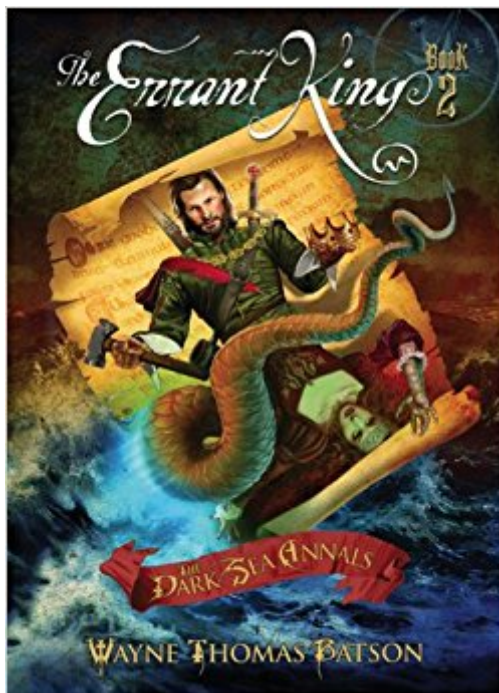


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The Errant King (The Dark Sea Annals)



Synopsis

Deep in the caves of the distant Hinderlands, an ancient menace stirs. Townsfolk shudder at violent memories of The Red Queen and even dare to whisper the name Raudrim. At the same time, word comes to Alastair that Cythraul has at last resurfaced, seeking a devastating weapon in the ruins of Grayvalon. Blood-soaked clues lead Alastair into a confrontation from which only one warrior will return alive. Meanwhile in Anglinore, young Lochlan Stormgarden, the new High King of Myriad, leaves the pomp and politics of the throne once too often. While blending in with the people of his kingdom, Loch suddenly realizes that he's put them all at risk. The fate of his new found love Arianna, his best friend Telwyn, his family, and indeed the world of Myriad all depend on the decisions of the errant king.

About THE Æ DARK Æ SEA ANNALS series: A noble king discovers what happens when he leaves a door open for evil. The disastrous consequences impact generations, leaving the throne of Anglinore to a wicked despot, the kingdom in ruins, and Aravel's son Loch in exile. To throw down the vile new authority, Loch will need to find the fabled Halfainin and raise a new army from a world of reluctant citizens. Together with his archer friend Ariana, Loch will face adventures that span the world of Myriad, creatures that defy imagination, and choices great and terrible—all these recorded in The Dark Sea Annals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wayne Thomas Batson was born in Seabrook, MD in 1968. During the early years he tortured his older brothers and sisters, doing those things that only younger siblings can do to get on your nerves. Wayne attended Gabriel Duval Senior High School and wrote this for his yearbook. During his high school and early college years, he played lead guitar for a rock band called "Contagious." They were catchy but apparently not enough to get a record deal. Having completed the rigorous Holmes English Literature Curriculum, he graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1991. In 1996, he received his first graduate degree in counseling. He has continued his studies with 36 credit hours of graduate-level reading courses. Having spent the last fifteen years teaching Reading and English to middle school students, Wayne pioneered the active instruction of strategic reading in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and has written Reading and English curricula for three public school districts in the state. Wayne lives in Eldersburg with his family. Besides dividing his time between family, teaching, and writing, he likes to read, golf, play PS2, travel to the beach, play electric guitar, and create 3D artwork.

I have always been a fan of Wayne Thomas Batson I love how he creates beautiful expansive worlds. And how he mixes theology into it. his characters are all amazingly developed and are not stationary at all. The Errant King starts off twenty years after the events of the sword in the stars Loch has become high king and everyone is enjoying a peace that is unparalleled but Loch is tired of being cooped up inside the castle so he makes an agreement with Shepherd Sebastian he will be allowed to leave the castle under a false identity only as long as it doesn't interfere with his rule of Arival. During his various trips he finds happiness in interacting with his subjects. But all is not well Cythraul who we presumed was dead has been sowing the seeds for Morlans return and has woken one of the most destructive creatures in the world. In the mean time Alister Coldhallow is happily married to Abigail but Abigail has been played by dreams of Cythraul so the Ice Man goes on the hunt followed by Telwyn. All of this leads up to the explosive ending which will leave everyone wondering what will happen next I highly recommend this book for any fantasy writer and I whole-heartedly recommend all of his books

