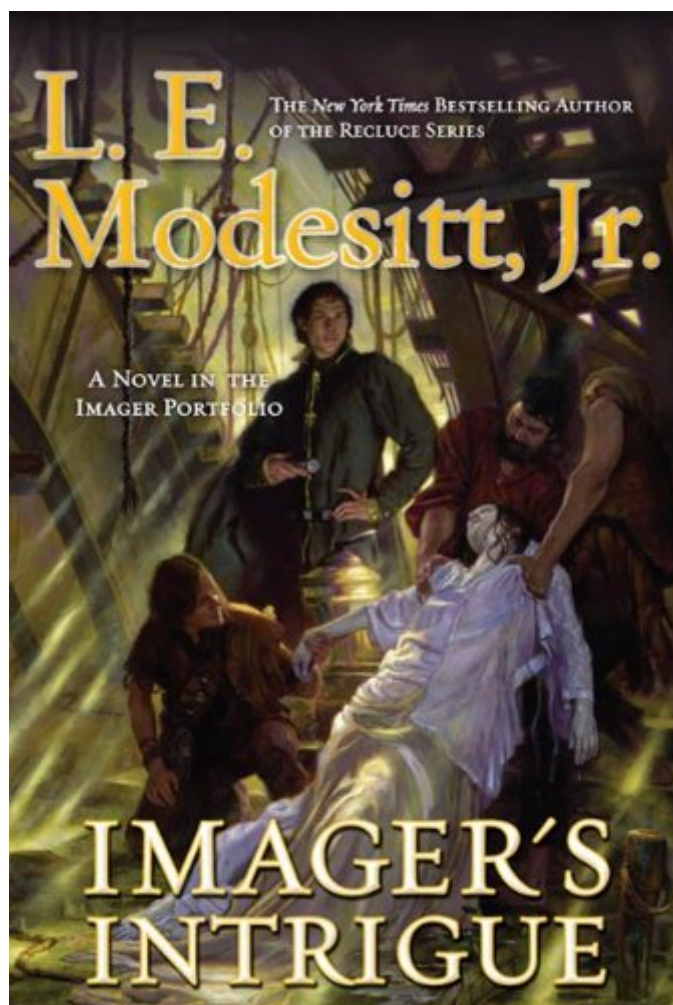


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Imager's Intrigue: The Third Book Of The Imager Portfolio



Synopsis

“Modesitt’s work shines with engrossing characters, terrific plotting, and realistic world-building.” —RT Book Reviews Rhenn has a wife and a young child, and a solid career as an imager. But he has made more than one enemy during his journey from apprentice painter to master imager, and even his great powers won’t allow him to escape his past. Imager Portfolio is a magical world from the bestselling author of the Saga of Recluce. Imagers are the few in the entire world of Terahnar who can visualize things and make them real. They live separately from the rest of society because of their abilities, which make them both feared and vulnerable. Another innovative and enchanting series, it spans centuries and millennia in the refreshing Modesitt fashion that will delight his fans. The Imager Portfolio #1 Imager / #2 Imager’s Challenge / #3 Imager’s Intrigue / #4 Scholar / #5 Princeps / #6 Imager’s Battalion / #7 Antiagon Fire / #8 Rex Regis / #9 Madness in Solidar / #10 Treachery’s Tools / #11 Assassin’s Price (forthcoming) Other series by this author: The Saga of Recluce The Corean Chronicles The Spellsong Cycle The Ghost Books The Ecolitan Matter At the Publisher’s request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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Customer Reviews

I love Modesitt's writing. His Imager series continues a prevalent theme of what is the ethical use of power. His societies and worlds are complex and - like our own - filled with people with varying degrees of moral fiber and understanding and selfishness or selflessness. The special powers that any group of people may have require much thought about their proper use, individually and in society as a whole. The life experiences and pressures the protagonists live through exercise their ideals and pragmatic solutions to the fullest. This book is the third in the first 3 Imager books and the most recent in terms of historical timeline in this fantasy world.

