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MEDIA RELEASE

THE TRAITOR'S EMPIRE

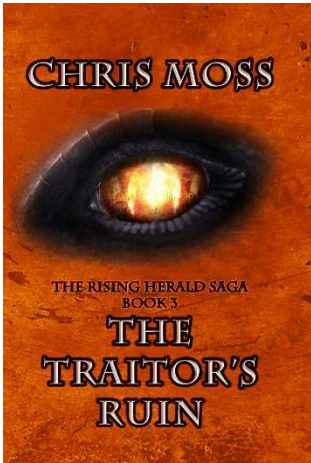
Written by
Chris Moss

Release Date: March 07, 2023

Size & Format: 6x9 322 pages / \$20.99

ISBN 978-1-948266-88-8 /Trade Paper

ISBN: 978-1-948266-89-5 /E-Pub



The Traitor's Ruin concludes the thrilling story of the Rising Herald Saga.

Kestel and Harpalus race to take control of the Citadel army, who are on a rampage after the treacherous deaths of Dio and Bastion – but after being imprisoned and humiliated by his own people, Kestel may be more than happy to watch his city burn.

Meanwhile, Eriwasteg struggles to contain the Baavghir's own ambitions for conquest as her companion Melia succumbs to Bloodwyne withdrawal. With a city on the brink, scores will be settled and secrets will be dragged into the light – but with the Hydra God stirring, will it be enough?

Western Australian author Chris Moss proudly presents his latest novel in the acclaimed Rising Herald Saga, a tale of prophets, monsters, and nations standing on the precipice of war. Chris Moss, an award-winning author and professional archaeologist, draws inspiration from history, mythology, and his travels through Australia, Britain, Italy and Russia to emerge as a new voice in Fantasy fiction. When not at work he enjoys board games, bad dad jokes and dancing around the house with his wife and three daughters.

Preorders for this well crafted story are now available through the
Mystic Publishers website at www.mysticpublishersinc.com until released to the public.

For ordering and availability contact:

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About NewLink Publishing:

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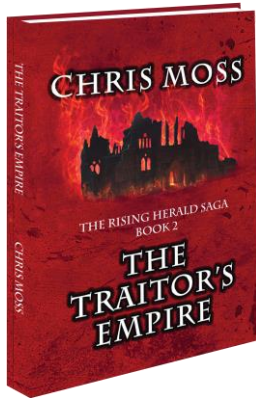
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Size & Format: 6x9 322 pages / \$20.99

ISBN 978-1-948266-58-1 / Trade Paper

ISBN: 978-1-948266-81-9 / E-Pub



The Traitor's Empire continues the thrilling story of the Rising Herald Saga. After the death of the Goddess Maal and Musmahu, Kestel and Eriwasteg must contend with the intrigues of Maal's court to take control of the Sacred Realm, but their different cultures, and Kestel's growing visions of the Capital's destruction, put them both at risk.

Julia, now Spymistress of the Citadel after murdering her protégé Harpalus, must protect the Citadel's Prelates from a new Vutai agent while dealing with her own crippling guilt. Meanwhile, General Marcus Dio must forge a combined army from the remnants of a bitter civil war, but his own secrets threaten to upset the Citadel's push to retake their ancestral homeland.

With Citadel and Baavghir armies converging on the Capital, will Kestel be able to command an empire on the brink?

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THE TRAITOR'S RELIQUARY

Written by

Chris Moss

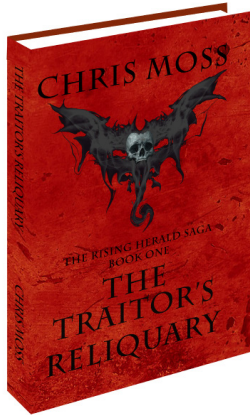
Release Date: December 1, 2020

Size & Format: 6x9

322 pages / \$17.99

ISBN 978-1-948266-68-0 /Trade Paper

ISBN: 978-1-948266-69-7 /E-Pub



The Traitor's Reliquary is a tale of conflict between cultures betrayed by the Goddess Lychra Maal. The guardsman Kestel is sacrificed to an immortal but saved by a group of disgraced soldiers. Swept up into a plot of gods, monsters and angels, he attempts to overthrow the ruler he once served.

The island of Caelbor is wracked with racial tensions between the island's original inhabitants and war refugees. Harpalus, Spymaster for the clerical body known as the Citadel, must enlist his old mentor as well as a former assassin to thwart a rebellion threatening to tear Caelbor apart. Will Harpalus succeed in stopping the plot, or will he be torn apart by old scores left unsettled?

