

# The Cracked Throne



By Joshua Palmatier

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Young Varis' life has changed dramatically over the past several months. Once a homeless waif on the Dredge, she has by stages become a hunter for one of the Mistress's seekers, a body guard to an influential merchant, and now, Mistress of Amenkor. Her rise to the hallowed position could not have come at a worse time. Amenkor faces starvation. Ships sent out to bring back needed supplies do not return. Through her own magical abilities, augmented by the powers of the Skewed Throne, Varis comes to understand that a terrible and remote enemy has its sights set on Amenkor.

Once again, the author is in his element with this, the second volume of the Throne of Amenkor Trilogy. Magic exists as if it was a natural part of the world in which Varis, Eryn, Erick, and the other's live. The characters are real individuals, each with their strengths and weaknesses, and the narration flows easily from one scene to another. It is a fitting sequel to Palmatier's first book, *The Skewed Throne*, and an exciting prequel to the final volume of the trilogy, *The Empty Throne*. All three books help solidify the author's place as a master world builder, storyteller, and creator of epic fantasy.