

# The Strains of Malice

By Andrew Beardmore

Book one of the gripping new historical fantasy series, *The Nessemiah*.

Is anywhere on Thera safe from Nessemi? Or the hell that lies beyond?

*"I'm afraid there are good and bad everywhere, Emily. It's a fact of life that wherever you look, there are strains of malice."*

Fifteen-year-old baker's daughter, Emily Luca, is in serious trouble with the Glennadian Crown. Her crime: to prevent a small dog from being torn apart by hounds belonging to the callous Prince Magnus. Having been rescued by former naval captain, Jake Oscom, the unlikely pair become fugitives, hunted across Glennad – initially for cruel sport but latterly after Oscom is framed for a heinous crime committed by Magnus himself.

Elsewhere, in a world with unusual geographical quirks and subtle energy lines, hardships endure for a close-knit community of miners and unimaginable foul play befalls a Glennadian princess – but these trials pale into insignificance compared to what northern astronomers have just discovered. Four hundred leagues south, in the ancient city of Thera, the cruel eyes of Calidius Antoninus Dominius have seen the same thing – but to him it merely expedites his imperial ambitions and presents a justified opportunity to brutally murder thousands of his subjects.

*'This is an authentic and well developed epic fantasy world with lots of heroes to root for and villains to dislike. It reminds me of A Song of Ice and Fire. Prince Magnus certainly gives Joffrey a run for his money!'* **LoveReading**

*'Beardmore is a fantastic storyteller with a penchant for meticulous details. He crafts a world so humanistically flawed and tremendously intriguing.'* **onlinebookclub.org**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*The Strains of Malice is a major departure for Andrew Beardmore. A professional copywriter in the IT industry, Andrew is also the author of many non-fiction books, including the nationally popular "Unusual and Quirky" series of county history books, also published by Halsgrove Publishing. However, another of Andrew's literary loves is epic fantasy and he has finally joined the fray with a four-book historical fantasy series, known as The Nessemiah, of which this is Book 1. It was David Eddings who first captured his fantasy heart in the early 1980s – the same time that a seventeen-year-old Andrew was playing guitar in his father's dance band, supporting bandleader giants like Victor Silvester and Joe Loss.*

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