Twenty years after the end of The Sword in the Stars, an ancient evil stirs in Myriad. King Aravel is long dead, leaving the throne to his wife Queen Maren, and his son Lochlan, who is about to be crowned High King of Myriad. There just one problem, Loch isn't quite sure that he wants to be King. Meanwhile, rumors abound. Cythraul, Morlan's chief assassin, seems to have returned from

the dead. Alistair and Telwyn set off on a perilous journey to discover the truth and end the villain once and for all. But an even graver danger threatens Myriad. With Loch absent experimenting with a life of errantry and Alistair and Telwyn distracted on the hunt, the time is ripe for invasion. Evil descends on Myriad in greater numbers than ever before. Will the people of Myriad be able to survive the terrors approaching from all sides? Whew! I have to start off by saying that *The Errant King* is now my favorite Batson book, topping *The Door Within* Trilogy, the *Pirate* series, the *Berinfell Prophecies*, and even *The Sword in the Stars*. In *The Errant King*, Wayne Thomas Batson spins a masterful tale filled with excitement, adventure, danger, and truly creepy villains with plenty of humor sprinkled on the side. *The Errant King* is the second book in the *Dark Sea Annals* series, an epic story that will span seven books ere it reaches the conclusion. In this second book, Batson takes his writing to a whole new level, interweaving dozens of intricate plot lines, some carrying over from *The Sword in the Stars*, others reaching on into the next books. Because of the epic plot however, you don't want to read *The Errant King* without reading *The Sword in the Stars* first. I felt like I really connected with all of the characters - especially Loch, Telwyn, Ariana, Fred. And of course Alistair and Abbagaël. (As a side note, I had heard so many people talking about Fred, I couldn't wait to read the book to find out what it was all about. All I can tell you is that Fred is one of the most creative and imaginative characters I've met thus far. Definitely worth reading if only to find out who Fred is.) There are plenty of allegorical and Christian themes woven skillfully throughout the entire framework of the book. It's another one of those books that, as I call it, echoes eternity. The largest difficulty I had with the book was when two characters fell in love in less than a week. It seemed somewhat ridiculous, but did not detract too much from the story. Others have remarked negatively on the inclusion of a scene where the young King Loch has to deal with the overtly flirtatious advances of a young woman. However, I think the scene was well handled and added greatly to Loch's character as well as providing a good lesson for teens reading the story. Overall, *The Errant King* was a tremendous and captivating read. Due to the violent battles and the somewhat gory nature of the descriptions as well as some extremely creepy villains, I would recommend *The Errant King* for a slightly older reader, around 14+. If you're looking for a high action fantasy adventure, than the *Errant King* belongs on your list!

Storyline - King Lochland is overwhelmed by the work of the kingdom of Myriad. So he goes out and lives among his people, taking up new trades to blend with the town's folk. But old and new enemies are rising up and causing destruction and heart ache wherever they go. Hinterlanders, who live on the other side of the mountains, have an old queen, known as the Red Queen, returns, worse now

than she was before. Now part dragon, she rains fire on whoever rebels against her. Alistair and Telwyn go off looking for Cetheral when Abbageal's dreams are haunted by him. But a worst evil is coming from the Dark Sea. Can this evil be turned away? Will the Halfainin be found and be called forth? Personal Opinion - Good but perhaps too many characters to follow. Don't get me wrong, the characters were great and diverse, and I enjoyed them very much. But, because of so many character, it seemed a little long. Besides that, the story lines were intriguing and new beings were introduced as well as characters I hope to see more of. The Hinterland people were so interesting and fun (they reminded me a bit of Hobbits). I am curious as to how some inhabitants of the land have fared after the terrible battles. The story was good and is leading up to more, dangerous adventures for the next books in the series. So many questions need to answered with the ending of this book.

Adventure, monsters, legends, kings, evil twins, a prince in disguise and a plot to take over the world. Oh, and of course the most charming, handsome, and amazing man in fantasy. The Errant King takes you on a journey you won't forget, bringing back loved characters from Sword in the Stars and weaving a loosely allegorical story of love, sacrifice and adventure. Deep in the caves of the distant Hinderlands, an ancient menace stirs. Townsfolk shudder at violent memories of The Red Queen and even dare to whisper the name Raudrim. At the same time, word comes to Alastair that Cythraul (the blood thirsty assassin) has at last resurfaced, seeking a devastating weapon in the ruins of Grayvalon. Blood-soaked clues lead Alastair into a confrontation from which only one warrior will return alive. Meanwhile in Anglinore, young Lochlan Stormgarden (the most charming, handsome and amazing man) the new High King of Myriad, leaves the pomp and politics of the throne once too often. While blending in with the people of his kingdom, Loch suddenly realizes that he's put them all at risk. The fate of his new found love, his best friend, his family, and indeed the world of Myriad all depend on the decisions of the errant king. With an ending that will leave you begging for the next book, The Errant King is a book I would recommend to anyone!

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