

Book Review

The Diamond Throne
Book One of the Elenium
 David Eddings
 Del Ray Books
 \$26.95 Hardcover

by Dragos Ruiu

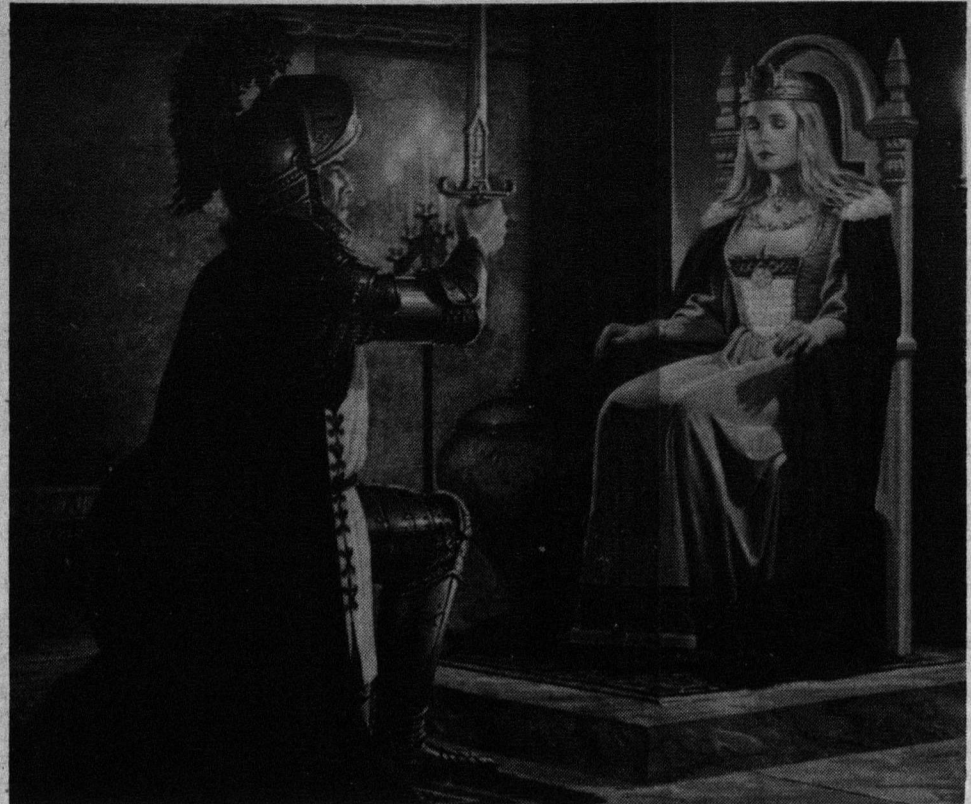
Most fantasy fans know David Eddings from his five book *Belgariad* series. The success of that series led him to write a sequel five book series starring the same characters, collectively called *The Mallorean*. Oddly enough, his latest book, *The Diamond Throne*, does not fit into this series - it is the

beginning of an entirely new trilogy, entitled *The Elenium*. This is unusual because his previous series is still missing the final two books.

Eddings' writing has brought him many fans due to his light but involving style. His fantasy has all the trappings of the stock commercial prototypes that seem to be spawning trashy books at a phenomenal rate these days - there is magic, a little bit of gigglish juvenile romance (mostly flirting and titillation), lots of action, quests, dark hideous monsters, and impish and lovable underdog travelling companions. Fortunately Eddings' stories also have intrigue, politics, and subtle plot complexities that other fantasy fare seems to skip in favor of introducing the next cute monster.

His smoothly-flowing dialogue, and adept characterizations lead to easy reading, and it is very difficult to put down his books. It is even harder to do so with his latest book - I have to confess I was so spellbound (gag, groan, I know, bad pun) that I read it in one sitting. *The Diamond Throne* is also captivating because it is so different from most fantasy writing. It has a dark seamy side to the characters. There is much intrigue and back stabbing.

Instead of having a naive but lovable kid, or a charming young prince, or an adorable little creature as its main character, this book stars a gruff and aging knight. It's quite refreshing not to have to reach for the cute-sickness bag when reading this fantasy novel. Piers Anthony, take notes.



