SOFTWARE & TECH

Raymond E Feist Complete Collection

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Introduction to the Worlds of Raymond E. Feist

For decades, readers have been transported to the sprawling, war-torn, and magically rich realms of Midkemia and Kelewan, all thanks to the masterful storytelling of one author: Raymond E. Feist. If you are a fan of epic fantasy, political intrigue, and deeply personal character arcs, the name Feist is likely already familiar. However, for the uninitiated or even the seasoned reader looking to complete their library, there is a single, ultimate goal for every collector: acquiring the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**. This is not merely a set of books; it is a monumental body of work that spans over three decades, encompassing more than thirty novels, multiple trilogies, and a cohesive universe that rivals any other in the fantasy genre. This article will serve as your definitive guide to understanding the scope, the reading order, and the enduring appeal of owning the complete works of this legendary author.

The task of assembling the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection** can seem daunting at first. Where does one start? With the iconic *Magician*? Or with the later series set generations after the original events? The beauty of Feist's work lies in its interconnected nature. While each series or sub-trilogy tells its own story, they are all threads in a massive tapestry that details the history of the Riftwar and its aftermath. This article aims to untangle those threads, providing you with a roadmap to both reading and collecting these essential works. Whether you are looking for paperback box sets, hardcover editions, or digital omnibuses, understanding the structure of the collection is the first step toward building your own.

The Genesis of the Riftwar Cycle

To truly appreciate the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**, one must understand the foundation upon which it is built. The entire universe begins with the **Riftwar Saga**, a series that introduced the world to two young friends from the castle town of Crydee: Pug the orphan kitchen boy and Tomas the soldier. Their journey from humble beginnings to becoming key players in an inter-dimensional war is the stuff of fantasy legend.

The Core Trilogy (and a Fourth Book)

The initial saga is often misunderstood as a simple trilogy. The key novels here are:

- Magician (often published in two parts: Magician: Apprentice and Magician: Master)
- Silverthorn
- A Darkness at Sethanon

These four books (or three, depending on the edition) form the absolute core of the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**. They establish the primary conflict between the Kingdom of the Isles and the Tsurani Empire of Kelewan, introduce the concept of the dreaded Pantathian serpent priests, and set up the long-running threat of the Dread. No collection is complete without these foundational texts.

The Importance of Reading Order

One of the most common questions regarding the complete collection is the reading order. Feist's world is largely chronological, but there are important side-steps. The most widely accepted order for the core series is:

1. The Riftwar Saga
2. The Empire Trilogy (co-written with Janny Wurts) – This runs concurrently with the original Riftwar.
3. Krondor's Sons (Prince of the Blood and The King's Buccaneer)
4. The Serpentwar Saga
5. The Riftwar Legacy (spin-off novels)
6. Legends of the Riftwar (standalone stories)
7. The Conclave of Shadows
8. The Darkwar Saga
9. The Demonwar Saga
10. The Chaoswar Saga

Following this order ensures that spoilers are avoided and that the gradual evolution of the world of Midkemia makes narrative sense. Owning the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**allows you to experience this epic journey exactly as the author intended.

Key Series in the Complete Collection

Let us break down the major components of the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**in more detail. Each series offers a distinct flavor while maintaining the gritty, realistic magic and politics of the world.

The Empire Trilogy: A Masterclass in Political Fantasy

Perhaps the most critically acclaimed part of the entire collection is the **Empire Trilogy**. Co-authored with Janny Wurts, these books (*Daughter of the Empire*, *Servant of the Empire*, *Mistress of the Empire*) take a bold departure from the standard fantasy tropes. Instead of following wizards and warriors, the story centers on Mara of the Acoma, a young woman who must navigate the cutthroat politics of the Tsurani Empire. These novels are essential to the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**because they provide a deep, sympathetic look at the "enemy" culture from the first series. The world-building here is exquisite, and the tactical genius of Mara makes for a gripping read that is often recommended even to those who don't usually read high fantasy.

The Serpentwar Saga

Set decades after the events of the Riftwar, the **Serpentwar Saga** (*Shadow of a Dark Queen*, *Rise of a Merchant Prince*, *Rage of a Demon King*, *Shards of a Broken Crown*) introduces a new cast of characters while bringing back familiar faces. This series is notable for its focus on the common man and the economic realities of war. The character of Roo Avery, a merchant with a ruthless ambition, provides a unique perspective on the consequences of the conflicts that wizards and kings start. The **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**truly shines here as the scope of the world expands dramatically, introducing new continents and threats.

