



# **The Elenium: The Diamond Throne / The Ruby Knight / The Sapphire Rose**

*David Eddings*

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## **The Elenium: The Diamond Throne / The Ruby Knight / The Sapphire Rose** David Eddings

Now for the first time in one thrilling volume-the three magical novels that make up David Eddings's epic fantasy The Elenium.

In an ancient kingdom, the legacy of one royal family hangs in the balance, and the fate of a queen-and her empire-lies on the shoulders of one knight.

Sparhawk, Knight and Queen's Champion, has returned to Elenia after ten years of exile, only to find young Queen Ehlana trapped in a crystalline cocoon. The enchantments of the sorceress Sephrenia have kept the queen alive-but the spell is fading. In the meantime, Elenia is ruled by a prince regent, the puppet of the tyrannical Annias, who vows to seize power over all the land.

Now Sparhawk must find the legendary Bhelliom, a sapphire that holds the key to Ehlana's cure. Sparhawk and his companions will face monstrous foes and evil creatures on their journey, but even greater dangers lie in wait: for dark legions will stop at nothing to reach the radiant stone, which may possess powers too deadly for any mortal to bear.

## **The Elenium: The Diamond Throne / The Ruby Knight / The Sapphire Rose Details**

Date : Published September 25th 2007 by Del Rey Books (first published January 1st 1993)

ISBN : 9780345500939

Author : David Eddings

Format : Paperback 902 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy, High Fantasy, Science Fiction Fantasy

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## **From Reader Review The Elenium: The Diamond Throne / The Ruby Knight / The Sapphire Rose for online ebook**

**Annie Morecambe says**

I simply can't say enough about David & Leigh Eddings' writing style. They created pictures in my head that made me want to learn more and more about their characters.

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**Jesse says**

Okay,  
as I've mentioned that this author creates outstanding fantasy worlds, with in-depth cultures, politics, and religions. I really liked this series, which I haven't read since high school. Five orders of knights come together to save their queen and country from an evil god...I think...

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**Sebastien says**

J'ai... besoin...d'un...roman...où...le...personnage principale... pleure pas toute le temps!!!!!!!!!!

Finis les chevaliers d'émeraude, bande de lopettes qui triche et qui font tout faire par les dieux. Ayant utilisé pas mal tout ce qui me restait de patience pour les romans ordinaires je devais lire un bon roman de peur de prendre plusieurs mois à ne pas vouloir lire.

La solution, un retour aux valeurs sûres. David Edding, l'auteur de la Belgariad, m'a fait vivre le bonheur par son écriture drôle et légère. J'ai donc enchaîné mes lectures avec l'omnibus de la série qu'il avait écrit tout suite après la Mallorae. The Elenium, les aventures de Sparhawk le chevalier sorcier.

Sous un certain point de vue, Sparhawk me faisait penser à Wellan des chevaliers d'émeraude. Grand, carré, puissant, fort, solide, leader et apte à la magie. La seule grande différence, y pleure pas tout le temps et quand il se fâche, c'est pas des caresses qui le calment, mais l'action. Voici un héros qui me plaît déjà beaucoup plus.

Cette première trilogie dans le nouveau monde de Edding est très satisfaisante. Bien que le style soit pas mal le même que dans la Belgariad, on voit que les idées de l'auteur (et de sa femme) commencent déjà à s'essouffler. La base du roman est presque la même et suit le cadre de la Belgariad presque à la lettre. On a beau dire que quand on a une recette gagnante il faut pas la modifier, ici c'est pousser un peu loin.

L'histoire est simple, Sparhawk le chevalier magique veut défendre son royaume et protéger la princesse qui est empoisonnée depuis un certain temps. Il se bat donc contre la politique interne de son pays et un tyran qui veut lever une armée au nom du dieu du mal. En même temps il existe une rose en cristal magique avec un pouvoir divin que le dieu du mal aimerait se procurer pour détruire le monde.

