Deep Dive into Dark Fantasy Mastery

Joe Abercrombie Last Argument of Kings stands as a pivotal entry in the landscape of modern dark fantasy literature. As the second book in the critically acclaimed First Law Trilogy, this novel solidifies Abercrombie's reputation for blending gritty realism, complex characters, and morally ambiguous storytelling. Readers and critics alike have lauded it for its unflinching portrayal of war, power, and human nature, making it a staple recommendation for enthusiasts of the genre.

In-Depth Analysis of Joe Abercrombie's Last Argument of Kings

Joe Abercrombie's *Last Argument of Kings*, published in 2008, serves as the climactic continuation of the First Law Trilogy, following *The Blade Itself* and *Before They Are Hanged*. The novel's narrative is structured around multiple perspectives, weaving together the fates of diverse characters such as Logen Ninefingers, Sand dan Glokta, and Jezal dan Luthar. Abercrombie's skillful use of multiple viewpoints enriches the storytelling by providing insight into contrasting motivations and worldviews within the fictional Union and the surrounding lands.

Thematically, *Last Argument of Kings* delves into the consequences of power struggles and the often brutal reality of political intrigue. Abercrombie's portrayal of war is notably uncompromising, rejecting romanticized depictions in favor of raw, visceral conflict. The novel's title itself evokes the harsh finality of battle—the "last argument" being the sword or decisive violence, a recurring motif throughout the narrative.

Character Development and Moral Ambiguity

One of the defining features of *Last Argument of Kings* is its nuanced character development. Abercrombie eschews traditional fantasy archetypes by presenting protagonists and antagonists alike as flawed, complex individuals. For instance, Sand dan Glokta, a crippled inquisitor with a cynical outlook, embodies the moral grey areas that permeate the novel. His internal conflicts and pragmatic approach to justice challenge readers' expectations of heroism.

Similarly, Logen Ninefingers, a barbarian haunted by his violent past, grapples with his identity and the possibility of redemption. Jezal dan Luthar's transformation from a self-absorbed nobleman to a more self-aware individual highlights Abercrombie's commitment to character evolution that feels earned rather than contrived.

Worldbuilding and Setting

Abercrombie's *Last Argument of Kings* is set in the fictional Union, a continent rife with political tension, war, and magic. The detailed worldbuilding grounds the story in a believable reality despite its fantastical elements. The Union's cities, battlefields, and hinterlands are vividly described, creating an immersive backdrop. The inclusion of the Gurkish Empire as an antagonistic force expands the geopolitical scope, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

Moreover, magic in Abercrombie's world is subtle and often overshadowed by human ambition and brutality, which differentiates the First Law Trilogy from high fantasy works that emphasize magical systems. This restrained use of fantasy elements enhances the sense of realism and heightens the impact of the characters' choices.

Comparative Context within the Fantasy Genre

When placed alongside other contemporary fantasy works, Joe Abercrombie's *Last Argument of Kings* stands out for its dark tone and character-driven storytelling. Unlike the epic grandeur and clear-cut morality found in series like George R. R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire*, Abercrombie's narrative leans heavily into cynicism and unpredictability.

The novel's pacing and plot twists also distinguish it. While some fantasy trilogies slow down for extensive lore exposition, *Last Argument of Kings* maintains momentum through tight plotting and frequent shifts in perspective, keeping readers engaged. This approach has influenced a generation of fantasy writers who seek to blend traditional elements with modern sensibilities.

Strengths and Critiques

• Strengths:

- Complex, morally ambiguous characters that defy fantasy stereotypes.
- Gritty, realistic depiction of war and politics.
- Engaging, multi-perspective narrative structure.
- Rich, immersive worldbuilding without excessive reliance on magic.

• Critiques:

- The novel's dark tone and violence may not appeal to all readers.
- Some plotlines can feel dense or convoluted due to numerous characters.

- The pacing, while generally strong, occasionally dips during political exposition.

Legacy and Impact of Last Argument of Kings

Joe Abercrombie's *Last Argument of Kings* has cemented its place as a seminal work in the subgenre of grimdark fantasy. Its influence is evident in subsequent works that incorporate morally complex characters and bleak, realistic settings. The novel's success helped pave the way for Abercrombie's later projects, including *The First Law* standalone novels and *The Age of Madness* trilogy, which expand on the themes and world introduced in this volume.

