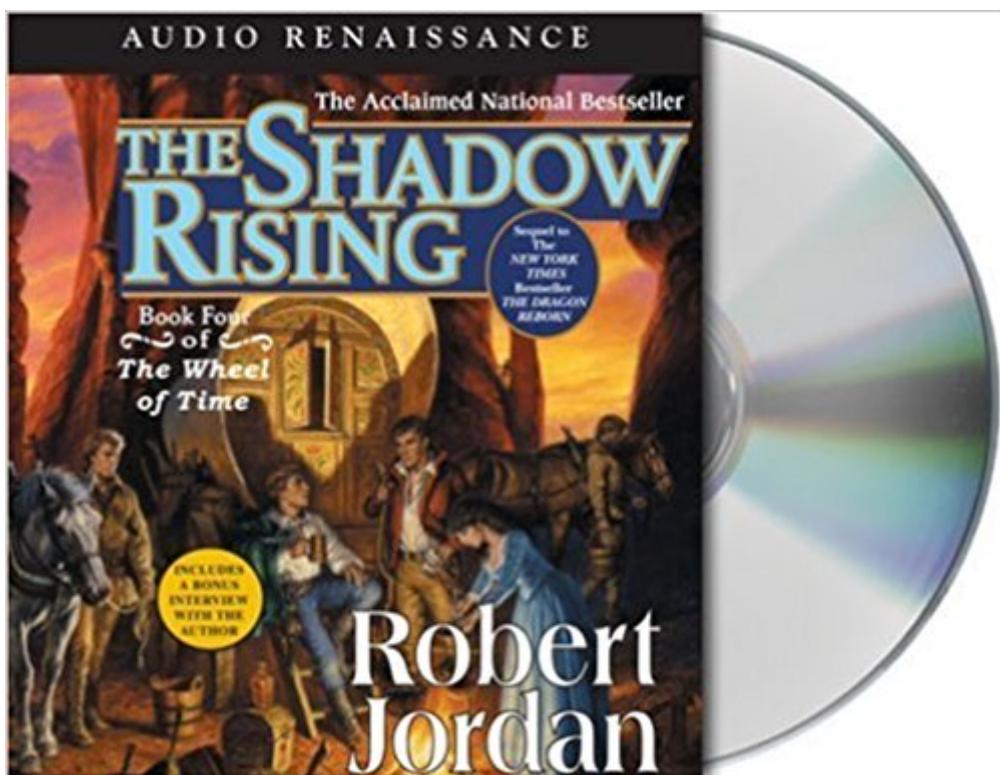


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The Shadow Rising: Book Four Of 'The Wheel Of Time'



Synopsis

The seals of Shayol Ghul are weak now, and the Dark One reaches out. The Shadow is rising to cover humankind. In Tar Valon, Min sees portents of hideous doom. Will the White Tower itself be broken? In the Two Rivers, the Whitecloaks ride in pursuit of a man with golden eyes, and in pursuit of the Dragon Reborn. In Cantorin, among the Sea Folk, High Lady Suroth plans the return of the Seanchan armies to the mainland. In the Stone of Tear, the Lord Dragon considers his next move. It will be something no one expects, not the Black Ajah, not Tairen nobles, not Aes Sedai, not Egwene or Elayne or Nynaeve. Against the Shadow rising stands the Dragon Reborn.....

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Customer Reviews

Having declared himself the Dragon Reborn, Rand al'Thor must proceed to fulfill the prophecy that he will protect the world from the return of the Dark One. Jordan's hefty addition to his massive series begins very much in medias res as an unknown danger threatens the city of Tar Valon, home of the powerful, unlike Aes Sedai. In a whirlwind of uncertainty stirred up by the conflicting motivations of such groups as the Whitecloaks, the Darkfriends and Trollocs (among an abundance of others), Rand travels to the city of Rhuidean in the Aiel Waste for answers. Jordan (The Dragon Reborn) seems to be intent on turning the series into an endless soap opera; in each successive volume he introduces more new elements than he resolves. What was originally a mood-setting technique--the tendency of most characters not to share their special knowledge with either their

companions or the reader--has by now become boring. Hundreds of characters and dozens of conflicting plots cause much of the action to take place offstage. As a result, this fully imagined saga threatens to burst the seams of its steadily more intricate design. Nevertheless, the sheer force of his invention develops a momentum that established Jordan fans, and probably like-minded new readers, will find hard to resist. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