À quelque différence près, c'est presque la Belgariad. Premier livre on voit que Sparhawk est le choosen one, dans le deuxième il trouve la rose en cristal et dans le troisième il affronte le dieu du mal. La seule différence

ici, l'auteur n'a pas peaufiné sa fin, ça fini sec.

Donc, j'ai pas grand chose d'autre à dire à part que j'ai tout de même apprécié cette histoire mais je m'attendais à un peu mieux. Quand même une lecture recommandé pour les fan de fantasy et d'aventure, soyez juste averti ça ressemble à la belgariad, ça goût un peu comme la belgariade et sa sonne comme la belgariad, mais malheureusement ce n'est pas la belgariad.

Lisez la Belgariad et si vous en voulez vraiment plus, The Elenium saura au moins vous satisfaire.

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### **Angie Johnson says**

#### **Splendid Sparhawk**

This is probably the twentieth time I've read this collection of books, but I never grow tired of them. I love the characters and their friendships. The setting is beautifully brought to life. I would highly recommend these stories to anyone from my mother to my daughter. 5 stars well earned.

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### **Sasha says**

This is an ok read but Eddings seems to have the same stock characters doing the same things in his series. If you have read the Belgariad series you will find the characters very familiar. This becomes even more apparent in the Tamuli series which follows on from this one. I read this as a 12-13 year old and noticed it even then. If you are going to read Eddings stick to the Belgariad books.

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### **Krystyna says**

Wonderful magical epic

Absolutely terrific! Everything you expected from Eddings. Can one knight make a difference and awaken the sleeping queen? Loved Sparrowhawk and Faron. If you like "epic" series that have magic, a real storyline, romance then this is definitely for you. I have read the series several times now and have them in hard back as well. A must read and on a par with Tolkien.

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### **Bobo The Bard says**

I had heard good things about this series, so I picked it up. I was rather disappointed.

Even though it had its flaws, the first 2/3 of the story raced by, as I waited to see whether Sparhawk would be able to wake Ehlana. The rest was like wading through molasses. Yes, there were several goals and plot lines to resolve, but it didn't feel like one narrative, just several events that happened to occur.

The characters were fairly flat and predictable stereotypes, more types or caricatures than anything. It got

hard to tell them apart after a while, except by their labels. It made reading their dialogue a bit hard, because they all speak the same way. I'd have to say the same applies to the different nations and religious groups - it's like the author picked one stereotype and then applied it to an entire nation. Elenes ARE logical and have a rigid, unyielding religion. Styrics ARE observant people who somehow survive on intuition. Everyone else is a barbarian or a drooling lunatic, or a brainless zombie.

Combined with the "tell"-y nature of the story where characters' feelings and important plot developments were dumped into one lump of an infodump, it felt like an extended outline, as if Eddings was trying to get his ideas down quickly before he forgot them, but then never went back and actually transformed them into an actual story. Sure, there's worldbuilding, but I couldn't help but feel like the flow of the narrative was broken as the author inserted random expository comments in a phantom narrator voice that was quite outside the POV character's POV.

That romance between Sparhawk and Ehlana just bothers me. I can accept love at first sight, loving someone even after being separated for ten years, even a marriage with such an age gap as 40 and 18. What really creeps me out though, is that they were supposed to be in love with each other from before Sparhawk left. I mean, Ehlana confesses her love the *minute* she wakes up, even though she hasn't seen him in ten years. Except...he's been gone ten years and she's only 18 now. She was *eight* when Sparhawk left. Sparhawk, presumably in his mid 20s, and a *child* that he *raised* were supposed to be in love with each other? Ew.

There was WAY too much deus ex machina as well. The characters did very little on their own, except roam from place to place killing people. All important plot developments were either stock chase scenes, stock epic fantasy showdowns, or gods/mysterious figures conveniently showing up to explain important exposition. Even reading the whole thing, I was never in any doubt that the characters would achieve their ends - it all came too easily. Also, what's the deal with Sparhawk supposedly having an unknown destiny, so thus he was unpredictable? If he was so unpredictable, why was it painfully obvious what he was going to do next.

