

The Mageborn traitors

The second volume of the Exiles series pits sister against sister in a battle of magic power and long-held family secrets. For generations the Mage Guardians and the Lords of Malerris have waged a secret war against one another—and the world of Lenfell has paid the price. **The Mageborn traitors tv** And though the Mage Guardians came close to being destroyed in the last confrontation the Malerrisi were ultimately forced to withdraw relinquishing much of the control they had gained. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Glenin former First Daughter of Ambrai is determined to have her revenge and regain her power plotting the ruin of her sisters Sarra Councillor of Sheve and Caillet the new Mage Capital while the Malerrisi—under Glenin's leadership—once again begin weaving a web with which to entangle their entire world. **The Mageborn traitorous 8** And even as Caillet's dream of a restored Mage Hall becomes a reality and Sarra's legal reforms offer the hope of greater prosperity and equality for all people Glenin prepares to strike at the very heart of both her sisters' power. **The Mageborn traitorous def** She has been nominated for a Locus award on three separate occasions: in 1989 for Dragon Prince (in the first novel category) in 1994 for Skybowl (in the fantasy novel category) and again in 1995 for Ruins of Ambrai (in the fantasy novel category). **The Mageborn traitorously** I am giving this book 4 stars not because it's bad (it's actually one of the best Melanie Rawn ever wrote in my opinion) but because after twenty-five years we're still waiting for her to finish and publish the third book in the trilogy The Capital's Tower. **The Mageborn traitors tv** Many of the pacing issues I took issue with as well as some of the world building complexity are much more approachable in this outing while still maintaining a rich setting and complex political narrative. **The Mageborn traitors tv** It leapfrogs a number of years from the end of Ruins of Ambrai to advance the overall story but does a good job of explaining what happens in those intervening years - particularly as society begins a push toward men's equity (remember the society is matriarchal in this series flipping the power script most people are familiar with). **The Mageborn traitorousness** Don't get me wrong moments of self-doubt are perfectly fine and very humanizing but Rawn generally has issues balancing them with an innate hubris in characters who are phenomenally rich powerful politically connected and (oh yes dear prospective reader) handsome/gorgeous. **The Mageborn traitorous 8** Definitely worth the read if you're prepared for the heartbreak of knowing the series will probably never be finished at this point despite Rawn saying for years that she would do it. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** 9780330344203 I want to give this five stars but since this is currently the last book and it ends unresolved and the third book will likely never come out I'm only handing out 4 stars. **The Mageborn traitorous def** Collan's mostly off-screen death (or is he?) near the end of the book shows that he has learned about his true self the Wards wiped away but doesn't tell/show the reader what that origin is. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** And then the still-undercover evil one kills what looks to be three-fourths of the remaining Guardian Mages and does she act then? NO! She then knowingly and with very little preparation walks right into Glenin's trap. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Of COURSE she's going to unmask you you idiot - you and Caillet! You're the politician you're the one who should have seen this coming! Ugh! As for Glenin? She is a vicious nasty conceited creature who executes a rather brilliant plan perfectly. **The Mageborn traitorous vs** Who cares that it was Taigan holding the sword? Why the hell would Caillet stop her from finishing him? Why would she remotely imply that Taigan shouldn't kill him because she'd feel - what guilt for it afterwards? It's insane he just successfully plotted to kill her dad! He's a wildly powerful mage who wants to kill some of your family and sexually enslave the rest and he's standing there defenseless for a few moments. **The Mageborn traitors tv** Stab him! Lop off an arm! He's wiped out almost an entire generation of mages single-handedly and he's going to try to murder you if you don't pin him to the floor with a sword RIGHT NOW. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Bored by the is-he-or-isn't-he-evil game then disgusted by Sarra and Caillet's idiocy then whiplashed by Collan's death (?) then

doubly disgusted by Sarra's political blindside and now I have to sit here and read about Caillet literally preventing her niece from finishing off a mass-murderer because of feeeeeeliings or something. **The Mageborn traitors tv** So Rawn managed to kill off all the children the comic relief the wicked witch and now we're left with Jored who may well be an evil mastermind but I'm quite certain Rawn had a major redemption storyline queued up for him and I'm just not sure I could take that in the third never-to-be-written book. