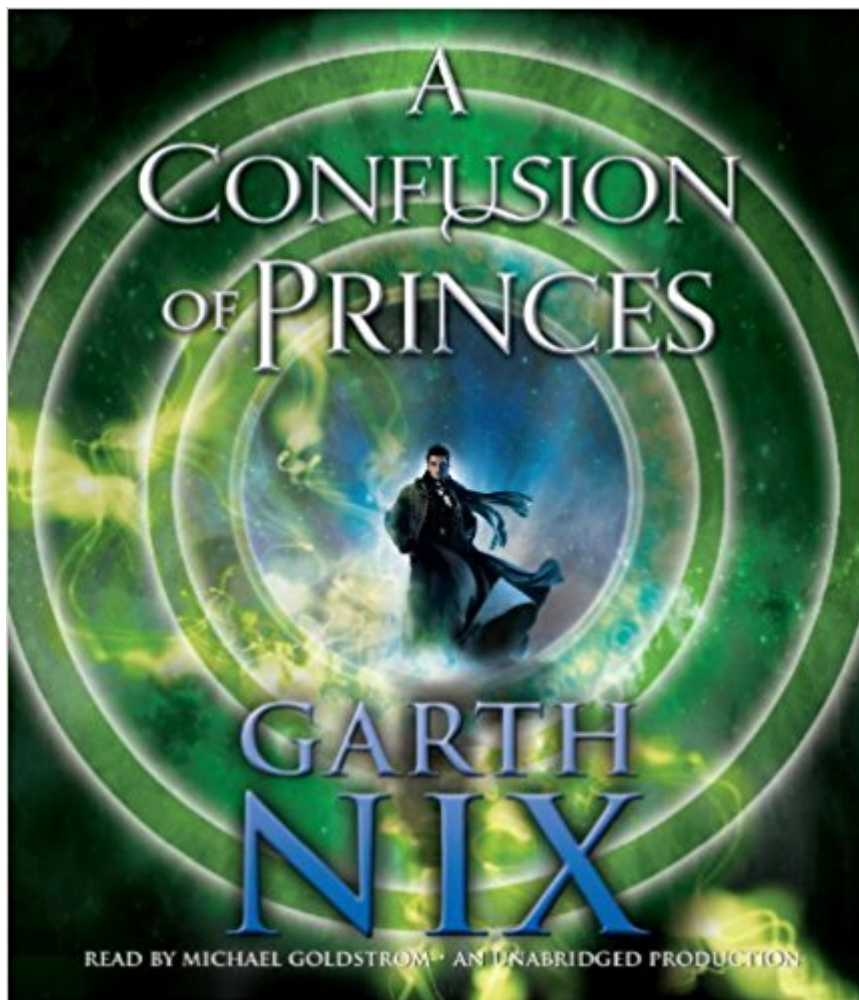


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A Confusion Of Princes



Synopsis

You'd think being a Prince in a vast intergalactic empire would be about as good as it gets. Particularly when Princes are faster, smarter, and stronger than normal humans. Not to mention being mostly immortal. But it isn't as great as it sounds. Princes need to be hard to kill—as Khemri learns the minute he becomes one—for they are always in danger. Their greatest threat? Other Princes. Every Prince wants to become Emperor, and the surest way to do so is to kill, dishonor, or sideline any potential competitor. There are rules, but as Khemri discovers, rules can be bent and even broken. There are also mysteries. Khemri is drawn into the hidden workings of the Empire and is dispatched on a secret mission. In the ruins of space battle he meets a young woman, called Raine, who challenges his view of the Empire, of Princes, and of himself. But Khemri is a Prince, and even if he wanted to leave the Empire behind, there are forces there that have very definite plans for his future. . . .

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-Khemri, now 19, was taken from his parents at birth to be molded into a superhuman, nearly immortal prince of a vast intergalactic empire, joining millions of others like him who carry out the work of the mysterious "Imperial Mind." As his training wraps up and he is set to begin his duties, Khemri discovers that being a young prince of the empire is not all he hoped it would be, and he must prove himself worthy of the title. A year into his service, he is stripped of his super powers