The lore of Bhelliom was all over the place, with no real example of its power. It's a troll relic. It could destroy the world. It created the world. It could be wielded for the good or for the evil. It's evil. It will tempt everyone who touches it. Yet, Sparhawk easily keeps it in a bag, and then shrugs and tosses it into the ocean with just a twinge.

Also, the entire last chapter feels tacked on to create a sudden about face sappy happy ending after the pyrrhic victory of the penultimate chapter (e.g. the jewel is neutralized but the gods are angsty about dying so everyone's depressed and the world slides into more war and chaos.). If that's what Eddings was going for, that last chapter could have been left out entirely.

I'm not saying it's bad, as such, but the whole trilogy reads like a first draft. It hooks you in the beginning, but the quality of the writing just descends into nonsense and purple prose as it goes on. Most of this story could be cut out or edited down, and it would probably read better.

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## Jan says

Dave Eddings can write - I knew that. But even considering this, I was impressed by the witty dialogue that really makes the book, and made me enjoy it so much.

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## **Stephen Stewart says**

I've always enjoyed David Edding's works. I find his works, this included, to be entertaining light reads. I've always been a sucker for quest narratives, and following Sparhawk to restore Queen Ehlana and stop a dark god was very entertaining. Eddings also creates a vibrant world, and like his other novels, the main characters end up traveling to nearly every region of the world he created in the span of the three novels. Sparhawk is also an interesting character because the story begins when he's middle age, already developed as a person, thrust into a series of chaotic events. Typically, quest adventures like to run with someone much younger and malleable, so the mix-up here is refreshing.

I do have some qualms in this book. I have no issue with Eddings depiction of morality in the novel: the good guys are good, the bad guys are bad and there is no gray area in between for any character. However, most of the villains come across as chronically incompetent. Of the big three antagonists, Martin, Azash and Annias, only Martin ever poses an actual threat to the protagonists. Anything Annias or Azash ever does seems at best a little shrewd, but still laughable.

Religion is also portrayed very oddly in the novel. The Elene religion, whatever it's actually called, is practically a functional form of Catholic Christianity transposed into a fantasy realm. There is nothing redemptive to this parody of Catholicism. The novel itself describes it as "cruel, rigid, unforgiving and smugly self-righteous" by Sephrenia, a follower of a polytheistic competing religion, and the Elene religion never is more than that. It's a burden that the main characters, the majority of which are knights of the church, bear, and never is the religion explained, expounded upon, or really defended in any form. Rather, the Syric polytheistic religion, is portrayed as much more vital and actually real, as the main characters do encounter several gods from that pantheon. I wondered why on earth none of the knights converted. In the end of the novel, characters admit that the god of the Elenes is just as real as the Syric's pantheon, which then questions the religious structure of the world even more. In essence, I found the novel's portrayal of a transposed Christianity grating and it exposes a flaw in the world building of the novel.

The icing on the cake of the portrayal of religion in the novel is the nation of Rendor. Rendor is inhabited by sect of the Elene church, and every heretic that the main characters encounter and fight against is portrayed as an idiot. The portrayal of an entire nation of people as gullible and moronic is rather jarring.

I feel like I wrote a lot of criticism here. I enjoyed the Elenium - it's a fun, fast paced read that has the main characters bounce from one crisis to the next. I already have the sequel trilogy sitting on my desk, and I know I'll tackle it pretty soon. Still, the treatment of religion in the book is aggravating to me.

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## **Barbara Ghylin says**

I read these books in the mid 90's. I have worn through 2 copies of all three books. My oldest daughter loved them and we could talk about them at a time we couldn't talk about anything. I have recently ordered them for a friend that will like them just as much.

