



Imager's Battalion

L.E. Modesitt Jr.

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Quaeryt, now holding the rank of subcommander in the Telaryn army of Lord Bhayar, leads history's first imager fighting force into a retaliatory war against the hostile nation of Bovaria, which recently attempted the annexation of Telaryn. But Court intrigues pursue Quaeryt to the front lines of the conflict as the imager's enemies continue to plot against him. In the midst of all this, Quaeryt must somehow teach his men to control the powerful and dangerous imaging skills at their command.

Yet despite the risks, Quaeryt pursues his own agenda: to legitimize imagers in the hearts and minds of all men, demonstrating their value as he leads his battalion into one costly battle after another.

Imager's Battalion Details

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Author : L.E. Modesitt Jr.

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From Reader Review Imager's Battalion for online ebook

David Newcombe says

Not one of his better ones, appears to have been put in as part of a 5 book series and that it needs to be there to pad out the series or perhaps I am being too harsh.

Certainly got bored with the endless battles where qware it is put at the front just to discover some other technique to save the day, techniques that generally kill thousands without having the same affect on him over 90% of the book seems just to be riding then fighting

Mary Soon Lee says

"Imager's Battalion" is the sixth book in Modesitt's Imager series, and the third centered on Quaeryt, a scholar who also possesses a powerful magical imaging talent. All six of the Imager books share a deliberate, detailed, thoughtful approach. They are not books to hold up as exemplars of masterful prose. They are not pushing the boundaries of the fantasy genre. They are not filled with the flamboyance and wit of, for example, Scott Lynch's fantasy. But I care about their protagonists. I cared enough about Quaeryt to sit in the hallway until 1:30 AM to read to the end of "Imager's Battalion." It's a long time since I've done that with a book.

Ron says

"I want a land where Pharsi, scholars, and imagers can be what they will, under the same laws as everyone else." "You are either mad ... or a lost one." "Is there any difference?"

A fun story, well-told, but lots of repetition--and war. One continuous series of battles with the climax mirroring that of the previous volume. Every skirmish and every staff meeting, not to mention the bureaucratic in-fighting, related in excruciating detail.

"He doesn't forget, Quaeryt." Neither do I. Ever.

Book of Rholan as Modesitt's philosophic hand puppet. Much of the philosophy--in fact the basic plot--was foreshadowed in the first three books of this series, which occur hundreds of years after this book.

Editing quirks: "In less than a fraction of a quint ..." Twice. "Rain began to come down." What else? Dozens of blotting head and adjusting brim cap.

"It's hard not to think about the consequences when you're the one who causes the deaths of so many."

Denae Christine says

Reader thoughts: I have come to like Quaeryt as much as I liked Rhenn. He's being less sneaky and being more heroic.

More people are learning he is an imager, and he's rising in the army and saving lives. Yet, he's also practical. He and the other Telaryns are invading Bovaria, and he calls it like it is. He admits to the local innkeepers that they are invaders, but he does his best to protect both the rankers and the natives. I think that is what impressed me the most, that he spent just as much energy trying to help the common locals from the Bovarian army as he did the Telaryns from the Bovarians.

I liked the variety of this book, too. We had a lot of skirmishes, a few spats with local High Holders, a lot of distrust between locals and the army, and inter-army politics. Then we also had some bigger battles at the main cities along the river as the northern and southern army came together.

My favorite parts had to do with the imagers, though. Quaeryt has to train imagers who don't know who he is. They doubt him but keep learning. Slowly, they learn to trust him as he came up with creative ways to use imaging to stop the Bovarians. Mostly, Quaeryt kept putting himself in more danger than he had to, which is always fun to read. The ending was great, too.

Writer thoughts: Sometimes you wonder how an author is going to up the ante when they have a series this long. LEM first switched MCs from Rhenn to Quaeryt. Now he could re-introduce a character, start a new romance and character growth arcs. But Quaeryt doesn't get just three books; he gets 5. What else does LEM do?

The endings have to get bigger. The first book ended with a quiet murder in a battle. The next held an ice storm. The third ends (view spoiler). And the fourth ends (view spoiler). Readers want to know the stakes are getting higher. What will the fifth book hold?

Alexander Smith says

It was good until the the last few chapters. Modesitt does this in a few of his books. He spends plenty of time developing the story, and characters, and then rushes the ending.

Pedro Marroquín says

Buen libro en el que la magia del protagonista la usa para ganar batallas, todo tipo de batallas y escaramuzas. Solo se te hace algo pesado las continúas conversaciones con los demás militares sobre la inacción del mariscal al que deben ayudar. B

Keilani Ludlow says

What can I really say? More of the same. Quaeryt has become a sub commander and is still trying to help

Lord Bhayar win the war against the evil invader, and so on and so forth. He still has to deal with intrigue from those superior officers and position holders under Lord Bhayar. He still has to teach other imagers, trying to determine who can be trusted and who cannot and what to teach each. He still is carefully laying the groundwork for a specific place/status for imagers and scholars. He still has a loving but mildly odd relationship with his wife. He still has to perform amazing feats of imagery which are both not enough as they can't save everyone, and too much as they kill lots and lots of people and he hates being forced into that position. He still theorizes on who Rholan is and what the nature of God is and isn't.

If you've read the series, you know the drill. It's the same thing, just further along. Don't get me wrong, I like the series. I'm just ready for something new to happen. I like this series (all of the Imager) better than any of his other fantasy except perhaps the Corean Chronicles, I'm just ready for this guy to step it up a little and the plot to move along, enough with the battling already.

And the names, oh the names!!!!

Jo says

"Imager's Battalion" is a direct follow-up to "Princeps" and continues the story of Quaeryt, the Scholar/Imager, beginning within a few days of the end of "Princeps". If you are thinking about trying out this series, I would very much recommend beginning with the first volume of Quaeryt's adventures, "Scholar". The world-building, characterization, dialogue, and prose in this series are all excellent.