and sent on a secret mission where he falls in love and begins to question his destiny. Conceited and overconfident with grand plans of rising to Emperor himself, Khemri soon realizes there is more to life than immortality and all-encompassing power. Garth Nix weaves an intricate plot (HarperCollins 2012) and creates a fascinating futuristic world with enough action, space gadgetry, and tech lingo to appease hard-core science fiction fans, while providing a rich story and deep characterization that will win over those hesitant to delve into the genre. Michael Goldstrom's crisp voice brings the character to life, delivering the first-person text with an initial air of cockiness and later humility as the prince undergoes his internal transformation. He uses unique and sometimes electronically enhanced voices to distinguish the cast of characters, making this a highly enjoyable listen. -Amy Dreger, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Beachwood, OH (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Space battles! Political intrigue! Engineered warriors! Techno-wizardry! Assassins! Pirates! Rebels! Duels! Secrets, lies, sex and True Love! What more can anybody ask for? (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) Nix's fantasy has enough gadgets, escapes, battles, duels, deaths, and near-death experiences to keep die-hard adventure story readers enthralled. Happily, Khemri is also a thoughtful, winsome, and somewhat complex character, and his cheerfully self-deprecating tone and unpredictable choices make this romp entertaining on multiple levels. (Horn Book (starred review)) Nix once again proves his mastery of speculative fiction [as] he manages to tell a tale that is grand in scope with vivid characters and imaginative technology. (School Library Journal (starred review)) [An] exciting space opera. (Publishers Weekly) Khemri's first person point of view, along with a fast-paced, action- and plot-driven story, is sure to appeal to fans of the Star Wars universe and any number of first-person shooter video games. (ALA Booklist) Garth Nix's A CONFUSION OF PRINCES is YA FOUNDATION meets DUNE. (Tor.com) "Exuberant and insightful. The rocket-powered pace and epic world-building provide an ideal vehicle for what is, at heart, a sweet paean to what it means to be human." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I really enjoyed Garth Nix's departure from his usual fantasy fare. His worldbuilding is A+, as usual. I hope he writes more in this universe, as I found it compelling and interesting. The way he interprets/divides technology is fascinating. I also enjoyed his usual tropes ('how important is family', 'what is power/what is power good for') interpreted in a new world. Finally, I seriously enjoyed that

this was a science fiction book that didn't feel the need to give every character a POV. (I have given it four/five stars despite the glowing review because it reads as a YA novel, in that it's somewhat juvenile. Still, very enjoyable.)

My absolute favorite book from my absolute favorite author. This is Garth Nix's only book in a Sci-fi/'futuristic' setting (Not including *Shade's Children*). The rest is mainly fantasy adventures, which I enjoy too, but not as much as this book. Interesting tidbits: -The book was written along-side a web-based game in the same world. Unfortunately, the site seems to be mostly non-functional now, and it's difficult to create an account. EDIT: Actually, the site is down completely now. What a shame. -The main character (Prince Khemri), is actually black skinned. For some reason, none of the book covers actually show that fact, although some book covers don't show Khemri at all. -There's a short story about Haddad in the story collection 'TO HOLD THE BRIDGE', as well as an additional story in the ABHORSEN universe. I haven't read them, but I'm sure they're great.

Garth Nix is a master at world building and storytelling and this novel is no exception.

I'm a huge fan of his Old Kingdom series and picked up this novel on that basis alone and I was not disappointed! The story is set in the Empire, spanning galaxies and ruled by a single Emperor who directs the Imperial Mind, to which all Princes are connected. As mentioned, the world building is expertly done; Garth Nix is able to create an immense and interesting setting for the story. The protagonist is Khemri, a Prince of the Empire and the story is told from his perspective. One thing I really enjoyed about this book is the character growth. At the start, Khemri is both entitled and ignorant, believing that the world will simply fall at his feet. However, events conspire against him and he quickly learns that the world he's entering is both dangerous and complicated. The way Khemri responds is what makes him likable and he is in no way perfect; he makes mistakes, but he learns from them. And add to all of this, Khemri is charming and seriously funny and able to point out his own shortcomings. This novel is very different to Garth Nix's Old Kingdom series but don't let that put you off, it is just as amazing and a highly recommended read.

Like all of his books, I was drawn in. It isn't his best work, but it can be fairly handy when trying to get someone to understand that things and people exist outside their narrow focus. He is my

favorite author and I will read anything he puts out. It will likely be more interesting to the male readers, but that doesn't mean females won't like it too. Different than his usual work in that it's set in the future, not the past. Guess that's all I have to say. I can probably answer questions you may have though.

This book feels a bit like Dune meets Hitchhiker's Guide. This world is ruled by The Emperor who guides the Imperial Mind, which gives orders to the Princes of The Empire. The Empire is huge and filled with different "tek" (Bitek - biological technology, Mektek - mechanical technology, and Psitek - mental technology), but we follow just one person in it, Prince Khemri. In fact, this book is Prince Khemri's biography. The story is a first person narrative about the life of Prince Khemri, starting with what he imagines must have been his early childhood. He doesn't know what exactly happened because he was taken from his parents at a very young age and altered both physically and mentally to become a Prince of the Empire. Princes are altered to be stronger, faster, and smarter than the regular Imperial citizens. There are millions of Princes, but only one Emperor, and Prince Khemri starts out aspiring to one day be that Emperor. Throughout the book, the Prince comes to realize that the world is not what he was brought up to believe. His experiences force him to really look at the world around him, and make some tough decisions about how he wants to live his life. Does he want to be a cog in the Imperial system, or is it possible for a Prince to be something more? I hope to see more stories written in this world. I love the people, the tek, and the plots. I found myself chuckling in parts at the sarcastic/dry humor. It is wholly on the sci-fi end of sci-fi/fantasy, but not in such a way that "normal" people can't enjoy it.

A great book! If you enjoy world building, character development, and tongue in cheek writing - this is for you. I have really enjoyed that Garth Nix's writing style has matured and developed from his earlier works (his ideas have always been brilliant!). I would greatly recommend to the reader who wants fantasy, but something with more realistic situations and characters that you often see in this genre. Magic does not automatically save the day in "A Confusion of Princes." Instead, a wonderfully woven plot carries this book to a 10/10 for me.

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