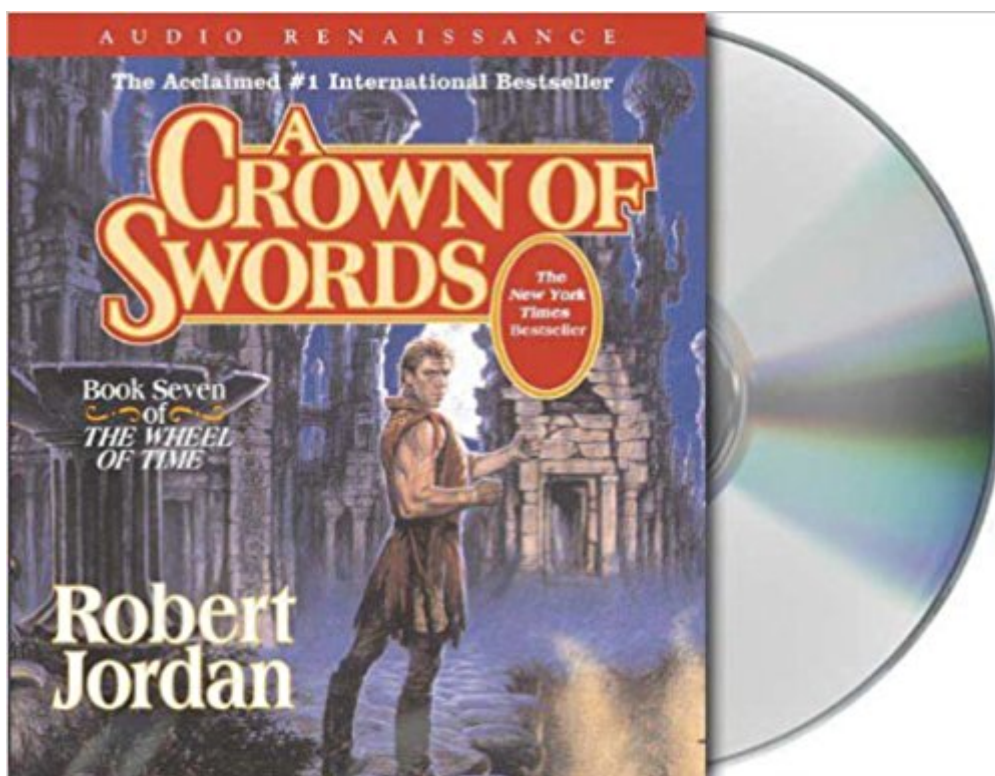


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A Crown Of Swords (The Wheel Of Time, Book 7)



Synopsis

The eagerly awaited for seventh book in Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series, *A Crown of Swords*, The New York Times bestseller that swept the nation like a firestorm. In this volume, Elayne, Aviendha, and Mat come ever closer to the bowl ter'angreal that may reverse the world's endless heat wave and restore natural weather. Egwene begins to gather all manner of women who can channel--Sea Folk, Windfinders, Wise Ones, and some surprising others. And above all, Rand faces the dread Forsaken Sammael, in the shadows of Shadar Logoth, where the blood-hungry mist, Mashadar, waits for prey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Jordan has created a rich and intricate tapestry of characters in his *Wheel of Time* series. In this seventh volume, Rand al'Thor--the Dragon Reborn--draws ever closer to the Last Battle as a stifling heat grips the world. --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

The seventh volume of Jordan's bestselling high fantasy series carries on the tradition of colossal, dauntingly complex storytelling established by the previous entries (*Lord of Chaos*, 1994, etc.). In a richly woven post-holocaust world where magic is normally a woman's monopoly and a man who can use it is a menace, Rand al'Thor, a shepherd, discovered that he could "channel

Just a short note, I've read them all up to this point. I've enjoyed all of them, some more than others. The one thing that I find objectionable in these books, did ANYONE edit them for grammar, punctuation or sentence structure? Quite often in this series of books I find that I have to re-read a few sentences or even an entire paragraph, to make them actually make sense. Also, as mentioned by a few other reviewers, Nynaeve pulling her braid non-stop is just really annoying. And the perpetual power struggle between men and women is tired already. Last but not least... even lifelong friends in this series don't trust each other. Sad

This book is no better or worse than any in the series. Up to this point, they all really read like one giant story. What really separates each book is the major events that happen in each book as well as which characters the story focuses on as the story progresses. This particular volume focuses the most on Rand, Mathew, and refreshingly Min. I would describe this story as one where many important things are set up to further move along the story - sort of a set up volume. The characters involved are all fun and important characters which is the biggest drive to continue reading, but this is not a book where I felt anything super climactic happened - other than what happens on the very last page which I will not spoil in a review.