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## **Joe says**

The Elenium by David Eddings is an omnibus of three books: The Diamond Throne, The Ruby Knight & The Sapphire Rose. A traditional Fantasy with magic, adventure and dreams of world domination.

The plot of the books revolves around Sparhawk, a knight of the Pandion order of the church who starts off exiled to a distant land. News reaches him of the poisoning of Queen Ehlana, his charge as Queens Champion so he returns to find out what has happened. He discovers he needs a unique and powerful item to save her so, along with some companions, sets out on a quest across the land to find this and restore his queen. There are battles, mystery and intrigue as well as betrayal and magic.

The characters are one of the best features of the books I found. They are detailed and the way they work together and interact is just pure fun to read. The characters grow as the story does and the sense of progression is impressive. Sparhawk and Talen are two of my personal favourite characters and the way they behave throughout the books was always fun.

The world building is also done extremely well in the books. Due to it being a roving adventure crossing many different lands and types of environment you get to see all many of well described and working areas.

The story is very traditional Fantasy with knights, battles, magic and thieves but far from making it boring and heavily cliched it works in the books favour. There are cliches, that's undeniable, but they still work; probably due to the level of detail and just how well every little element of the story fits together.

In Summary: A really fun Fantasy novel with great characters, world and sense of adventure. It contains all the traditional and well loved Fantasy elements in written with enthusiasm and an eye for detail. Recommended for Fantasy fans as well as anyone wanting a fun, cheerful read.

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## **Jeremy Preacher says**

I finally gave in and traded my used hardcovers for this single-volume version just to save some shelf space, but I've read these books probably a dozen times each - so this is a very jaded review. (And they get four stars out of pure nostalgia, and also because they're almost as addictive as the Belgariad, but if I were just encountering them now I'd probably give them three.

There's not much point in addressing them as individual volumes, because it's basically one long adventure. And it's an entertaining adventure - let me start by establishing that. The Elenium is focused on Sparhawk, who is a 40ish knight with a hell of a lot of experience (in contrast to the Belgariad, which is a pure bildungsroman.) Sparhawk is essentially a good, honest, honorable guy, but he's also ruthless and willing to look first in his scabbard for the solution to his problems. This is mitigated in large part because the series is essentially an ensemble piece, and the various stock characters he surrounds himself with (Dumb but Good-Hearted Best Friend, Wise Older Companion, Beautiful and Mysterious Enchantress, Cocky Young Thief, etc etc) balance out the various encounters.

I like these books, don't get me wrong - they're fast-paced and fun and the election sequence in the third book involves some of the most readable political shenanigans I've come across in fantasy - but they're far from

perfect. Eddings doesn't have a ton of range in either his characters or his dialogue, and while this is not the same as the Belgariad at all (mostly in that it's an R-rated series - lots of blood and guts and even some sex, or at least the implication of sex) it's particularly jarring when he re-uses lines of dialogue. It really highlights his limitations.

And the worldbuilding is just sloppy. Sloppy! The Bhelliom (the magic jewel they spend the first two books questing for) changes origin and powers every fifty pages. It's evil! It's True Neutral! It's the force that created the world! It's too dangerous even to look at, although it was *displayed on a hat that kings wore for centuries!* We must destroy it! We should probably destroy it although it might blow up! We might have to destroy it even though it will probably take out a few mountain ranges when it goes! Sparhawk can touch it because he has the rings! Sparhawk can touch it because he was destined to! No one else can touch it, except those inconvenient kings and the Troll and a goddess and possibly the hundreds of people who've been searching for it for millennia!

The Mysterious Enchantress has different powers depending on the situation, Berit is an apprentice knight then an novice then an apprentice then a novice and then, finally, is "promoted to a rank seldom used by the militant orders," an apprentice knight. And in the most obvious and laughable example, at the end of the first book, Sparhawk "for the first time in his life, contemplated the deliberate murder of an unarmed man." Except that in the very first chapter, we see him picking up some wire to use to strangle a drunkard when he comes out to pick up some more wine.