From an SEO perspective, the sustained interest in keywords such as "joe abercrombie *Last Argument of Kings* review," "First Law Trilogy analysis," and "grimdark fantasy novels" highlights the book's continued relevance. Discussions on fan forums and literary critique sites further reinforce its status as a touchstone for readers seeking mature, sophisticated fantasy.

Where to Start with Abercrombie's Work

For newcomers interested in Joe Abercrombie's writing, it's advisable to begin with *The Blade Itself*, the first book in the *First Law* Trilogy, before progressing to *Last Argument of Kings*. This allows readers to fully appreciate the character arcs and plot developments that culminate in the novel. Additionally, exploring Abercrombie's standalone novels can offer a broader understanding of his narrative style and thematic preoccupations.

Exploring audiobook versions and graphic adaptations can also enrich the experience, as Abercrombie's sharp dialogue and vivid scenes lend themselves well to these formats.

Joe Abercrombie's *Last Argument of Kings* continues to command attention for its unvarnished portrayal of a brutal world where honor and survival clash relentlessly. Its contribution to the dark fantasy genre remains significant, offering readers a powerful blend of action, intrigue, and character study that challenges traditional fantasy conventions while delivering a compelling story.

[Joe Abercrombie Last Argument Of Kings](#)

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: Last Argument Of Kings Joe Abercrombie, 2009-06-18 The end is coming. Logen Ninefingers might only have one more fight in him - but it's going to be a big one. Battle rages across the North, the King of the Northmen still stands firm, and there's only one man who can stop him. His oldest friend, and his oldest enemy. It's past time for the Bloody-Nine to come home. With too many masters and too little time, Superior Glokta is fighting a

different kind of war. A secret struggle in which no-one is safe, and no-one can be trusted. His days with a sword are far behind him. It's a good thing blackmail, threats and torture still work well enough. Jezal dan Luthar has decided that winning glory is far too painful, and turned his back on soldiering for a simple life with the woman he loves. But love can be painful too, and glory has a nasty habit of creeping up on a man when he least expects it. While the King of the Union lies on his deathbed, the peasants revolt and the nobles scramble to steal his crown. No-one believes that the shadow of war is falling across the very heart of the Union. The First of the Magi has a plan to save the world, as he always does. But there are risks. There is no risk more terrible, after all, than to break the First Law...

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Last Argument of Kings* Joe Abercrombie, 2008 The King of the Union lies on his deathbed, the peasants revolt, and the nobles scramble to steal his crown. No one believes that the shadow of war is about to fall across the heart of the Union. Only the First of the Magi can save the world, but there are risks.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Last Argument of Kings* Joe Abercrombie, 2018-09-20 The end is coming. Logen Ninefingers might only have one more fight in him - but it's going to be a big one. Battle rages across the North, the King of the Northmen still stands firm, and there's only one man who can stop him. His oldest friend, and his oldest enemy. It's past time for the Bloody-Nine to come home. With too many masters and too little time, Superior Gloкта is fighting a different kind of war. A secret struggle in which no-one is safe, and no-one can be trusted. His days with a sword are far behind him. It's a good thing blackmail, threats and torture still work well enough. Jezal dan Luthar has decided that winning glory is far too painful, and turned his back on soldiering for a simple life with the woman he loves. But love can be painful too, and glory has a nasty habit of creeping up on a man when he least expects it. While the King of the Union lies on his deathbed, the peasants revolt and the nobles scramble to steal his crown. No-one believes that the shadow of war is falling across the very heart of the Union. The First of the Magi has a plan to save the world, as he always does. But there are risks. There is no risk more terrible, after all, than to break the First Law...

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Last Argument of Kings* Joe Abercrombie, 2015-09-08 The final novel in the First Law Trilogy by New York Times bestseller Joe Abercrombie. Logen Ninefingers might only have one more fight in him -- but it's going to be a big one. Battle rages across the North, the king of the Northmen still stands firm, and there's only one man who can stop him. His oldest friend, and his oldest enemy: it's time for the Bloody-Nine to come home. With too many masters and too little time, Superior Gloкта is fighting a different kind of war. A secret struggle in which no one is safe, and no one can be trusted. As his days with a sword are far behind him, it's fortunate that he's deadly with his remaining weapons: blackmail, threats, and torture. Jezal dan Luthar has decided that winning glory is too painful an undertaking and turned his back on soldiering for a simple life with the woman he loves. But love can be painful too -- and glory has a nasty habit of creeping up on a man when he least expects it. The king of the Union lies on his deathbed, the peasants revolt, and the nobles scramble to steal his crown. No one believes that the shadow of war is about to fall across the heart of the Union. Only the First of the Magi can save the world, but there are risks. There is no risk more terrible, than to break the First Law. . .