As much as I enjoyed this book, I just can't get over his female characters. They are either angry, haughty or in some mental state in-between angry and haughty. I especially cannot STAND that Nynaeve character. I try and speed read through her sections. Apart from that, the action does pick up as compared to the previous book. Definitely an enjoyable read if you are already a fan and invested in the series.

I started reading the Wheel of Time series in the '90s as a teenager, and stopped in early college (around 2000) because I couldn't bear to wait and wait and wait between books. Now that the final book is coming out I am fulfilling a promise to myself, made long ago, to read them all again. It's a very different experience reading them back to back. I feel much less anxiety over the speed of the plot (when will Moraine return?! When will Rand go crazy? What will the three girls do when they are finally in one room together with Rand?!?!). Instead I am enjoying all the nuances of the story. Also, it is much easier to follow the disparate narratives when you're not taking 2 years off between books. All this background to say: 7 is an awesome installment to the series. Particularly riveting are the adventures of Elayne, Nynaeve, Birgitte, Aviendha and Mat in Ebou Dar. It is enormously gratifying to see Mat being treated like a human being by Elayne and Nynaeve. We also get to see

how Elayne and Nynaeve begin to fashion their personae as young Aes Sedai as they search for the Bowl of the Winds.

This is the seventh book in the [Wheel of Time] series; this is already longer than most series get, and it's only halfway done. There are a lot of negative reviews from readers who grew frustrated with the series' length, and it's understandable. It's a serious time investment, and readers have to be willing to make the emotional investment in the characters as well. However, I will object to claims that the writing is any worse. The quality is very rich, with excellent descriptive writing and some very distinctive characters. Old characters develop in a very intriguing manner and new characters add layers to the story. As in the prior novel [Lord of Chaos], this is a fantasy novel that doesn't try to be "all action, all the time." However, if the central story element of [Lord] was political conflict in a world approaching cataclysm, [A Crown of Swords] is all about the people, who are beginning to feel malaise from wars past and fear of a cataclysm approaching. It's interesting to note how much the world changes from the first novel to this one, and the nature of the writing suggests that Jordan intended the [Wheel of Time] series to be about more than a few key characters; this series is about the ending of an era, of the world and the people who inhabit it. Why is it that so many fans stop following the series at this pivotal point in the series? A mini-review on this novel from (co-author of the later Wheel of Time books) Brandon Sanderson's blog contains his theories, similar to my own. This quote sums it up: "This series, as I've said before, is meant to be read straight through. I think, perhaps, that waiting two years for this book and then only getting a tiny slice of the overall story might be what caused complaints from readers. It's not that the writing quality went down (I think it goes up as the series continues) or that the pacing grew slower. I think that the problem is readers not grasping the entire vision of the story, which is difficult to do when you don't know how many books there will be or how long it will be until they are done." The middle of any book or any series is naturally going to have a lot of setup for the approaching climax. By necessity, the series must technically get a little "slower," but that does not at all mean that [A Crown of Swords] does not have worthwhile writing to offer. After playing a relatively minor role in books 4-6, Mat Cauthon plays a very big part in [Crown], so fans of him will be overjoyed to follow the further exploits of this lovable rogue, and shocked when he begins to reform himself a tad bit. Lan makes his triumphant return after being almost completely absent from the previous installment. Readers will notice big changes in central characters like Rand, Min, Mat, Elayne, and Nynaeve, for better or worse. And a few of the scenes in [Crown] are among my favorites in the series, particularly towards the end. I'd hate to spoil anything, so I'll end the review here: if you've read and

enjoyed the [Wheel of Time] up to this point, I definitely recommend that you stick with it. While you may not love the new direction that this book takes, you have to respect that huge scope of things and appreciate the book for its own merits.

Took me three years or more to finish because I get so annoyed with the female characters, but absolutely loved it. The story, characters and world are amazing and second to none.

Aside from the author's penchant for over-describing scenery and, occasionally, people's clothing, this is a great continuation to the Wheel of Time series. Saying anything more would just spoil the intricate plot line. Obviously, since this is book seven of a 14 book series, anyone reading this is familiar with the story, the characters, and the settings enough to know whether they'd like to continue reading. Since I've invested so much time into getting this far, I will definitely finish the series. Happy reading!

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