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The Dragon Reborn (The Wheel Of Time, Book 3)



Synopsis

The Dragon Reborn--the leader long prophesied who will save the world, but in the saving destroy it; the savior who will run mad and kill all those dearest to him--is on the run from his destiny. Able to touch the One Power, but unable to control it, and with no one to teach him how--for no man has done it in three thousand years--Rand al'Thor knows only that he must face the Dark One. But how? Winter has stopped the war--almost--yet men are dying, calling out for the Dragon. But where is he? Perrin Aybara is in pursuit with Moiraine Sedai, her Warder Lan, and the Loial the Ogier. Bedeviled by dreams, Perrin is grappling with another deadly problem--how is he to escape the loss of his own humanity. Egwene, Elayne and Nynaeve are approaching Tar Valon, where Mat will be healed--if he lives until they arrive. But who will tell the Amyrlin their news--that the Black Ajah, long thought only a hideous rumor, is all too real? They cannot know that in Tar Valon far worse awaits... Ahead, for all of them, in the Heart of the Stone, lies the next great test of the Dragon reborn....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After finishing the latest release in the Game of Thrones series last summer (A Dance With Dragons), I began searching for something to fill the fantasy void in my life. One series kept popping up: The Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan. Despite the glowing reviews (at least for the early books), I was nervous for three reasons. 1) Robert Jordan passed away before being able to complete the series. While the series has been picked up by a seemingly worthy successor, it was

hard for me to imagine investing myself in an author's world for 10+ books only to not that author deliver the payoff.²) The reviews for the books later in the series (starting at book 7 or 8) are absolutely horrific. The long-time readers appeared to be extremely unhappy with the direction of the series. On the plus side, the reviewers did unleash some really excellent sarcasm in their reviews for books 8-10 on . Good stuff if you can avoid the spoilers.³) The covers to these books are awful. Books 1-2 are among the worst, but they don't get much better. Reading book 6 on an airplane last month provided me a healthy dose of embarrassment when I was asked why I was reading a romance novel. So why did I dig in? First, I read some of the reviews for the Brandon Sanderson authored books in the series (12 & 13 thus far, with 14 to be released in January). Against all odds, they are actually seen as an improvement over the later Robert Jordan books. Second, despite the poor reviews for the middle books in the series (the trough seems to be books 7-10), this improvement suggested any struggles would be worthwhile. Third, I decided to take a chance - if the books were really as bad as their covers, I could always cut my losses and move on to another series.

Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series is legendary in its length (11 books, so far, and still not over), so why care about what happens in lowly Book 3? Because we have some neat plot points, the overall story arc starts to crystallise, and mainly, it is the most enjoyable read of the first three books. I was reminded of Star Wars Ep. 1 - the book has a resolution of its main plotline, but it is obvious that there is lots more of the saga to go, especially since we know that, at the end of the book, certain baddies are still on the loose. After bringing most of the main characters together for the climax of Book 2, Jordan cleaves the group again for separate journeys to the city of Tear. Prophecy says that only the Dragon Reborn can wield the magic sword stored in the vault of that city's fortress. Some have complained that it takes a series of unbearable coincidences to get everyone to the final battle, which would be a valid complaint except that Jordan's world is designed in such a way that unbelievable coincidences can (and often do) occur, because of the overriding "will" of the Wheel of Time. This is a standard literary device, well-known to the ancient Greeks (the Fates) and Arabs (Kismet). It could potentially become a crutch, but in this book Jordan convincingly brings the threads of a number of seemingly diverse storylines together. The reason everyone ends up in Tear? - they all know (or are chasing people who know) that the Dragon Reborn will show up in Tear to claim the magic sword. It's only a matter of timing (they all arrive at the final battle simultaneously) that needs invocation of the Wheel's influence.

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