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *The First Law Trilogy* Joe Abercrombie, 2017-01-03 The complete First Law trilogy from New York Times bestseller and master of grimdark fantasy, Joe Abercrombie. The finest epic fantasy trilogy in recent memory. - Junot Diaz Murderous conspiracies rise to the surface, old scores are ready to be settled, and the line between hero and villain is sharp enough to draw blood. Unpredictable, compelling, wickedly funny, and packed with unforgettable characters, the First Law trilogy is noir fantasy with a real cutting edge. This boxed set includes: THE BLADE ITSELF, BEFORE THEY ARE HANGED, THE LAST ARGUMENT OF KINGS. For more from Joe Abercrombie, check out: Novels in the First Law world Best Served Cold The Heroes Red Country Sharp Ends: Stories From the World of the First Law

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *The First Law Trilogy Boxed Set* Joe

Abercrombie, 2012-08-30 THE FIRST LAW trilogy is a fantasy masterpiece, now available in a stunning box set. It's a perfect gift for fans of A GAME OF THRONES; a must-have for fans of Joe Abercrombie; and a great way for new readers to discover one of the most highly acclaimed fantasy trilogies of the past decade.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: Before They Are Hanged Joe Abercrombie, 2009-06-18 'As brilliant as its predecessor' SF REVU Bitter and merciless war is coming to the frozen north. It's bloody and dangerous and the Union army, split by politics and hamstrung by incompetence, is utterly unprepared for the slaughter that's coming. Lacking experience, training, and in some cases even weapons the army is scarcely equipped to repel Bethod's scouts, let alone the cream of his forces. In the heat-ravaged south the Gurkish are massing to assault the city of Dagoska, defended by Inquisitor Glokta. The city is braced for the inevitable defeat and massacre to come, preparations are made to make the Gurkish pay for every inch of land ... but a plot is festering to hand the city to its besiegers without a fight, and the previous Inquisitor of Dagoska vanished without trace. Threatened from within and without the city, Glokta needs answers, and he needs them soon. And to the east a small band of malefactors travel to the edge of the world to reclaim a device from history - a Seed, hidden for generations - with tremendous destructive potential. A device which could put a end to war, to the army of Eaters in the South, to the invasion of Shanka from the North - but only if it can be found, and only if its power can be controlled ...

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: The Creationship Edward R. Kays, 2018-04-26 Have you ever wondered why some days everything just seems to fall into place? Or why, when you're trying to start something new, everything you need has a way of just showing up? Think these experiences are coincidences or random synchronicities? Think Again. What if something is going on behind the scenes, something much more majestic, mysterious, and... intimate? What if, without knowing it, you are in a dialogue with creation itself? What if you could hear this unconscious conversation, understand its language, and become an active participant in your life? Welcome to the wondrous world of Providence. The 7 Principles of Providence will help train your body to recognize co-creation in action. It's all about alignment. Once you understand the house rules, the rest is history. Life gets great, relationships start to work, finances add up, health advances exceptionally, love flows deeply, intelligence soars. If you knew that Heaven (Paradise, Nirvana, Valhalla, etc.) is right here, right now, what would you do with your life? Begin an intimate relationship with creation and watch as your life unfolds with magic, beauty, grace, abundance, love, and wisdom—this day and every day for the rest of your life. This is your creationship.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: The Essential Book of Business and Life Quotations, 2023-01-17 An up-to-date book of quotations for executives, academics and anyone who wants to spice speeches and business presentations or simply reflect on some of the best things ever said on topics linked to business and management life in general. From "Aristotle" to "Mark Zuckerberg" and from "Action" to "Work", this book is a formidable source of witty remarks and inspiration for all. Best of its kind and fully sourced, the book also covers modern topics such as "Bitcoins", "Digitalization", "Sustainability" or "Fake News" and includes a large number of quotations never published before.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: Red Country Joe Abercrombie, 2012-11-13 A New York Times bestseller! They burned her home. They stole her brother and sister. But vengeance is following. Shy South hoped to bury her bloody past and ride away smiling, but she'll have to sharpen up some bad old ways to get her family back, and she's not a woman to flinch from what needs doing. She sets off in pursuit with only a pair of oxen and her cowardly old step father Lamb for company. But it turns out Lamb's buried a bloody past of his own. And out in the lawless Far Country the past never stays buried. Their journey will take them across the barren plains to a frontier town gripped by gold fever, through feud, duel and massacre, high into the unmapped mountains to a reckoning with the Ghosts. Even worse, it will force them into an alliance with Nicomo Cosca, infamous soldier of fortune, and his feckless lawyer Temple, two men no one should ever have to trust . . . Red Country takes place in the same world as the First Law trilogy, Best Served Cold,

