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New Spring: The Novel (Wheel Of Time)



Synopsis

From America's premier fantasy writer---#1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of Crossroads of Twilight---comes an expanded version of his novella "New Spring," first published in the Legends collection. For three days battle has raged in the snow around the great city of Tar Valon. In the city, a Foretelling of the future is uttered. On the slopes of Dragonmount, the immense mountain that looms over the city, is born an infant prophesied to change the world. That child must be found before the forces of the Shadow have an opportunity to kill him. Moiraine Damodred, a young Accepted soon to be raised to Aes Sedai, and Lan Mandragoran, a soldier fighting in the battle, are set on paths that will bind their lives together. But those paths are filled with complications and dangers, for Moiraine, of the Royal House of Cairhien, whose king has just died, and Lan, considered the uncrowned king of a nation long dead, find their lives threatened by the plots of those seeking power. "New Spring" related some of these events, in compressed form; New Spring: The Novel tells the whole story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Those familiar with Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series know that a great many readers have something of a love/hate relationship with it. On the one hand, the world in which the story takes place is meticulously constructed, diverse and highly immersive, a true joy to read about. Some of his characters are quite intriguing, and his numerous subplots were always enough to keep readers highly involved. On the other hand, his series has two huge defects. First, almost every single

female character is cut from exactly the same mold; Jordan says he wanted to write "strong" women, but what he means is that they behave like arrogant, spoiled teenagers who see men as little more than beasts of burden. I've read a number of strong women in literature, and met a number of them in my life, and none acts the least bit like Jordan's harpies. The second problem is that in the later volumes of the series, "glacial" doesn't even begin to describe the pacing. At least glaciers make progress once in awhile. *New Spring*, thankfully, rectifies the latter problem. It moves along at a fine pace, keeping the reader interested from beginning to end. It's a measure of the depth of Jordan's story that even those of us who have read through the whole *Wheel of Time* series numerous times can find plenty of interest in this latest volume. A number of long-standing questions are resolved to greater or lesser extent in this book:- What history does Elaida have with Moiraine and Siuan?- What is the nature of the test to become full Aes Sedai?- What happened to the other Malkieri following the fall of their nation?- Why does Siuan suspect that Cadsuane is Black Ajah?- What was the "unpleasantness" following the Aiel War that Cadsuane has referred to?

I have read *New Spring: The Novel*, and have to say that although it was a hundred times better than *Crossroads of Twilight*, the latest installment in the series, it still is missing the magic that the first novels had. When the *Wheel of Time* series began, it was captivating. There was an exciting plot that never dragged along so slowly that it seemed to be standing still, as it does in the later books. It was full of mystery and thrill, and I could hardly force myself to put the books down. *New Spring: The Novel*, was a great read and provided a lot of interesting background to the series, but it certainly was not as fast-paced as the *Wheel of Time* or the *Great Hunt*, and not the type of book that kept me up late at night with my eyes glued to the pages. Robert Jordan still tends to go on in too much detail about clothing and furniture, such as "it was a simple room, with not too much gilding, but the mirrored stand lamps were brightly polished and silk tapestries hung on the walls." It seems that Robert Jordan has gotten into a rut and does not know or understand anymore how to write without so many excess details filling his books. But if you can ignore the lengthy un-needed descriptions, this is a book *WoT* fans will definitely want to read. I am lucky because I got into the series in late 2004, and I have had no waiting for any book to come out. For older fans of the series, I can imagine how frustrating it would be to wait for the end of the series only to discover that R.J. has decided to go back and write a prequel before moving on with the plot that everyone cares the most about. Enough about what the book doesn't have. *New Spring* is very good. It takes us back to when Moiraine Damodred and Siuane Sanche are Accepted in the White Tower, training to become Aes Sedai.

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