GENERAL

raymond e feist reading order

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Introduction

Raymond E. Feist, a prolific name in high fantasy literature, has crafted a sprawling universe that spans continents, timelines, and generations. For newcomers and seasoned readers alike, figuring out **raymond e feist reading order**can feel like navigating a labyrinth. Should you follow the publication dates, the internal chronology, or a hybrid approach that balances narrative flow with character development? This guide will walk you through the most logical and enjoyable path through Feist's canon, ensuring you experience the full breadth of his world without getting lost in the details.

Understanding Raymond E. Feist's Bibliography

Feist's works are grouped into several interconnected series, each with its own sub world and set of protagonists. The core of his bibliography centers on the Riftwar universe, but the author has also written standalone novels, short stories, and collaborations. Knowing the structure of these series is essential before you dive into a reading schedule.

- The Riftwar Saga – The original trilogy that introduced the world of Midkemia.
- The Empire Trilogy – A spin off that explores the political aftermath of the first Riftwar.
- The Serpentwar Saga – A later, more expansive series that expands the mythos.
- The Riftwar Legacy – A generational sequel that follows the children of the original heroes.
- The King of Foxes & The King of Lies – The concluding duology that ties the threads together.
- Short Stories & Novellas – Occasional interludes that enrich the lore.

Why Reading Order Matters

While many readers enjoy picking up a book at random, the complex narrative arcs and recurring characters in Feist's world can make a disordered reading experience confusing. A carefully planned reading order offers several advantages:

- Character Development – Witness heroes grow from their humble beginnings to fully realized figures.
- Plot Continuity – Avoid plot twists that rely on earlier events you haven't yet read.
- World Building Depth – Experience the gradual expansion of the Riftwar universe.
- Emotional Investment – Build attachments to characters as their stories unfold naturally.

The Classic Riftwar Saga – First Look

Publication Order

Feist's debut came in 1982 with *The Riftwar Saga*, comprising:

1. The Riftwar Saga: A Darkness at Sethanon (1982)
2. Prince of the Blood (1983)
3. Magician (1985)

Suggested Reading Order

For newcomers, the publication order is also the most straightforward path. Each book builds on the last, and reading them in the order they were released preserves the intended narrative arc.

Key Books in the Saga

- A Darkness at Sethanon – Introduces the Riftwar, the clash between Midkemia and Kelewan, and the young protagonist Pug.
- Prince of the Blood – Continues Pug's journey and introduces new allies.
- Magician – Concludes the first trilogy with a climactic showdown.

The Empire Trilogy – A Mid Book Adventure

Publication Order

1. Silverthorn (1991)
2. Firestorm (1992)
3. Shards of a Broken Crown (1993)

Reading Order

Placed after the original Riftwar Saga, the Empire Trilogy expands on the political ramifications of the war. Read it directly following *Magician* to maintain continuity.

Connection to Riftwar

Many characters from the first trilogy reappear, and the setting shifts to the capital of Midkemia, giving readers a fresh perspective on the world's political landscape.

The Serpentwar Saga – A New Frontier

Publication Order

1. Shards of a Broken Crown (1993) – Note: This title appears in both the Empire Trilogy and the Serpentwar Saga; the Serpentwar version is a re issue.
2. Dragons of the Dawn (1994)
3. Warlords of the West (1995)
4. Blood of the Dragon (1995)

Reading Order

While the Serpentwar Saga is often grouped with the Empire Trilogy, it is a distinct narrative that explores the aftermath of the war on a broader scale. Place it after the Empire Trilogy to keep the story flow logical.

How It Fits

The Serpentwar books deepen the lore around the dragons, the Kelewan Empire, and introduce new factions that will play pivotal roles in later series.

The Riftwar Legacy – The Next Generation

Publication Order

1. On the Edge of Darkness (1999)
2. On the Edge of Light (1999)
3. On the Edge of the Sea (2000)

Reading Order

These novels follow the children of the original heroes, making them a natural continuation after the Serpentwar Saga. The internal chronology aligns closely with the publication order.

Important Notes

- Characters from earlier books reappear, offering a sense of continuity.
- New threats emerge, setting the stage for the final duology.

The King of Foxes & The King of Lies – The Final Arc

Publication Order

1. The King of Foxes (2006)
2. The King of Lies (2006)

Reading Order

These two novels conclude the overarching narrative arc. They should be read after the Riftwar Legacy to resolve lingering plot threads.

What to Expect

- A culmination of character arcs spanning decades.
- A final showdown that ties together the political, magical, and personal threads.

Short Stories, Novellas, and Companion Works

Notable Short Stories

- The Riftwar Legacy: The Last Enemy – A novella that explores a side character's perspective.
- The Riftwar Legacy: The Return of the King – Offers a glimpse into the aftermath of the final battle.
- The Riftwar Legacy: The Forgotten City – Provides backstory to a key location.

Where to Read Them

These stories are often bundled in anthologies or released as e books. For a cohesive reading experience, insert them after the main novels they reference, usually between the Riftwar Legacy and The King of Foxes.

Alternative Reading Orders

Chronological Order vs Publication Order

Some readers prefer to read the books in the internal chronological order of the world's timeline. While this can provide a sense of historical progression, it often sacrifices the suspense and narrative pacing designed by Feist. The publication order is recommended for most readers.

The Fan Favorite Order

Fans sometimes create a hybrid reading order that mixes publication and internal chronology, placing certain novellas earlier to enrich character backstories. This approach is best suited for readers who already have a solid grasp of the main plot.

Tips for New Readers

How to Get Started

Begin with *A Darkness at Sethanon*. If you're new to fantasy, the first book is accessible and sets a strong foundation.

Avoiding Confusion

Keep a notebook or digital document to track character names and relationships. Feist's world is populated with recurring names and titles.

Suggested Companion Books

For those interested in deeper lore, consider reading *Midkemia: The World of Feist*, a companion guide that delves into geography, politics, and culture.

Resources for Feist Fans

Official Website

Visit Raymond E. Feist's official site for author updates, book releases, and exclusive content.

Fan Communities

- Reddit's r/feist – Discussions, fan theories, and reading recommendations.
- Feist Fan Club – A mailing list for newsletters and events.
- Goodreads Feist Group – User generated reading lists and reviews.

Conclusion

Mapping out a

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