

## **The Waterless Sea by Kate Constable**

The Waterless Sea is the second in the Chanters of Tremaris series and is the anxiously awaited sequel to The Singer of All Songs.

Kate Constable has created a fantasy world of many lands, each of which has chanters that can sing a song of power that no-one else can. There is a prophesy that one day there will come a chanter that can sing all of the powers of Ice, Winds, Becoming, Iron, Tongue, Beasts, Seeming, Fire and the unnamed Great Power which is the sum of them all.

As this second saga begins, an attempt to intercept a pirate ship to rescue a windworker, leads to a meeting with Heben from the vast, desert country of Merithuros. Heben begs their help to rescue his brother and sister who have been taken captive as are all children with chanter powers in Merithuros.

Their search leads them to the Palace of Cobwebs and a dark secret is revealed. Leaving the palace and the very fabric of Merithuros in chaos, they journey on to the Black Palace of Hathana, stronghold of the sorcerers.

Darrow, meanwhile also travels to the Black Palace after forming an alliance with the rebels. Calwyn performs a chantment to heal the barren, tortured land that leaves her void of all powers of chantment. Calwyn's healing has created "an atmosphere of goodwill and calm" that Darrow must take advantage of to bring all of the rival groups together to plan a new democratic foundation for Merithuros.

Further discussion arising from this book could include-

Inequality in society as a cause of war - the nobles live frivolously while the workers slave and starve

Comparison of a monarchy and a republic

Disabilities – how it would feel to lose a part of you

Child slavery/labour

Valuing everyone for their differing skills

Discuss "An empire might be destroyed in a day, but it will take twenty years to build the Republic to replace it."

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