The story of Rhenntyl D'Imagisle draws to a close in this third book of the Imager Portfolio. The first novel detailed how Rhenn came to be an Imager and how he fell in love with Seliora, and the second novel displayed Rhenn's continued rise to power as he struggled to help improve Solidar one disaster at a time. In this third novel, Rhenn continues his work as a Civic Patrol Captain until one day he is abruptly needed at the Collegium when the two more powerful Imagerys are killed during a bombardment of the Senior Maitre's dwellings. Rhenn and his family survive to find the world a lot more complicated and even more dangerous. Not only does Rhenn need to learn quickly to best fill his new position at the Collegium, but he has to do this while investigating the bombardments, the increasing number of Ferran agents, and treachery from within Solidar. This third novel is the most action packed of them all, and shows the continued development of Rhenn's powers as well as his quiet action as a Civic Patrol Captain. The twists and turns in the storyline will keep you guessing as to the final outcome. Even though you know deep down that everything will end up well in the end, the roadbumps along the way can be both amusing and terrifying. The author does a great job showing both how power can corrupt as well as the true faces of the people who pledge their lives to keep the country safe.

I have read the Imager series (including Rex Regis) multiple times. With each reading my admiration for Mr Modesitt's writing increases. This book represents the most complex plot(s) of the series in the form of multiple interwoven and ultimately interconnected streams of action, schemes, schemers, and evidence. The action in all of his books is non stop and in this one is over the top. Here is where he succeeds where authors such as David Weber become bogged down in inane

political minutiae. My greatest fear is that the series has ended with Rex Regis although there seems to be the possibility in the time period of Bovaria's consolidation under Res C.

I'm a confirmed Modesitt reader; he is one of the few writers that I reread with pleasure. I appreciated this final book in the Rhenntyl series for its depiction of a now mature and powerful young man taking his destined place as a forceful mover and shaker in the Solidar world. Modesitt's characters are eminently engaging, with some depth to them. His plots are fascinating, and very well thought out. While some may criticize his attention to detail I find that, and his measured voice and pacing, a real pleasure. I could do, as always with Modesitt, with a bit less preaching/philosophizing, but that's easily enough skimmed over if it approaches being boring. If I could give 4.5 stars I would.

I'm torn between a 3 and a 4 star review, but ultimately settling on a 3. Sorry Mr. Modesitt :(The book itself was fine, and on its own probably wouldn't be that bad. But it really does not live up to the two preceding works. In books 1 and 2, the characters were far more interesting and flexible, the setting more deeply explored, the whole fabric just more satisfying. One thing I really liked about the first two was how he gave name and description to most of the foods. It was interesting, gave more depth to the work, exemplified the cultural stew that is L'Excelsis, and gave me cause to research these culinary works. I didn't realize how much I liked that part until I found it COMPLETELY missing from "Intrigue". There was very little character development. Yes, I understand that the primary characters are adults now with set lives and so on. That doesn't mean they can't interact and grow. The romance between Rhenn and Seliora more or less just devolved into the superficial workings of any other upper middle-class couple. Yawn. I no longer cared about their relationship. Even Rhenn's family has more or less been removed from the setting. He makes little use of character relationships established in the preceding works, except for the near sycophantic fawning of Iryela. It's only been 5 years folks, with Rhenn maintaining the same job and social standing as at the end of "Challenge". And then the plot. Oh god, the plot. I know it's called "Imager's Intrigue", and the aim was for lots of secretive goings-on and sinister plots.. However, as I mentioned in my review for "Challenge", it felt like trying to walk through a physically thick fog. You couldn't see where it was going, there was really no hinting to the reader of what's going on, it seemed like it was constantly changing with a hundred unrelated events which, at the very end, Rhenn says "This is how they fit together" with little other visible logic to dictate it. Not to mention a whole bunch of, "This stuff's important! It's involved with the sinister threat and -- oops, nevermind, I took care of it and it was

unrelated. Sorry!" A couple large points of the super-sinister-over-arching-plot were even left completely unresolved at the end. We had a heroic battle and Rhenn did some awesome covert stuff, so yay, all's well! Forget the fact that 2 other nations are at war and one of them is still behind one of the darker threats to the society but.. Heroes! ..Sigh..Compared to the mass of writing on the market today, "Intrigue" does stand above, but that has more to do with Modesitt's skill as an author than the book itself. I'm currently reading a contemporary novel of intrigue and darkness set in a foreign environment which, cool setting and neat plot aside, compared to reading Modesitt, feels like Dick & Jane. "Intrigue" was just, on the whole, an unsatisfying work.

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