"Scholar" and "Princeps" followed the growth of Quaeryt's career and powers, with most of the writing focused on his political rise while he gets forced into combat as a logical part of his responsibilities. In this book he commands a battalion that uses and supports/is supported by his Imagers in a long military campaign invading the neighboring kingdom of Bovaria at Bhayar, Lord of Telaryn's behest, which is ruled by the ambitious and reprehensible Rex Kharst. The book is good at capturing the "hurry up and wait" aspect of a long military command, but yet is not at all boring. Quaeryt is still developing as a commander and a man, and this story continues to put him in situations where, whether he fails or triumphs, he must always pay a price.

(I also liked the foreshadowing to the later Imager society portrayed through Rhenn's story in the first three books in the Imager Portfolio series, set several centuries later than Quaeryt's world.)

I read it in one weekend, and am eagerly anticipating the next.

Liviu says

very addictive read - want to save it for a while but I am afraid i will read it very soon

Finished Imager's Battalion by LE Modesitt (3rd Quaeryt book and 6th Imager overall) and it was again unputdownable so despite my resolution to hold on to it for a little more (it's January 2013 pub date), I *had to* read it; of course now that I finished it I want book 4, Antiagon Fire asap

Excellent stuff, same structure as books 1/2 (Scholar/Princeps) though this one is mostly war, Imagers (magic, powerful but few magicians) against guns (musketeers and canon and lots of expendable soldiers) as Quaeryt leads 5th Battalion, the vanguard of the Southern Army of Telaryn commanded by his friend from Tilbor, Commander Skarpa, into Bovaria against the forces of cruel Rex Kharst.

From here some spoilers for previous books so will include in spoiler brackets, though no spoilers for this one:

(view spoiler)

A great ending to boot and again, I cannot emphasize enough how good this series keeps being...

FBC rv

<http://fantasybookcritic.blogspot.com...>

Jim says

April 2017 Review

June2014 Review Another excellent addition to the series. We're still following Quaeryt & likely will be in the next book, too. Definitely read these in published order.

I was a bit disappointed with the ending in some ways, others not. It was a bit too abrupt & I'm not sure it really solved some of the issues that were harped on in the book. I guess I'll find out in the next one, Antiagon Fire. Any discussion of it would be a spoiler, so please drop by the Modesitt group to do so.
<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

James says

Great end to the 4 book series. I'm a sucker for somewhat tragic endings. Once I was towards the end it was all I could do to put it down and sleep.

With that being said, I think I have enjoyed the recluse series better. It is nice to get 4 books on one characters, and the format is very similar, but to me it is missing a bit of that magic.

Kurt Cagle says

This, the sixth book in the Imager series, is typical Modesitt - the protagonist fighting against impossible odds with powers well beyond the ken of mortal man. It was not the author's best - this is the story of a campaign, and the protagonist, Quaeryt, uses his exceptional imaging ability to ultimately defeat not just his immediate foes but eventually ... well, okay, no spoilers.

Overall, my sense is that Modesitt has a formula that works for him, but he's definitely beginning to get into a rut with this. The story of the humble man with exceptional powers who eventually becomes a major player is one that he has told innumerable times, to the extent that here, in a middle book without either character creation nor real denouement, you definitely see the story becoming threadbare, for all the details.

I've loved the philosophical discovery and richness of themes and details in most of his stories, but there is little here beyond a fairly uninteresting mystery. Had the story been compressed to about a third the length then incorporated into the logical next stage - which I'd speculate would be about the likely conflict between Quaeryt and his brother-in-law, the King, then I would have recommended this higher. As it was, this seemed like an unnecessary middle act, less of interest than Quaeryt's experience as governor (which was interesting though the demotion at the end felt contrived).

I am looking forward to the next (and hopefully last), book in the series, then would hope that he tries something new - perhaps the tale of a female Recluse black staff.

Daniel says

Veliki ulozi, velike bitke, puno muka teskih odluka i pritajenih pretnji i moguce izdaje. Sve u svemu prica fino napreduje.

James says

It was good! So why the hell couldn't it have ended with a little more information? I am only placated in the fact that his next book, Antiagon's Fire, may be coming out in May. I hope it does, or for the first time, I will be dis-satisfied with Mr. Modesitt.

Jim says

I was in a funk yesterday, just ticked off at life in general & not feeling great physically, either. It was supposed to be a pretty day, but wound up being in the 40s with an amazingly raw & cutting wind. I just didn't feel like being an adult, so I sat around all day & just read this book - all 500 pages from start to finish. I finished it at midnight. (It's rare that I stay up until 10pm since I always wake up about 4am. Yes, even this morning. Ugh.)

This was a great retreat from the world. Quaeryt's story is going strong. After stopping the Bovarians attempt at an invasion, Bhayar now attacks along the river straight to the heart of the Bovarian empire. Quaeryt is the

single most important element in this attack, but Bhayar must keep his distance due to politics. It's frustrating both to Quaeryt, the reader, & everyone else, but very realistic. Issues of government, the Nameless religion/philosophy, & such are well placed in plenty of action. Quaeryt slowly forms his ideas for what the future of imagers & how he'll bring his plans to fruition.

I'm of two minds about the reading order of this series. This one is directly after book 5, Princeps, but the next time I read this series, I'm going to start with book 4, Scholar, & work my way through book 11 (not out yet) & then go back to the first 3 books, which take place about 700 years after this one. Like his Recluce series, Modesitt builds the understanding of the magic & issues of the world in the published order, but I think a chronological read would be great after the first time. There is a lot of history in the making & how it plays out in the future is fascinating.

On to the next, Antiagon Fire!