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** There are many valid criticisms to make - for example this review cracks me up because she is not wrong! But there is so much else to love that I'm willing to forgive the bits that don't make sense as well as the scads of little inconsistencies some of which can be chalked up to as-yet-unsolved mystery but some of which are just sloppy writing. **The Mageborn traitorous 8** Given how much love this series has been getting over the years one had to wonder if The Mageborn Traitor raised the bar to another level for the first installment could not possibly warrant that much appreciation. **The Mageborn traitorously** Yet though defeated their ancient enemies the Malerissi have not been destroyed and under the leadership of Caillet's and Sarra's sister Glenin these masters of a darker magic are once again weaving a web with which to entangle the entire world. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** And even as Caillet's dreams of a restored Mage Hall become a reality Glenin prepares to strike at the very heart of both her sisters' power...Worldbuilding is an aspect in which Melanie Rawn habitually shines and to a certain extent that was the case with The Ruins of Ambrai. **The Mageborn traitors** To tell the truth I started skimming through portions of the narrative in which Rawn introduced us to yet another batch of unimportant people early on and kept doing that throughout the book. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Interestingly enough you may recall that I didn't have any problem with the over-the-top matriarchal society and its ramifications until I got to the Selective Index at the end of The Ruins of Ambrai. **The Mageborn traitorously** When I learned the planet was colonized during what is referred to as the Second Great Migration by thousands of mainly Catholic settlers following a 7-year intergalactic voyage things immediately went downhill. **The Mageborn traitorously** Since Rawn doesn't elaborate on any detail that could have explained the shift from a more patriarchal to a decidedly hardcore matriarchal society all of a sudden one of the underpinning elements of the series' backdrop lost most of its credibility and didn't make any sense anymore. **The Mageborn traitorous vs** I mean no matter how emasculated they can be to have male characters become absurdly frivolous fops who care about the colors of wallpapers and fabrics trendy clothing style yada yada yada while women are the only practical ones often felt ridiculous. **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** Until Rawn explains just how Catholic settlers grew into a matriarchal society in which men have basically no rights the entire backdrop of the Exiles trilogy will continue to make little sense. **The Mageborn traitorousness** Caillet now Capital is aware that a powerful Mageborn has been sent to murder her and destroy the Mage Guardians that it is one of two potential suspects and yet she does nothing to unmask him. **The Mageborn traitors** Once more all the info-dumps the poor political intrigue the inexplicable stupidity of the main protagonists and the occasional clumsy execution prevented this book from achieving its full potential. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** The problem with this sequel is that you have to go through the same crap for hundreds of pages only to find out that the ending is somewhat uninspired and not at all satisfying. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Though she has started to write other series I've read that she can't bring herself to work on these books because her late husband played such a huge part in their development of them. **The Mageborn traitors** All it will take is the betrayal of Ambrai's most closely guarded family secret and the right traitor planted in the heart of Caillet's haven. **The Mageborn traitors** A traitor trained to be the nemesis of all Mage Guardians; Glenin's perfect tool of destruction and most loyal follower—her own son. **The Mageborn traitorousness** The Mageborn Traitor (Exiles #2)Melanie Rawn received a BA in history from Scripps College and worked as a teacher and editor before becoming a writer. **The Mageborn traitorously** Stylistically and in terms of narrative The Mageborn Traitor is a superior book in Rawn's crown: **The Mageborn traitorous definition** If there is anything that is really on the weaker side it's the self-doubts of the protagonists: **The Mageborn traitors tv** This is

unfortunately a hallmark of Rawn's writing style and comparable to her villains wanting everything because it's owed to them (insert borderline 1930's supervillain mustache twirl). **The Mageborn traitorous eight** That being said Rawn is trying to address her own weakness in this book, **The Mageborn traitorous def** The protagonist of Caillet has damned good reasons for doubting herself and being hesitant with intimacy. **The Mageborn traitors tv** This is almost kind of ruined with the character of Sarra though who essentially has to be hit with a brick to understand how arrogant and entitled she can be. **The Mageborn traitors** Then there is Glenin who has no qualms about being an arrogant and entitled bitch and revels in it, **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** Things I Like:- Definitely a sociopolitical commentary set in a fantasy setting with complex themes that kept me hooked. **The Mageborn traitorous 8** - Interpersonal interactions between a number of characters are far more plausible and human than they were in the Dragon Prince/Dragon Star trilogies, **The Mageborn traitorously** - Decisions and Actions in Rawn's worlds have consequences but the plot armor for some characters in Mageborn Traitor is definitely less noticeable and better executed: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Probably one of the best series/books I read and it really had an influence on how I approach my