Hailing from Western Australia, author Chris Moss releases his debut novel. **The Traitor's Reliquary** is about gods, monsters, and three cultures on the brink of war. Australian author Chris Moss and Mystic Publishers are excited to present the first story in a stunning new Fantasy Series, which traces the story of Kestel, betrayed former guardsman of the immortal goddess Lychra Maal, and Harpalus, Spymaster to the clerical ruling body struggling against Maal's rule.

Chris Moss, an award-winning author and professional archaeologist, has worked with historical groups, Aboriginal cultural sites, and currently spends his days wandering the bush, tracking down old ruins. Inspired by a chance meeting with Raymond E Feist, **The Traitor's Reliquary** draws on Chris's broad knowledge of cultural history and travels through Australia, Britain, Italy and Russia.

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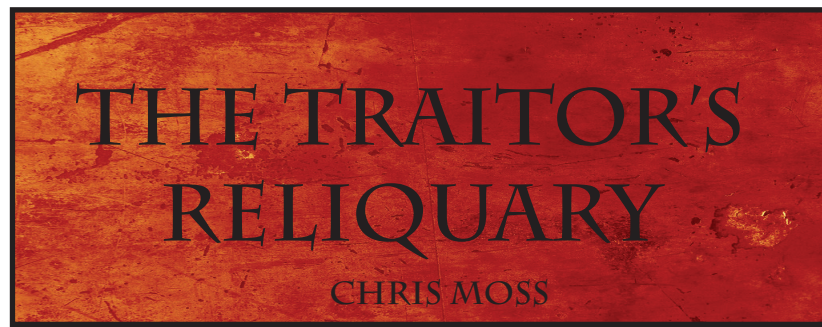
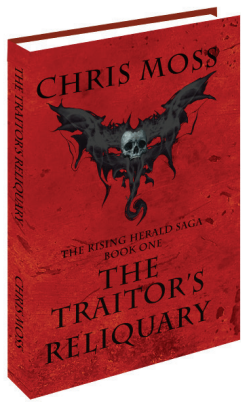
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Sample Q&A

Q. What books have most influenced your life?

A. That's a tough question! My sisters and I grew up surrounded by fantasy and sci-fi novels, usually from the "big three", David Eddings, Terry Brooks and Raymond E. Feist. I would have to say the most influential book in terms of my writing style would have to be fellow Australian fantasy author Ian Irvine's Shadow of the Glass and Feist's classic Silverthorn.

Q. I understand Feist inspired the completion of *The Traitor's Reliquary*.

*A. After years of writing, editing and endless rejection letters, I had all but given up. My wife convinced me to attend a Meet the Author's session at a Perth pop culture convention, focusing on Epic Writing. Special guest, Raymond E. Feist. After his session, while hanging around with some friends, Raymond E. Feist appeared out of the crowd to chat about writing! He told me a little about first starting out, and how after all these years he still felt like the new guy in the room. That night I picked up *The Traitor's Reliquary* and started another round of edits and rewrites, and here we are!*

Q. How do you develop your plots and characters?

A. The characters in my books tend to be wonderfully flawed. The way they help, hurt or learn from each other gives a very "natural" development. As for the plots, I try and balance how culture acts on their beliefs and to change the culture around them. As part of my career as an archaeologist I researched historic crime in my state's largest city for my villain's. Reading through pages of criminal testimony it was intriguing to write a villain destroying an entire culture by fanning racial tensions to reach their goals.

Q. What real-life inspirations did you draw from for the worldbuilding within your book?

A. A lot of the descriptions for the cities in this story came from my experiences with the ruins, cathedrals and catacombs of Rome, estates of Moscow, as well as the mining camps in the Australian outback.

Q. What was the hardest part of writing this book?

A. Learning both discipline and humility! Planning out the characters and plot was a lot of fun, but after that comes the real work of actually writing the damn thing out.

Q. I understand you're an archaeologist – has this influenced your writing?

*A. I think the greatest influence on my writing from modern archaeology is the understanding that each cultural group comes loaded with their own history, relationships and outlook. In *The Traitor's Reliquary*, I've tried to convey that each cultural group, even the "villains" of the story, are all heroes in their own eyes.*

Q. What are you planning for future projects?

*A. We've just scratched the surface of *The Traitor's Reliquary* universe. I plan to write stories from every part of this world's timeline. I haven't yet made up my mind if the readers will be transported forward to the next evolution on this world, or go back to explore the beginnings of each race. I also plan to branch out into historical fiction. My work has shown me that there are some incredible untold stories passed over in formal histories, and I'd love to give them a voice.*

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