The story revolves around Sparhawk, a gritty, tough, knight who has been living in exile. When he returns to his kingdom he is distraught to learn that his queen has fallen ill. The rest of the story sounds pretty much

like generic fantasy—the queen's been frozen in crystal and they have a year to find a cure for her, her ambitious and crooked underlings are attempting to usurp her power and expand the power of the Church, the only thing that can cure her is a mysterious jewel, a strange cult of evil demon-god worshippers is infiltrating the land, and a hearty band of knights are all that can save the world. But Eddings' skillful writing and intricate plots bring it all off without making the story seem contrived.

This fantasy has a very adult quality to it all. The characters are complex and their motivations cannot be discerned at a glance. Yet the book is also very easy to read and is well thought out.

The only annoying part is that the reader has to wait for Eddings to write the rest of this and his last story. This series of books is scheduled to have two more books, and there are the two books he has to write for his last series. To make it all more unnerving, like all his other books this one leaves off at the height of the action.

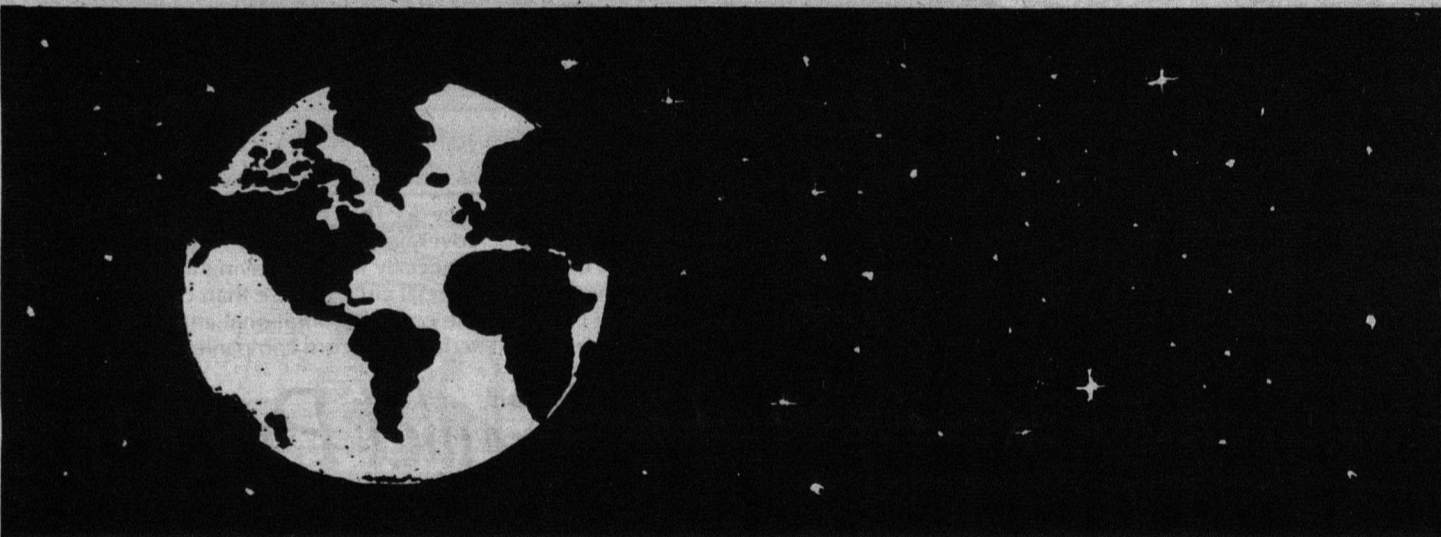
So you might want to wait until at least one more book in this series is published or until this book comes out in paper-back, as it inevitably will, before reading it. But if you enjoy fantasy then *The Diamond Throne* is a very good purchase—it stands above the many others in this genre.

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Date	Topic	Location
Sun. Sept. 17:	Peace and Religion	Ed. Bldg. South, Rm. 129
Mon. Sept. 18:	Education for Peace	Ed. Bldg. North, Rm. 2-103
Tues. Sept. 19:	International Day of Peace	International Centre, HUB Mall
Wed. Sept. 20:	Science and Peace	Ed. Bldg. South, Rm. 129
Thurs. Sept. 21:	Multiculturalism and Peace	Ed. Bldg. South, Rm. 106
Fri. Sept. 22:	Women and Peace	Ed. Bldg. South, Rm. 129
Sat. Sept. 23:	Peace and the Environment	Phone for time and location

Time: 7:30 p.m. (except for Saturday)

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