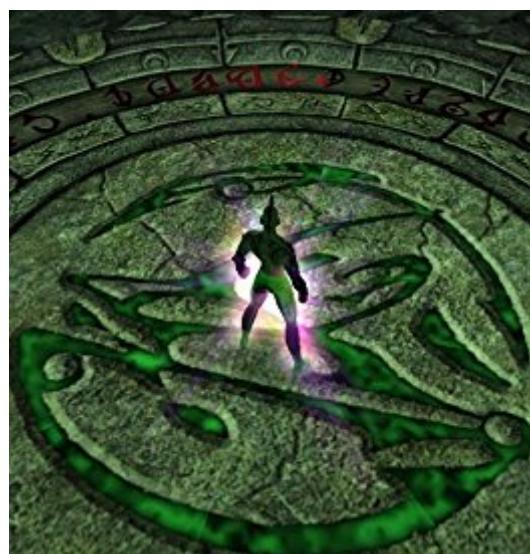


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Secret Force: Quest For The Pro Tour II



Synopsis

Tempest has just been released and Jamie is enamored of the new card Verdant Force. Shunning conventional deck building, as usual, Wakefield attempts to make a deck around the card that will earn him a slot at the next Pro Tour. While being told by more traditional deck-builders that his creation will never work, that it "isn't even good enough for fun play." Jamie struggles through hundreds of testing sessions, local tournaments and Pro Tour Qualifiers striving to prove them wrong.

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Customer Reviews

Here's something that I've learned over the last fifteen or so years of reading Magic articles: if Jamie Wakefield writes something, it's worth your time to read it. Jamie is one of the original storytellers of Magic, and this book (along with his first book: The Quest For The Pro Tour (Volume 2)) collects many of his early tales of strategy, training, triumph, and heartbreak as he tries his best to dominate the game. Quest for the Pro Tour II chronicles the time of Jamie's life that he is most famous for. It starts out with a quick review of some Tempest cards and then moves into the early stages of Secret Force, Jamie's signature deck. We hear about the initial deck idea and design, and Jamie's

desire and determination to use this creation to qualify for the Pro Tour. The rest of the book is a mix of tournament reports, testing feedback, tweaks to the deck, and stories about Jamie and his friends having fun living the gaming life. The complete and total embrace of the gamer lifestyle reminds me a bit of my younger days, when friends and I would regularly engage in marathon gaming binges - which I sometimes look back on with fondness. *Quest for the Pro Tour II* is a great vehicle for that type of nostalgia, if that's your kind of thing. While, as mentioned above, this book contains a very wide variety of articles - Jamie Wakefield is a master of the tournament report, and those entries are the high points of 'Secret Force'. He really brings the reader with him through the tournament experience, so much so that at times I'm pretty sure I want to topdeck a Natural Order just as badly as he does. These reports don't always end in glory and success, but they are always entertaining and usually end with a few solid lessons. In many ways I think that last sentence I typed is the perfect summary of *Secret Force: Quest for the Pro Tour II*. One last thing worth noting is that if you're a newer player, this book will probably mention a bunch of specific cards and decks that you're not familiar with. Expect to spend some time looking up older cards in order to truly follow along. This isn't really a serious negative, but I thought it was worth noting - keep a laptop or smartphone by your side, and you should be all set.

Jamie Wakefield was iconic in Magic's early history. This book though he goes a little off topic trying to tell a fantasy story at some parts. I don't recommend his books for people who are beginners because many of the cards they will have to look up and look up why they were used at the time. Great walk down memory lane for those of use who have been playing for over a decade though!

Fun read, I just read this one after reading *The Quest For The Pro Tour*. This one reads similar to *Michael J. Flores Deckade: 10 Years of Magic: The Gathering Strategy and Commentary*. The use of "some good" and "some bad" jumped out at me. If you enjoy reading about old school magic and tournament reports this will be right up your alley.

Jamie Wakefield is one of my favorite storytellers. I was a huge fan of his work when it was first published online in the late nineties, but I only recently learned about this second volume of his tournament reports. I inhaled it in a day. He has a great personality, and reading the book feels like reading old letters from a friend. The book also does a superb job of sketching the tournament scene back then, and evoking a feeling of nostalgia for the last years before the internet became a dominant part of everyone's daily life. I also love the brief chapter where he imagines himself as a

planeswalker recruiting all his beloved green fatties from an out-of-the-loop elf, a silent beast, an over-confidant giant, and so on. (People who didn't play back then might not get the jokes unless you look up a lot of cards, but he's riffing on how awful Green was in the game's first ten years.) I don't imagine non-Magic players would want to read this, but I'd recommend it anyone who both loves Magic and good writing.

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