and *The Heroes*. This novel also represents the return of Logen Ninefingers, one of Abercrombie's most beloved characters.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *The Heroes* Joe Abercrombie, 2011-02-07 They say Black Dow's killed more men than winter, and clawed his way to the throne of the North up a hill of skulls. The King of the Union, ever a jealous neighbor, is not about to stand smiling by while he claws his way any higher. The orders have been given and the armies are toiling through the northern mud. Thousands of men are converging on a forgotten ring of stones, on a worthless hill, in an unimportant valley, and they've brought a lot of sharpened metal with them. *THE HEROES* For glory, for victory, for staying alive.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *The Blade Itself* Joe Abercrombie, 2015-09-08 The first novel in the First Law Trilogy and debut fantasy novel from New York Times bestseller, Joe Abercrombie. Logen Ninefingers, infamous barbarian, has finally run out of luck. Caught in one feud too many, he's on the verge of becoming a dead barbarian -- leaving nothing behind him but bad songs, dead friends, and a lot of happy enemies. Nobleman, dashing officer, and paragon of selfishness, Captain Jezal dan Luthar has nothing more dangerous in mind than fleecing his friends at cards and dreaming of glory in the fencing circle. But war is brewing, and on the battlefields of the frozen North they fight by altogether bloodier rules. Inquisitor Glokta, cripple turned torturer, would like nothing better than to see Jezal come home in a box. But then Glokta hates everyone: cutting treason out of the Union one confession at a time leaves little room for friendship. His latest trail of corpses may lead him right to the rotten heart of government, if he can stay alive long enough to follow it. Enter the wizard, Bayaz. A bald old man with a terrible temper and a pathetic assistant, he could be the First of the Magi, he could be a spectacular fraud, but whatever he is, he's about to make the lives of Logen, Jezal, and Glokta a whole lot more difficult. Murderous conspiracies rise to the surface, old scores are ready to be settled, and the line between hero and villain is sharp enough to draw blood. Unpredictable, compelling, wickedly funny, and packed with unforgettable characters, *The Blade Itself* is noir fantasy with a real cutting edge.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy* Jon Cogburn, Mark Silcox, 2012 *Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy* presents twenty-one chapters by different writers, all D&D aficionados but with starkly different insights and points of view.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Disability, Literature, Genre* Ria Cheyne, 2019 This title brings cultural disability studies and genre fiction studies into dialogue for the first time. Analysing representations of disability in contemporary science fiction, romance, fantasy, horror, and crime fiction, it offers new and transformative insights into both the workings of genre and the affective power of disability.

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Heroes, Zombies, and Sausages (A Sampler)* Hachette Assorted Authors, 2011-01-15 Included in this compilation of samples from our upcoming titles for Winter/Spring 2011 is a wide array of Science Fiction and Fantasy titles for every reader. All types of mythical beasts and villains abound—including vampire assassins stalking the canals of Venice in Jon Courtenay Grimwood's *The Fallen Blade*, zombie infestations everywhere in Jesse Petersen's *Flip this Zombie*, and, of course, a mysterious, if somewhat confused, pig in Tom Holt's hilarious *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Sausages*. Also, Gail Z. Martin returns to the world of *The Summoner* in a new series starting with *The Sworn*. Joe Abercrombie takes us down into the dirt and blood of a battlefield and shows us all the true face of heroism in *The Heroes*. And, finally, the urban fantasists are back with the new Matthew Swift book from Kate Griffin, *The Neon Court*, the next entry in Trent Jamieson's *Death Works* series with *Managing Death*, Sabina Kane's return in *Green-Eyed Demon* by Jaye Wells and, a special treat, the entire Dante Valentine series in one volume from Lilith Saintcrow!