I don't think these issues totally detract from the entertainment value of the books, but they do stick out to me after all these rereads, and I don't have the patience - or maybe the obliviousness - I did when I was 15. The trilogy pretty much reads like Eddings sat down one day, started at the beginning, and shipped each chapter off without ever reading it again. Which is fine, I guess, but I hold my epic fantasy to higher standards nowadays.

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### **Michelle says**

Great books - typical of Eddings. I love the characters and the adventure. Nothing beats The Belgariad and The Mallorean but this is still a great series.

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### **A.K says**

Sparhawk is my hero, love Faran too!

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### **Ava says**

All 3 books were 5/5 for me. I loved every second of it!

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## **Teresa Bryant says**

### **Stunning**

Weddings never fails to deliver! First trilogy of the Sparhawk saga. Owned for years in hardback, bought again on Kindle so I can take it anywhere to read anytime I want.

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## **Bob Southwell says**

Loved it.

Wonderful characters, and story. My favourite Goddess appears in this story

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## **Jen says**

This version is an omnibus of all three books in the trilogy. The overall story line is epic fantasy - a group of people must go on a quest to recover an object to save a failing queen. During this quest however, a larger problem arises and the fate of the entire world hangs in the balance. It involves not only fantasy elements of magic, gods, knights, and large scale battles; but also political schemes, religious intrigue, and social status awareness.

What I love about Eddings' writing is that he builds full and different worlds, and seems to put real thought into everything about his world. The customs, nuances, expectations, rules of a new world are all figured out and as the reader we get to experience them throughout the book. I love that he includes several maps, as with new worlds I often have to go back to a map to figure out where they are in their journey. The characters are well developed and each has their own place in the story - I did not feel anyone was there for no good reason. The good and bad guys are easy to spot and pretty easy to like or dislike. The storyline is new, and while it has all those epic fantasy elements it is a different show in a different world and it was incredibly fun to dive into it.

There were a few little niggles that part of me just can't get past. There were some inconsistencies in the reading, for example at one point they were following their nemesis "south," but the town they followed him was north of their location. The writing is not for the faint-hearted, it can be difficult to understand and keep up with the strategies at times and I felt every now and again I had to read a passage twice to really figure out what they were doing. Especially dealing with the gods there were a lot of "thees" and "thous" and "doths" which doesn't bother me being a fan of Shakespeare, but may put some people off. I felt the relationship between two of the main characters which starts in book 2 and more in book 3 a little off-putting. She is 18, and he is much older (maybe 40ish?) which in and of itself is not a problem, but as she is young it made the romance awkward and at times you wonder if there is love there or if it was just put in the book for the sake of having some form of romance.

The last bit that I neither liked or disliked, is that the church in this book that plays a significant role in the series resembles the Christian faith in too many ways to discount the similarities. Don't get me wrong, it is a necessary part of the story line and I wouldn't have changed a thing, but there were times my mind would make connections between the two inadvertently.

Overall, if you are a fan of Tolkien-esque epic fantasy I would recommend this book. I will admit that I enjoyed Eddings' Belgariad series just a touch more than the Elenium, but still worth the time to delve into another of Eddings' wonderfully created worlds!

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### **Myranda says**

Really great book, I want to read this again!

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### **Charlton says**

I finished this series today,I liked it.

The Elenium is unlike the previous series I've read by David Eddings.

We have Church Knights and Church soldiers and they don't really like each other,it's a political thing.

Sparhawk(a Church Knight) our hero has been banned from Cimmura,it's been ten years and he comes back.

And we find out he is also the Queen's Champion.

Now the Queen has taken ill and when Sparhawk finds this out the quest begins for as a Queen's Champion it is up to him to help her.

This will be the main quest but along this quest there are several smaller quests.

The characters I really liked and I liked this world building,the style of magic was different and the book was dealing with knights.

I only gave it four stars because I felt the second book started off slow.

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