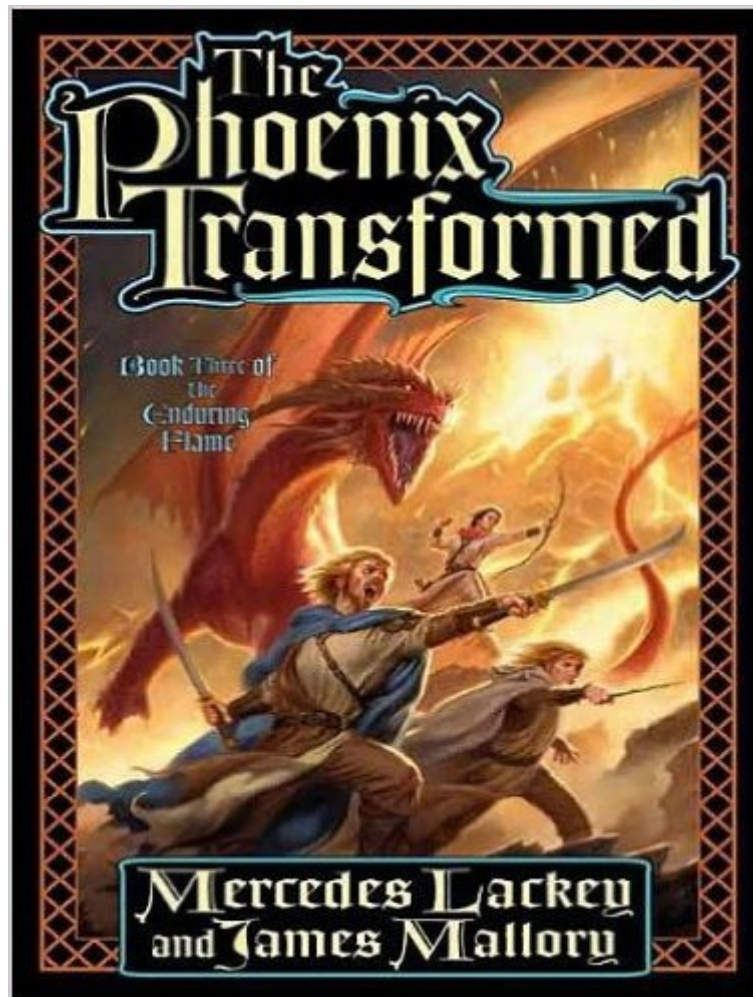


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# The Phoenix Transformed: Book Three Of The Enduring Flame



## Synopsis

In the Enduring Flame Trilogy, Mercedes Lackey and James Mallory have given audiences a new view of the complex and fascinating world they originally created for the Obsidian Trilogy. Jumping ahead one thousand years in time, Lackey and Mallory have told the compelling story of Harrier Gillain, the first Knight-Mage in a thousand years; Tiercel Rolfort, the first High Mage in hundreds of years; and Shaiara, the young leader of a desert tribe who takes both boys under her wing but has a special affection for Harrier. These three young people are their world's main defense against the evil called up by the rogue Wild Mage Bisochim. Bisochim's conviction that he was restoring the balance was shattered the moment Ahairan took her first breath. Now, in *The Phoenix Transformed*, Bisochim joins forces with Harrier and Tiercel, and the three mages search desperately for a way to destroy Ahairan as she sends her magical forces against them and the desert nomads under their protection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed the first two books- picking them up without having read the Obsidian trilogy, and I fell in love with the story which showed real promise and potential to be a great epic. The second book lagged a little bit insofar as character development went, but I figured "hey, it's the second book in the trilogy, it's obviously going to get better!" Unfortunately that's not what happened. What we got was Harrier being gruff and grudgingly accepting of responsibility, Tiercel endlessly complaining, no Ancaladar until the last few pages, an uninspired evil villain, and endless desert

trekking. To be completely honest, reading about a group of desert nomads who struggle across an unforgiving desert could be interesting- but not for 500 pages where the 'trials and tribulations' are wash, rinse, and repeat. The group of adventurers are plagued by a series of the awakened demon Ahirain's minions. Over. And over. And over again, with little to no variation in battle sequences. There was also no progression on the villain's side! The great demon Ahirain wanted to bring back the endarkened, that is what had been hinted at in the first two books and would certainly have made for some really awesome plot. But all she does is make ugly versions of desert animals and dead people and send them to attack our protagonists in order to impress some remnant of an ancient civilization. Very scary. Whenever the book actually showed promise- IE Servasse taking Bisochim and Tiercel to the Elf lands to get help, which could have opened up new ideas and subsequent plot derivations- Not to mention a much desired break from the desert! But no. Servasse gets her wing eaten and so they have to go back to the main group.

So far, I have not felt the need to review a book on this site. But this book is so incredibly awful that I felt I needed to give warning to prospective buyers. Let me start off by saying that I love the Obsidian Trilogy. The characters, both good and evil, are fully fleshed out and thoroughly engaging; the story is urgent and engrossing. As a result, I had high hopes for the Enduring Flame. My disappointment is all the deeper for these misguided hopes. 'The Phoenix Unchained,' I will admit, is a fun read. 'The Phoenix Endangered' stumbles a bit, but the attacks on the iteru-cities by Bisochim's brainwashed Isvaieni pull it out of the doldrums. This book, however, is equal parts boring and obnoxious. Harrier and Tiercel read like parodies of the archetypes off which they've been based. The former constantly sticks his foot in his mouth and treats like crap anyone with whom he disagrees; the latter whines and moans like the worst of over-privileged teenagers. I couldn't relate to, identify, or bring myself to care about either of them. Furthermore, Harrier's "relationship" with Shaiara feels tacked-on and inauthentic. They had a single endearing moment at the end of 'The Phoenix Endangered.' Forgive me, Lackey and Mallory, but that's not nearly enough to make me believe that they're "in love." The danger is a joke. Oh no, a lone demon is terrorizing a bunch of people in the desert! How scary! No other race in the entire world gives a crap about what's happening (what a nice cop-out with the elves, there. "Oh, Tiercel is supposed to save us all, so we aren't going to get involved! We're long-lived and move slowly and stuff! La la la!

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