joe abercrombie last argument of kings: *Half a King* Joe Abercrombie, 2014-07-15 NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY TIME AND THE WASHINGTON POST • LOCUS AWARD WINNER “The Shattered Seas trilogy has worked its way into a very exclusive group of my favorite fantasy novels of all time.”—James Dashner, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The*

Maze Runner “A fast-paced tale of betrayal and revenge that grabbed me from page 1 and refused to let go.”—George R. R. Martin “I swore an oath to avenge the death of my father. I may be half a man, but I swore a whole oath.” Prince Yarvi has vowed to regain a throne he never wanted. But first he must survive cruelty, chains, and the bitter waters of the Shattered Sea. And he must do it all with only one good hand. The deceived will become the deceiver. Born a weakling in the eyes of his father, Yarvi is alone in a world where a strong arm and a cold heart rule. He cannot grip a shield or swing an axe, so he must sharpen his mind to a deadly edge. The betrayed will become the betrayer. Gathering a strange fellowship of the outcast and the lost, he finds they can do more to help him become the man he needs to be than any court of nobles could. Will the usurper become the usurper? But even with loyal friends at his side, Yarvi finds that his path may end as it began—in twists, and traps, and tragedy. **BONUS:** This edition includes an excerpt from Joe Abercrombie’s *Half the World*. “Tremendously entertaining . . . lightning-fast and filled with a wonderful collection of rogues, villains and two-faced bastards . . . From the first chapter [Joe Abercrombie] wastes no time as the reader is swept up in a gripping tale of betrayal and revenge.”—SciFi Now “Once this plot has its teeth in you, it will not let go. . . . Abercrombie’s masterful storytelling means that everything, from the characters that you come to love and despise, to the sprawling world that is explored, is enthralling.”—Fantasy Book Review “Abercrombie’s *Shattered Sea* is a fantastic yet believable backdrop to Yarvi’s struggle, a vivid imaginary land.”—The Seattle Times “Intriguing characters . . . nonstop action.”—Chicago Tribune “*Half a King* is my favorite book by Joe Abercrombie so far, and that’s saying something.”—Patrick Rothfuss “As in all Abercrombie’s books, friends turn out to be enemies, enemies turn out to be friends; the line between good and evil is murky indeed; and nothing goes quite as we expect. With eye-popping plot twists and rollicking good action, *Half a King* is definitely a full adventure.”—Rick Riordan “Enthralling! An up-all-night read.”—Robin Hobb “Polished and sharp, perhaps his most technically proficient novel yet . . . I dare you to read the first chapter and try not to turn the next page.”—Brent Weeks “*Half a King* can be summed up in a single word: masterpiece. It’s a coming-of-age story. It’s a Viking saga. It’s a revenge tale and family drama and the return of the prodigal son. But most of all, it’s this: a short time alongside people as weak and blundering as we are and, in the midst of it all, as heroic. Far too short a time, as it turns out. What a wonderful book.”—Myke Cole “*Half a King* is full of all the adventure I’ve come to expect from Abercrombie and a tenderness I never knew he had.”—Sam Sykes

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Glokta, a crippled and increasingly bitter relic of the last war, former fencing champion turned torturer extraordinaire, is trapped in a twisted and broken body - not that he allows it to distract him from his daily routine of torturing smugglers. Nobleman, dashing officer and would-be fencing champion Captain Jezal dan Luthar is living a life of ease by cheating his friends at cards. Vain, shallow, selfish and self-obsessed, the biggest blot on his horizon is having to get out of bed in the morning to train with obsessive and boring old men. And Logen Ninefingers, an infamous warrior with a bloody past, is about to wake up in a hole in the snow with plans to settle a blood feud with Bethod, the new King of the Northmen, once and for all - ideally by running away from it. But as he's discovering, old habits die really, really hard indeed... ...especially when Bayaz gets involved. A bald old man with a terrible temper and a pathetic assistant, he could be the First of the Magi, he could be a spectacular fraud, but whatever he is, he's about to make the lives of Glotka, Jezal and Logen a whole lot more difficult...

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