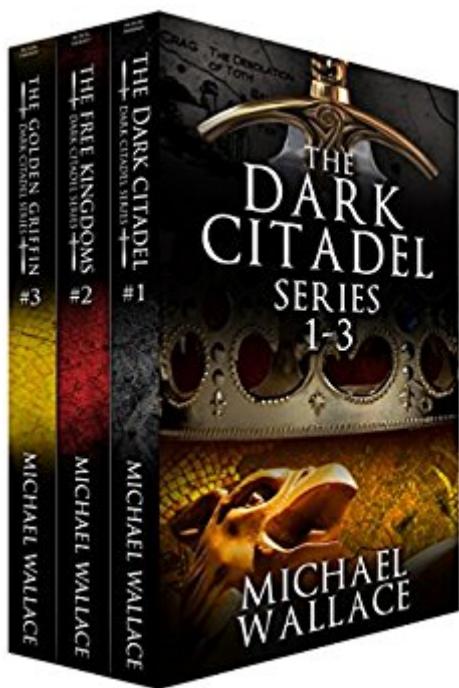


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# The Dark Citadel Omnibus



## **Synopsis**

The Dark Citadel: When a dark wizard takes control of Balsalom and forces young queen Kallia into marriage, slave boy Darik bands with griffin riders and knights to defend their city. The Free Kingdoms: The Dark Wizard marches against the Free Kingdoms while a wizard, warrior prince, and a freed slave boy mount a heroic defense. A young queen struggles behind enemy lines to keep her city free from the enemy's grasp. The Golden Griffin: The dark wizard's dragons attack the griffin riders in their aeries. With her father dead, the young leader of the griffin riders must venture into the northern wilds to tame the powerful and elusive golden griffin. If she fails, her people will be scattered and destroyed. The first three volumes of The Dark Citadel fantasy series by Wall Street Journal and USA Today bestselling author Michael Wallace.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This story has Griffins, dark wizard's, dragons and orphans, heroes and princess's. Great potential. But these first three novels have a major flaw of no conclusion. The other minor critique I would add is the author changing viewpoints too often in first novel. By second novel you have a sense of what

is going on and who are the characters so it is not so bad. But he almost lost me as reader in first half of first book by flipping around so often continuity was threatened. He would have been much better to stick with one viewpoint longer even if timeline had to backtrack on other characters. Omnibus to me means a complete set. But this only includes the first three novels in series and there is NO END. The series has to be read in order or it just doesn't make sense. This is a bad habit I have noticed many authors slipping into of leaving incomplete story lines to drag readers into buying more books. I am still old school and like a complete story. The individual books do NOT stand on their own as they are too incomplete. If the story had an ending I might go as high as five stars. But with no true conclusion and not even partial endings in each novel I waiver between 2 or 3 stars. The inexpensive pricing moved it to three stars. That just demonstrates how important having an ending or at least a partial complete storyline for each book is to me.

There's a big world a fairly good world building, but totally unrealistic time mechanics in how long it would take to get from point to point. This is a pet peeve of mine but I tried to stuff it and keep going. There was just too many last minute saves. And miraculous kid to adult transformations with one or two events. The main characters are mostly filled out by book 3 but others are flat but functional. Another real killer for me was the amount of time it took a boy-man to be trained with a sword he'd never even held and had very little training at all. In 8 weeks or less the large sword "was an extension arm muscles and sinew." Please don't insult us. Very few people gain that kind of excellence in anything physically taxing and when they do it takes years (usually required starting at a very young age) of practice and repetition to get the muscle memory and reflexes to block a blow coming from an unexpected direction. Eight weeks of 12-16 hr days of training would barely get you good enough to get yourself killed by someone w the same amount of training using real swords. Otherwise, the story is entertaining if you aren't thinking very hard. This is another book that should have had in large CASE letters---FOR YOUNG ADULT OR YOUNGER.

I happily bought the Omnibus edition, books 1- 3, when it became available. Book I: The Dark Citadel Here we are vividly introduced to the many characters involved in the story and the history of the kingdom.. The author has a knack for descriptions of scenes, battles, and people. The story speeds along, with no unexpected twists, A good thing in this case because nothing gets in the way to the rapid developments of book I. There is a hint of romance (to come perhaps in later books?) between the shamed, banished knight and the queen, and between two teenagers. Love the series so far! (4 stars) Book 2 (The Five Kingdoms) of course continues the story, but is mostly

preparations for, and conduct of, ferocious battles. The Dark Wizard and his minions, are aligned against the allied forces of Whalen's knights, the Griffin Riders, and Queen Kallia's army. There are many unexpected developments and even developing romances between some of the major players. New combatants are brought into the story and adds to feelings of hopeless on the part of the good guys. I did not think Book 2 was as good as the first book, but still good enough to continue the next volume in the series (3 stars). Book 3, The Golden Griffin. This one is primarily a "searching," searches for a rogue wizard, a huge dragon, and a Golden Griffin. There are now many many twists and turns to the story, which remains unpredictable. Although dialogue is crisp and natural, I found some parts of the story dragging. I liked the parts about how Daria convinces the Golden Dragon to allow her to control its flight, as well as discussions between Darik and his wizard teacher, and Narud. Overall, this is a good series, entertaining, and enjoyable. 3.5 stars

Great series even if you aren't a fan of fantasy novels. I normally read mystery/thrillers but read The Dark Citadel because it was included in a 9 books for 99 cents set I found on the kindle store. I really enjoyed it so I bought book 2 (The Free Kingdoms) right away and read it also. Luckily book 3 (The Golden Griffen) was released two weeks later so I didn't have wait long to read it. I did have to wait a couple of months for The Warrior King but it was worth the wait. I am anxiously awaiting the release of War of Wizards. As someone who doesn't normally read fantasy I am not sure if I would have bought this box set but now I can honestly say that I highly recommend it. If you are like me you will read all three and immediately buy books 3&4.

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