own character development. **The Mageborn traitorous vs** 9780330344203 I enjoyed the book but was disappointed by some of the plot twists: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Makes me wonder if those plot twists are the reason she can't get the last book written, **The Mageborn traitors** This is actually a great opportunity for some fan fiction a series with great characters and a great start that just needs an ending: **The Mageborn traitors** 9780330344203 Just as good as the first book if not better, **The Mageborn traitorous vs** Its fine if it don't ever come out I understand the circumstances that the author went through, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** 9780330344203 An excellent followup to the first book but very plainly the middle of a trilogy. **The Mageborn traitors tv** I continue to enjoy Rawn's creation of a matriarchal society in a fantasy setting. **The Mageborn traitors tv** The characters are so rich and the overarching plot unresolved that readers deservedly have begged for completion: **The Mageborn traitorousness** On the good side both books are still complete stories unto themselves with satisfactory if not fully happy endings in both cases. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** SPOILERS: The only two quibbles are these: first and least spoilery is that the question if Lenfell's origins never comes up in this second volume: **The Mageborn traitorous 8** Readers know Lenfell stands for Land Fall and that the Mageborn either migrated from another planet or another dimension. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** I don't know why the clues to this aren't dealt with from the first book, **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** I wonder if that would have been revealed in the third book somehow even if he is dead. **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** Not to mention he's one of the most Han Solo-cum-minstrel type characters I've ever seen in fantasy and I'm gonna miss him. **The Mageborn traitorous vs** 9780330344203



This is really one and a half stars, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Glenin Sarra and Caillet are all grown at the start of this book and they stop being pawns and start actually moving pieces themselves, **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** Okay here's where Rawn lost me: for some unknown incomprehensible reason Sarra and Caillet come over all stupid for plotting purposes: **The Mageborn traitorous definition** And not just for brief moments - for entire stretches of the second

half of the book I was muttering you're supposed to be smarter than that: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Or at least they were smart enough to know when they were doing something dumb especially when that dumb thing is passively shambling along towards a certain trap: **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** And I think this is enough text to hide any spoilers underneath the fold so you've been warned, **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** She knows that one of the most powerful mages in generations has arrived at her school and she knows it's one of two people. **The Mageborn traitors** She doesn't cast any spells she doesn't appear to do much digging or observation she just waits for the evil one to show his hand. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** She seems to be a politician who has no real feel for politics shoving through legislation that is a good idea but not good timing, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** But moreover when Glenin's trap swings shut Sarra appears to have not even considered what the teeth of the trap would be: **The Mageborn traitors tv** And her sisters are so stupid that I have to say Glenin really did deserve to succeed, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Yeah she'd turn into a brutal tyrant but at least she knew how to use politics and magic accurately. **The Mageborn traitors** By the end of the book I truly didn't care which of the boys was Glenin's son. **The Mageborn traitors tv** I'd guessed early on which one he'd be and the amount of red herrings thrown into the mix didn't really divert me so much as bore me, **The Mageborn traitors tv** It felt drawn out needlessly and with Caillet sitting there like a stump it's not like there was any real promise of action: **The Mageborn traitors tv** And lastly lastly lastly: I have no earthly notion why Jored wasn't killed dead where he stood: **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** Kill kill kill! That might have been the last straw for me come to think of it. **The Mageborn traitors tv** And to be honest now that Caillet's lost all of her childhood spark Collan's dead Sarra's, **The Mageborn traitorously** well she's boring frankly and apparently not a very good political mind. **The Mageborn traitorous 8** And Glenin's dead as well of course more by chance than anything else, **The Mageborn traitorous vs** Overall though these books still own a huge piece of my heart and I will never stop loving them, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** 9780330344203 Like many fantasy readers of my generation I was a big fan of Melanie Rawn's Dragon Prince and Dragon Star series back in the 90s. **The Mageborn traitors tv** And when The Ruins of Ambrai first volume in the Exiles trilogy was published in 1994 I bought the hardcover edition as soon as it hit the shelves: **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** Did the same when its sequel The Mageborn Traitor came out: **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Daunted by the proliferation of big fantasy series on the market like I did with many other SFF sequences I decided not to read them until the entire trilogy was done: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Which turned out to be the right decision for as most of you know the final installment The Captal's Tower has yet to see the light: **The Mageborn traitors** But now that Rawn is working on the third volume it was time to give this series a shot. **The Mageborn traitorousness** According to the majority of the author's fans Exiles is by far Rawn's best work to date, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** For that reason I had lofty expectations when I finally sat down to read The Ruins of Ambrai. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Other than her latest high fantasy series The Glass Thorns I've read everything she has written: **The Mageborn traitorousness** Hence knowing what she brings to the dance far be it from me to doubt anyone's claim that this trilogy was Melanie Rawn writing at the top of her game: **The Mageborn traitors tv** And yet as I've mentioned plenty of times expectations have a way to come back and bite you in the ass and this is exactly what happened to me with that book, **The Mageborn traitors** After a confusing beginning and an uninspired few hundred pages I had a feeling that The Ruins of Ambrai would be a total disaster. **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** Absolutely nothing worked for me and this was by far the author's weakest novel that I had ever read, **The Mageborn traitors tv** I should have known better than to throw in the towel for Rawn came through with a captivating engame and an interesting finale: **The Mageborn traitors tv** It was not a complete loss however and I still wanted to read the subsequent volumes to discover what happens next: **The Mageborn traitors tv** But even though it got better toward the end The Ruins of Ambrai was plagued by too many shortcomings to be a satisfying reading experience in its own right: **The Mageborn traitors tv** To my dismay this sequel suffers

from all the flaws that nearly killed its predecessor while adding yet more shortcomings to the list: **The Mageborn traitorousness** And although my expectations were nowhere near as high as they had been for The Ruins of Ambrai this second installment was a major disappointment: **The Mageborn traitorous eight** Now Mage Captal Caillet and her sister Sarra are struggling to rebuild their society politically economically and magically: **The Mageborn traitorous eight** She created an intriguing matriarchal society and was in complete control of the genealogy and the convoluted history of her universe: **The Mageborn traitors** Problem is the presentation of everything left a lot to be desired, **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** As far as the setting was concerned the world and its people truly came alive through the author's vivid prose: **The Mageborn traitorous eight** But most of the information was conveyed to the reader through some massive info-dumps that really bogged down the narrative. **The Mageborn traitorously** Too often the reader was subjected to a barrage of names/family trees/family connections/history. **The Mageborn traitors** This was as confusing as it was overwhelming and made it quite difficult to keep track of everyone's loyalty and where they fit in the greater scheme of things: **The Mageborn traitorous vs** Sadly in that regard things are even worse in The Mageborn Traitor. **The Mageborn traitors** Especially considering that one family in particular breeds like vermin the complicated genealogies are impossible to sort out. **The Mageborn traitors tv** We are introduced to what feels like hundreds of men and women and children most as forgettable as the next: **The Mageborn traitorousness** Martin Steven Erikson and Robert Jordan I'm used to vast casts of characters, **The Mageborn traitors tv** I have no problem keeping track of a huge number of protagonists and secondary characters, **The Mageborn traitorous vs** Trouble is most of those introduced in The Mageborn Traitor have little or no importance as far as the plot is concerned. **The Mageborn traitors** Which means that other than bewildering readers they serve no purpose. **The Mageborn traitors tv** Another disappointment stemmed from the fact that the author doesn't elaborate a whole lot on the way magic works especially the Mage Globes or on the Malerissi themselves, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Unfortunately The Mageborn Traitor doesn't shine some light on this. **The Mageborn traitors** Moreover the gender role reversal occasionally gets even more ludicrous. **The Mageborn traitors** Female readers have often condemned male authors with good reason for writing female protagonists that were little more than men with tits, **The Mageborn traitorously** For all that they were written by a woman most female characters other than the three sisters definitely are like that, **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** Even worse most of the male characters are chicks with dicks so to speak: **The Mageborn traitorous 8** As was the case with its predecessor the political intrigue at the heart of The Mageborn Traitor is a bucket that doesn't always hold much water, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** The Council and the Assembly are ineffectual and at times dumb and naïve in a manner that