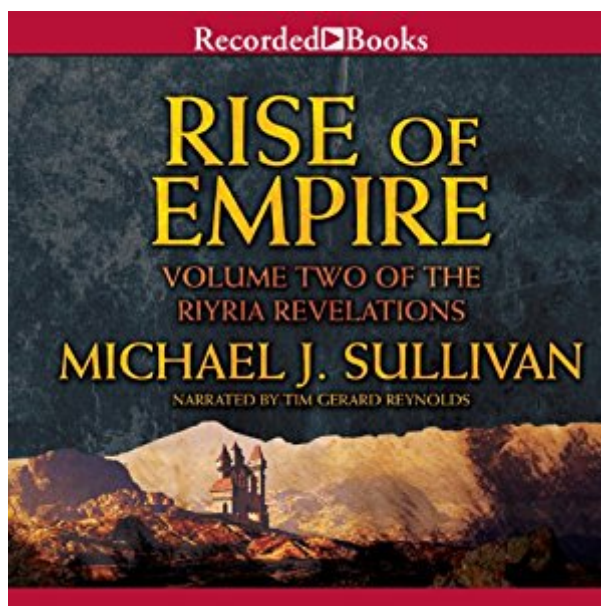


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Rise Of Empire: Riyria Revelations, Volume 2



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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Customer Reviews

After reading *Rise of Empire*, I can't wait to start the next book, *Heir of Novron*. I was left with just too many questions. I normally don't like to read series books for several books for multiple reasons. However, with this series, I honestly don't want to see this series to end. *Rise of Empire* is like *Theft of Swords*, it contains two books in one. The first book *Nyphron Rising*, we get to see where both Royce and Hadrian grew up. Royce grew up on the streets, learned to become a thief and eventually a top member of a gang. Hadrian, grew up living with his blacksmith father. He learned on a daily basis how to wield a sword. Hadrian, runs away to never want to return to his home. 5 years after his father's death, he returns home to learn that his life was not what he thought it was. Arista becomes a bigger part in *Nyphron Rising*. She finds her capabilities to perform magic are getting better and easier. She also learns that she is a stronger and more capable woman than she ever thought she was. She is even becoming a better ruler than her King brother. Modina (Thrace)

has sought shelter within herself. She has become the puppet of Saldur. Thanks to a lonely, quiet and simple girl, Amelia, does Modina get love and encouragement. We learn more and more of what Saldur is capable of and how he is spinning the world into HIS empire. The second book is The Emerald Storm. In this book we learn so many secrets and clues to the true heir are given. However, we still don't know who it truly is. I have my guesses, but I don't know for certain. Royce and Hadrian meet up again at Gwen's. We learn that Royce and Gwen are to be married. (This is just find fascinating) Gwen convinces Royce that he has to go with Hadrian to help him on this next stage of his quest. Gwen then informs Hadrian that he needs to protect Royce and help him as well. (This is just too cryptic) Royce is in more of a good mood in this book. He is joking more, seems more personable. That is until they board the ship, The Emerald Storm. Royce spends a week so seasick that he wishes to die. Hadrian takes care of him and nurses him through this rough patch. Neither being on a ship, learn what sea life is like and decide that becoming a seaman is not for them. They prefer their land legs. Modina and Amelia start to evolve into a huge characters in this book. Modina is now speaking thanks to Amelia. Amelia learns of secrets that she doesn't share with Modina. A new helper Nimbus comes in and starts to shape Modina and helps Amelia. I personally get frustrated with Amelia on how she appears to become more of a puppet for Saldur than a helper for Modina. I think this is only because of being naive...I hope. Arista, I just love her! She starts to become powerful with her magic. She learns that she is capable of so many things. She also finds Hilfred and learns that he was in love with her all those years. Arista becomes more aware of how lower citizens live and the struggles of their lives. She is more compassionate because she herself starts to live on the streets. I think this is only leading up for her to become a great leader. I personally love how Arista is developing. I foresee that she will become a ruler of a region. I also see that her and Hadrian are starting to fall in love with each other. At least this is what I'm hoping for. When I finished this Rise of Empire, I was left with so many questions that I honestly need to start Heir of Novron. I need to see what happens to Arista, Hadrian, Royce, Gwen (I think she dies), and Modina. Such a wonderful series.

The Riyria Revelations remains one of my favorite popcorn fantasy series. They're not perfect books with their simplistic good and evil morality as well as somewhat generic fantasy setting but they're fun. The characters are likable, the dialogue is sharp, and the world-building (while not terribly original) is consistent as well as used intelligently. If I were to describe it, I'd probably say it's what would happen if you combined Fritz Leiber's Lankhmar series with some of the more serious Discworld books. The premise of the books is Hadrian and Royce are two good-natured thieves,

one a warrior while the other being an assassin, who only rarely get a chance to rob bad guys. In the last book, they successfully prevented the assassination of a newly crowned king as well as accidentally got a heroic farm girl crowned empress of the continent. Rise of Empire begins with Hadrian having decided he's well and truly sick of being a thief. Wanting to retire and take up a more honest trade, Royce is severely annoyed as he doesn't believe such a thing exists. Hadrian has been affected by the amount of good they accomplished while Royce is convinced it was a bad decision to do the right thing as he (correctly) believes it's habit forming. Hadrian gets his chance to do something great, though, when Arista the Princess of Melengar decides she needs the thieves to help her protect her kingdom from annexation. Things aren't going well for the continent as Thrace, the aforementioned heroic peasant girl, has been reduced to a catatonic state by her experiences in the previous book. Propped up as the Empress solely to serve as a figurehead, the newly-renamed Empress Modina is used to justify wars of conquest as well as murderous purges of elves. Arista's homeland is one of the few nations choosing to resist the new empire but it cannot hope to stand against the might of the corrupt conquest-hungry Empire. While Hadrian and Royce are the stars of the book, I enjoyed the sections of the book relating to Princess Arista and Empress Modina most (or more precisely, the latter's secretary). Princess Arista has been proclaimed a witch by the mostly magic-less world and this has resulted in her becoming hated throughout the continent. Empress Modina, by contrast, has a story arc related to slowly regaining her sanity while being unwittingly the center of an evil conspiracy. The first half of the book, which is a compilation of the novels Nyphron Rising and The Emerald Storm, deals with a lot of extremely entertaining scenes as we watch the Empire expand its dominions. The Emerald Storm was less enjoyable as it dealt with a somewhat uncomfortably Darkest Africa stereotype of a goblin-cultured race of humans but still extremely well-written. My favorites parts of the book are a visit to the only university left on the continent as well as a civil uprising against the Empire's tyranny. In conclusion, Michael J. Sullivan's Riyria series is highly entertaining. Those who prefer more edgy or original setting elements won't be impressed but it's impressive comic timing as well as fun characters more than make up for it. This volume maintains the same level of excellence as the previous ones and leads directly into the finale Heir of Novron.9/10

Absolutely love this series and will be sharing it with my friends. It's classic fantasy done in a classy way, and the characters are very intricate and hilarious together. Furthermore, this series had some very uplifting themes, from forgiveness to celebrating diversity to avoiding stereotypes. Women and minorities play important roles, and even the "villains" are seen from all angles. It's really a wonderful

story.

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