As the power of the Dark One grows stronger, Rand al'Thor and his friends face greater challenges in their war against the Shadow. From the halls of Tar Valon, where the Aes Sedai mystics discover agents of darkness in their own ranks, to the Aiel Waste, where a hidden city holds secrets forbidden to all but a few, Rand and his companions seek to fulfill the destiny laid out for them. Jordan's multivolume epic continues to live up to its high ambitions. Complex plotting, an array of strong characters, lavish detail, and a panoramic scope make this series a feast for fantasy aficionados. Expect demand for this. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I'm buddy reading this entire series a book a month with the great fantasy loving peeps at Buddies Books and Baubles. The great thing about that is that I know I have so many great people to discuss all the happenings in this book with. The bad part is that after taking a month to read a single book a few chapters at a time it feels like some of it happened so long ago and perhaps an entire season on one of your favorite shows has gone by and how do you sum that up without a review that is ten pages long? The answer is you don't so I'm just going to hit some highlights. In my opinion this is Perrin's break out book. Much of the focus was on him and his struggle with the life of a blacksmith he thought he would have and the new life of a leader he is going to have. He goes back to help the people of the Two Rivers and you can really see how much he has changed from the country bumpkin he used to be. Overall Perrin's was my favorite arc in the book. Not just because he goes back to Two Rivers but also because I really enjoyed his love interest Faile. I know a lot of people aren't a fan of their relationship....but I'm not one of them. I totally love the banter and how each has a warriors heart and they fight with each other but always for each other. So while Perrin is off in the Two Rivers Rand and Mat have their own journey. While a lot of this is still really interesting due to the time spent with the Aiel I struggle so much with Mat. I'm waiting for him to break out of his selfish thoughts and become truly great but currently he is busy going through mysterious doors and talking with alien people. When he isn't doing that he seems to be busy chasing women and playing

dice. I'm hoping the next book he will grow a little more. Rand however is very distrustful of almost everyone around him and keeps everything to himself. There is some headway on the Three women who will love him and I have a really good idea of where that is going but more than that we see how strong he is when he channels. Too bad he has very sporadic and sparse control of it. Lan and Nynaeve finally got to have another semi-sweet conversation and I really did miss that in the last book. I wish we get a little more time with them together but Nynaeve is busy at the moment hunting Black Ajah and so little time for romance there. Nynaeve and Elyane's was the other arc that was interesting because they are on a very dangerous journey to find the women who left the White Tower and have given themselves to the Dark One. Two against Thirteen doesn't seem fair odds but with a little company they might do okay. This was my favorite book of the series so far. There is a lot more action and story progression. Plenty of danger and bad guys to go around between the Trolocks, Black Ajah, Forsaken and White Cloaks. It also seems that there are more dangers afoot than just those and I can see why the prophecies say The Dragon Reborn will break the world. Very much looking forward to book 5

This may be my favorite of the series with the Aiel coming fully into the story and the thrilling and yet tragic fulfillment of their prophecy. Binding them to the Dragon and breaking them. We also get to start exploring more of the Realm of Dreams with Aiel Dream walkers mentoring Egwene and Perrin in his wolf dream meeting his nemesis. A sweet love develops and brave small townsmen come together to save themselves. And the Forsaken take a more overt part and some come head to head with our heroes who must realize their courage and strength in order to survive. All this made new again with two excellent performances in the audio version. I am enjoying this reread of books I've been reading since I was a teenager buy for the first time as audio books. Now onto book 5... only 10 more to go!

Well written, full of vivid imagery. Action sequences and battle scenes I do not like as much because I have always had a hard time visualizing those scenes in any book. The plot is becoming more complicated as the characters have gone their separate ways to achieve their various goals, all of which are intertwined. This also means there are a couple of chapters about this character, a couple about that one and a couple about the other. But unlike the series "Games of Thrones" on television, the author can take the time he needs rather than just giving the reader little vignettes. Highly recommended.

I was hesitant to buy this, because this stupid world consumes my life - much like how the Dark One plans on consuming all of creation. But then I bought it, and it's begun consuming my life. Does that mean I've given over to the Shadow? Have I become Darkfriend? Continue reading my reviews for a biographical accounting of my existential state. Also, book came on time and as-advertised. Will probably buy another book from the seller, natch.

So much action. So many intrigues. So much destiny at stake. I waited to read this series until it was completed because I wanted to read the saga at once. I love what Robert Jordan (and Brandon Sanderson) have done so far. I actually read a bunch of Sanderson to get a feel for his style of writing and fell in love with his stories, which helped prepare me for Robert's work. Jordan is an extraordinary story teller and I am impressed by the breath and depth of his writing. I've read other epic novels/series and this compares more than favorably. I feel I know the characters and I miss them when they go missing from a book. I hate the villains, I root for the reluctant heroes, I feel as if I'm living the story. This to me signifies compelling story telling. I definitely recommend this series.

Took me a little less than a year to finish this series only reading a little each day or so, but I enjoyed it thoroughly. Jordan wrote with a lot of detail and made the characters really feel like flesh and blood. Rand, Matt, and Perrin and the rest are characters you'll enjoy getting to know and enjoy following through the many turns of the Wheel of Time. I know I'll visit again.

Jordan managed to make a world so detailed, so life-like, that you can almost imagine yourself fighting and riding along side the characters. Wish he fading level Jordan writes at, one can almost feel their own understanding of the English language growing. Robert Jordan, God rest his soul, and Brandon Sanderson are undoubtably, in my mind at least, the best authors this generation will ever know.

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