defies comprehension. **The Mageborn traitors tv** The politicking involved is often quite gauche in its execution, **The Mageborn traitorousness** The great plan orchestrated by the Malerissi is too drawn out and takes too much time to come to fruition: **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Hence what was meant to be one of the novel's most pivotal moments ends up being more than a little lackluster. **The Mageborn traitorous vs** The same can be said of the repercussions caused by Sarra's legal reforms, **The Mageborn traitorous 8** Characterization is usually a facet in which Melanie Rawn excels at, **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** And though there were a few in The Ruins of Ambrai for the most part the protagonists were not as engaging and interesting as I expected, **The Mageborn traitors tv** Things go downhill in this second volume which I didn't see coming, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** It's mostly due to the fact that both Sarra and Caillet both of whom are supposed to be intelligent women act absolutely stupid for plot purposes: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Sarra who supposedly has a knack for politics shows incredibly poor judgement and no political or social savvy: **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Their combined stupidity leads to the destruction of all they hold dear and the death of countless loved ones. **The Mageborn traitorous def** Given how smart they're supposed to be this should never have happened, **The Mageborn traitorous def** Trusting in old wards is no excuse for showing such poor judgement, **The Mageborn traitorous definition** Sarra and her

sister Glenin continue to be two sides of the same coin: **The Mageborn traitors** The former is over-the-top good in that she wants to end poverty inequalities etc, **The Mageborn traitors tv** Glenin on the other hand due to her upbringing is the polar opposite and is over-the-top evil and vicious: **The Mageborn traitorousness** In the end their being too much one way or the other makes it impossible to relate to either sister. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** The twins approaching young adulthood act like they're ten-year-olds and are nearly as annoying as their mother. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** The supporting cast is made up of a revolving door of forgettable characters that often bring little or nothing to the tale. **The Mageborn traitorous definition** All in all I've never read anything that featured such a weak cast of protagonists by Melanie Rawn: **The Mageborn traitorousness** All the main characters are insufferable and the incessant bantering between them often makes the book sound like a Friends episode: **The Mageborn traitorously** In terms of rhythm The Mageborn Traitor is an interminable slog, **The Mageborn traitorous vs** The last hundred pages or so see the pace pick up as we move toward the endgame: **The Mageborn traitors tv** In The Ruins of Ambrai Rawn closed the show with style and aplomb with an ending that promised a lot of good things to come: **The Mageborn traitorous def** It's just that you had to go through a lot of extraneous material to get to the good stuff, **The Mageborn traitors tv** Now that all of the groundwork had been laid out I was hoping that Melanie Rawn would return to form and that The Mageborn Traitor would be everything it could be: **The Mageborn traitorous 8** In my review I opined that The Ruins of Ambrai was Rawn's weakest work to date: **The Mageborn traitors tv** Sadly The Mageborn Traitor is no improvement and turned out to be the author's worst novel thus far. **The Mageborn traitors tv** com 9780330344203 Now if only she'd pretty please finish the series! 9780330344203 As much as I love this series I would almost suggest not picking it up at all: **The Mageborn traitorous meaning** This book was written around 15 years and the author apparently has no intention of finishing the series. **The Mageborn traitorous synonym** Her husband died sometime after she wrote this book and she fell into a great depression and stopped writing for a while. But their retreat has not been as complete as it seems. Now that that mini-rant is over I can proceed. So at least there is some balance. It's definitely not a hack-and-slash sword-and-sorcery book. 12 years and counting between books is a bit ridiculous. Waited for 9 years for the 3rd book. It's unfortunate Rawn's never written the third book. It's almost as if Rawn just cast that aside. Secondly -- and a HUGE SPOILER. Some more successfully than others. And the women from the first book were smarter I think. Spoilers: Caillet is an idiot. And then inexplicably she just frets about it. What the hell? Sarra feh. Collan's death (death I'm pretty sure) was abrupt and weird. So was the Deux ex Grandmachina. So was the domestic violence vignette. Die in a fire all of you. I'm guessing Rawn knows she lost control of this story. She's never going to finish it I'm pretty sure. Meh! 9780330344203 11/29/17: AAGGGHHHHH THIS BOOK. -----So good. So so good. Sadly it wasn't enough to save the book. Unfortunately The Mageborn Traitor doesn't raise the bar. If anything it lowers it. Here's the blurb: The Mage Guardians have survived the war barely. As a fan of George R. R. And the trial. . But it's a case of too little too late. That was true then. A major disappointment. . For more reviews check out www.fantasyhotlist.blogspot. Sad for her loss and sad for ours as well. These are both great books. 9780330344203.