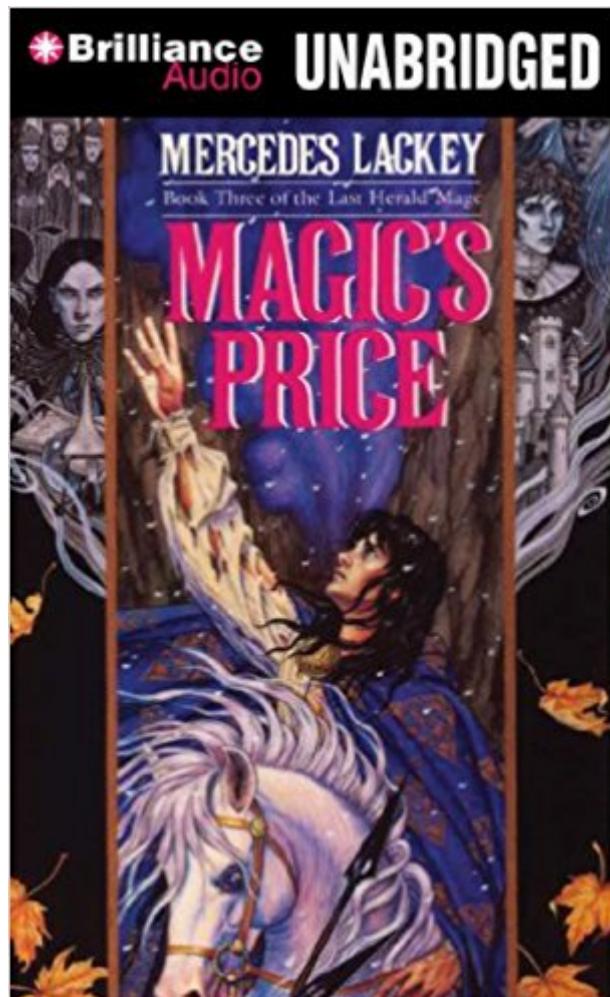


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# Magic's Price (The Last Herald-Mage)



## **Synopsis**

Valdemarâ •the once-peaceful kingdom protected by the magic of its Herlad-Magesâ •is now besieged on all fronts. The king lies near death, the neighboring land of Karse wages a relentless war against Valdemar, and the forces led by a master of dark forbidden magic are massing to strike the final devastating blow against the kingdom. And Vanyel, the most powerful Herald-Mage Valdemar has ever known, has become the primary target of the evil which is reaching out to poison all the land. With all his fellow mages slain, Vanyel alone remains to defend his people against the dark masterâ ™s army. Yet a dream vision has revealed to Vanyel the fate which awaits should he and his Companion Yfandes take up the dark masterâ ™s challenge. And if either Vanyel or Yfandes falters, the dream will become a horrifying reality in which both Valdemar and its last Herlad-Mage must pay the ultimate price. . . .

## **Book Information**

Series: The Last Herald-Mage (Book 3)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (February 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1480591793

ISBN-13: 978-1480591790

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsâ ¤ See all reviewsâ ¤ (167 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,444,242 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 inâ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > Lackey, Mercedes #2675 inâ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy #10845 inâ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## **Customer Reviews**

I don't think I've cried over a book in years, that all changed when I picked up "Magic's Pawn" I believe I got the lump in the throat four times with that book! I read the first two in days, but I hesitated on the third. I just didn't want this trilogy to end! Besides a friend told me bluntly: "If you cried over the first, the third will knock you flat." But all of you who has read this series know the pull of it. Gods! It was fantastic! Vanyel, Savil, the army that is their family have all grown so much since the begining (I did how ever miss Jerivis, he grew on me in Magic's Promise) And some old favorites make a guest spot, The Hawkbrothers among them! This was the first set of Lackey's books I've

read so I didn't accept Stefen right off (I'm an old romantic and there's no one for Vanyel except Tylendel) but because of one thing or another (not telling your gonna have to read) I loved him by the middle of the book. Vanyel is an enigma, and the character plays with the emotions so well. One second you understand why he's building walls, the next you want to beat him over the head and tell him to stop being such a jerk! (of course Yfandes will do that for you) but that's one of the reasons why I love him! In so many ways Vanyel is an unlikely hero, he tries to make his head drown out his heart, but he's ruled by his emotions, even if he \*doesn't\* want to listen to them, and that leads to confusion (which is his companion as much as Yfandes) and then to doubt. Vanyel is rarely sure of himself, no matter how he sounds. He loses his temper, he does stupid things (often many in a row) He's human You just don't see that very much in Fantasy heroes.

"Magic's Price" is a great book. Don't let anyone fool you regarding Ms. Lackey's writing competence; anyone who can weave so many subplots together, while showing flawed, real people making mistake-laden choices and having to live with the consequences, is a good writer. I think Ms. Lackey is an outstanding writer. I had a very long review written; not sure if it went anywhere. I really don't want to write the same review again, so let me try and sum up. Other folks have gone over the plot; I'd just like to say these things: Vanyel's biggest strength is his humanity. The fact he is afraid to love Stefan after so many years of being alone is very realistic. Also, the fact that Stefan had to try again and again and again to get Vanyel to open up to him was also realistic. Anyone throwing this book to the side because it features a gay couple is really missing out. It's a fantastic, highly emotional book that deals with complex issues in a realistic fashion. I highly disagree with anyone who thinks that because Vanyel has a lot of inner monologue and can't seem to make up his mind very quickly, he's not a good character. He's a great character; yes, he's flawed, but so what? It makes him more believable overall. Not only that, I find it more than a bit sexist to say that Ms. Lackey's character shouldn't be so flawed, when George R.R. Martin is currently being revered for setting up a bunch of totally flawed "heroes" and truly revolting "villains" with semi-hearts-of-gold. Why is it OK for Martin but not for Ms. Lackey? Makes no sense to me. Anyway, buy this book; it's one of the best books Ms.

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