The Conclave of Shadows and Beyond

The later series in the collection—the **Conclave of Shadows**, **Darkwar Saga**, **Demonwar Saga**, and the concluding **Chaoswar Saga**—form a sweeping narrative that brings the entire 30-book saga to a close. These books introduce the Talnoy, the Dasati, and the ultimate threat of the Dread. The **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**becomes a race against time in these final volumes, as old heroes like Pug must face the consequences of all their previous actions. The narrative becomes more cosmic in scale, dealing with the very fabric of reality and the nature of magic itself.

Collecting the Complete Works: Format and Editions

When we talk about the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**, we are talking about a significant investment in

shelf space. There are several ways to approach this collection, depending on your preference for format.

Paperback Box Sets

For the reader on a budget or the traveler, paperback box sets are the most practical option. Several publishers have released the series in groups of three or four. While it is difficult to find a single "Complete Collection" box set that contains all 30+ books, you can easily collect the specific sagas. Look for the **Riftwar Saga Box Set** and the **Serpentwar Saga Box Set** to start. These are the most common editions found in bookstores.

Hardcover and First Editions

For the serious bibliophile, collecting the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection** in hardcover is a labor of love. First editions of *Magician*can be quite valuable. The challenge here is consistency. Because the series was published over thirty years, the cover art and spine designs vary wildly. Some collectors enjoy this "mixed" look, as it shows the evolution of the books. Others seek out later uniform hardcover reprints, such as those published by HarperCollins Voyager. A true "complete" hardcover collection is a rare and beautiful sight on any shelf.

Digital and Omnibus Editions

Space is a premium for many readers. Fortunately, the digital age has made the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**more accessible than ever. The entire series is available on Kindle and other e-readers. Furthermore, omnibus editions have been released that combine trilogies into single volumes. For example, you can find the entire Riftwar Saga in one massive paperback. While these omnibuses are practical, purists often argue that the experience of reading the individual volumes allows for proper appreciation of each story's pacing.

Why the Complete Collection Matters for Fantasy Fans

There are many fantasy series out there, but the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**holds a special place in the genre's history. It is one of the few series that successfully spans multiple generations of characters. Readers who started with Pug and Tomas as teenagers get to see them as old men, grappling with their legacies. This long-term character development is rare and rewarding.

Furthermore, Feist’s magic system is grounded and logical. It feels less like a game mechanic and more like a natural force. The politics of the Kingdom of the Isles are complex, with dukes, barons, and kings who all have realistic motivations. The Raymond E Feist Complete Collection

Tips for Acquiring Your Own Collection

If you have decided to start or complete your own **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection**, here are a few practical tips:

- Start with the Riftwar Saga: Do not try to buy the entire collection at once. Start with Magician. If you love it, move on.
- Check Used Bookstores: Feist was incredibly popular in the 80s and 90s. Used bookstores are treasure troves for his mass-market paperbacks. You can often find first printings for a few dollars.
- Watch for the Empire Trilogy: These books (with Janny Wurts) sometimes go out of print or become harder to find. They are worth seeking out specifically.
- Read the "Short Stories": The Raymond E Feist Complete Collection is not just full-length novels. He has also written short stories set in Midkemia, such as "The Wood Boy" and "The Messenger." Look for the collection Legends of the Riftwar to find these.
- Join a Community: Online forums and Reddit communities dedicated to Feist can help you identify which

editions are rare and where to find missing volumes.

Conclusion

To own the **Raymond E Feist Complete Collection** is to own a library of adventure. It is a testament to the power of epic storytelling, spanning from the personal struggles of a boy in a castle town to the cosmic battle for the survival of reality itself. Whether you are just picking up *Magician* for the first time or you are hunting for that elusive hardcover edition of *Shards of a Broken Crown*, the journey is worth every page. Feist's work remains a cornerstone of classic fantasy, and having the complete series at your fingertips offers an escape that few other authors can provide. Start your collection today—the worlds of Midkemia and Kelewan are waiting.

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