



## The Tower of Swallows

*Andrzej Sapkowski*

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**The Witcher** returns in this action-packed sequel to *Baptism of Fire*, in the *New York Times* bestselling series that inspired *The Witcher* video games.

The world has fallen into war. Ciri, the child of prophecy, has vanished. Hunted by friends and foes alike, she has taken on the guise of a petty bandit and lives free for the first time in her life.

But the net around her is closing. Geralt, the Witcher, has assembled a group of allies determined to rescue her. Both sides of the war have sent brutal mercenaries to hunt her down. Her crimes have made her famous.

There is only one place left to run.

The tower of swallows is waiting...

## The Tower of Swallows Details

Date : Published May 17th 2016 by Orbit (first published 1997)

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Author : Andrzej Sapkowski

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## From Reader Review The Tower of Swallows for online ebook

### **Kat Hooper says**

3.5 Will review at [www.fantasyliterature.com](http://www.fantasyliterature.com)

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### **Jeraviz says**

¡Qué barbaridad! La mejor novela de la saga con diferencia. Más de 300 páginas donde casi todo son diálogos que nos van mostrando los últimos meses de la vida de Ciri. Sapkowski nos lleva adelante y atrás en el tiempo para ir mostrando poco a poco lo que quiere. Y todo esto, repito, con diálogos, sin necesidad de meter con calzador información. Los personajes hablan sobre el mundo que les rodea y gracias a eso nosotros como lectores lo descubrimos. Absolutamente brillante.

Eso sí, no sé a quién se le ocurrió que la saga se llamara Geralt de Rivia porque apenas es un secundario en todo esto. La protagonista y reina absoluta es Ciri, un imán cuando aparece.

PD: Esa escena final en el hielo es lo mejor que he leído en muchísimo, muchísimo tiempo.

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### **Mizuki says**

The more I read into this series, the more I have doubts with it. For example, why the people in this high fantasy 'swords & magic' world are using terms which are very similar with us modern men and women's? Why they seem to know about genetic engineering? Does this mean the humans in this world had once come from *our world*, somehow?

Still, aside from my doubts and the lack of explanation, I still found myself enjoying this series. The characters are still going strong whilst the political schemes plots are getting quite tiresome (too many schemes within too many different courts, I lost count). And OMG! I like the development with Ciri this time, she suffered so much and eventually, she pushed through! I wonder what will happen in the next book!

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### **Evgeny says**

How can I give an outline of the plot of the sixth book of a series without giving huge spoilers? So here you are, a huge spoiler:

Sufficient to say, the book picks up right where the previous left which is logical considering that nothing whatsoever was resolved by the end of that one - actually I had a feeling it ended practically in mid-sentence. Let me just say that we will see the fate of all interesting major people from the previous installment. None of them ended up with happily ever after situation. Some got killed, including the people that really deserved

it.

One point of notice: we got to have Dandelion's (Jaskier in some translations) POV in form of his memoirs - he started compiling them for the lack of nothing else to do to break the monotony. In case anybody had any doubt about the guy being one of the most colorful character of the series: after reading this part your doubts will go away never to return again.

Unfortunately the passage in question is not very long, but for me it was the best part of the book bar none.

Something else to note: in terms of violence the novel has more of it than all the previous combined. People get killed, maimed, tortured, etc. This combined with the fact that the second half slowed down from very fast action of the first part forced me to lower the rating by one; I really liked the beginning.

Readers that made it this far know that Sapkowski loves jumping back and forth in time while spinning his tale. Let me assure you: you ain't seen nothing yet until you read this novel. These jumps made my head spin giving me a complete illusion of riding a giant roller-coaster. I have to give it to the author: he does it without creating any lasting confusion. I do not recall this particular trick used to such effect anywhere.

In the end I have to say that if managed to finish this next-to-last book of a series, it is too late to give up now. On to the last book we go!

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### **Anirudh says**

When I began reading the Witcher Saga, as I made progress through the series a fear began to grow in me. Although I dismissed it at first, now I've come to the realisation that it was true. Sapkowski had a story big enough for a novella and stretched it over five books.

Even though the book starts well and one gets the false sense of hope that the book is finally getting somewhere after the disaster of the previous books. But one soon realises that despite turning page after page we get nowhere because there really was nowhere to go to begin with. The witcher, briefly in action slumps back into a moaning child who is anything but a fearsome warrior I had imagined him to be.

Ciri on the other hand is a puzzle. I am not sure what her intended destiny is or in which direction she was meant to take, but in this book she is everywhere. No amount of logic helped me figure out how a girl who was happily playing bandit for no apparent reason suddenly insists she's a witcher and decides to take on a difficult task which is not even a task for the witcher. At the end of the story her story line reaches such absurdity that I am afraid there will be no recovery from it.

The narration plays out interestingly in this book and PoV is switched between characters as well as storylines. Although this is an interesting take and many times creates an entertaining interplay between characters and situations at times this can be quite confusing to grasp without several re-reads.

Overall this is a disappointing read. The extra star is purely out of sentiment, for fond adventures of old and in hope for new adventures that will never come to be.

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## **Ana Tijani? says**

Odli?no napisana i ova. Unapred se radujem finalnoj knjizi.

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## **Celise says**

Buddy read with Markus, who actually led me to discover this amazing series in the first place.

The previous book in The Witcher series was a little bit choppy, with each change in point of view requiring some adjustment. By comparison, The Tower of Swallows is like a river being fed by a bunch of little streams. All of the different characters' scenes flow easily together to tell the larger story, and as a reader it's so easy to be carried along the current while observing all of the terrible things that happen on the banks. Real life seems far off when you're sucked into something like that, and that's what I look for in a good book!

As for the plot, I won't bother to summarize. This is the 6th book in the series, so if you're already reading them you'll get to this one on your own. If you haven't read any of The Witcher series, I recommend reading The Last Wish, the short story anthology that begins everything. If you're more interested in jumping to the novels, here is my review for Blood of Elves.

If you're a Ciri fan and felt like she was sorely missed in Baptism of Fire, here's one for you! Her parts were ace. (view spoiler) Ciri begins this novel in the company of an interesting character named Vysogota, to whom she reveals the story of her recent encounters, and so reveals them to the reader. Vysogota himself, while not focused on too much, still has a big impact and his parts are so poetically written.

This installment in particular feels very high fantasy with how much it covered both geographically and story-wise. The imagery is also inspired and vividly described. The forests are wet and covered in colourful mushrooms, the caves are decorated with rose-coloured stalactites. Most of the fantasy I've read tends to get stuck with the good old green, brown and grey palette, but it's nice to change it up sometimes. I think it will be easy to remember the really good scenes from this book due to the fact that they all are described with such different and colourful visuals.

I think this one is probably my favourite book in the saga after *The Time of Contempt*.

And just a quick note to say I started the next book, *Lady of the Lake* and at about 5 pages in my mind was already blown.

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## **Marquise says**

Leave it to Mr Sapkowski to grant your wishes with a bucketful of lemons to suck on! Not enough POVs, you said? Here, have half a dozen of them in every single chapter. Too many jumps back and forth in the timeline, you said? No, there wasn't enough of them. Here, have some more jumps back and forth . . . And so on.

Personally, what I found most jarring was the late introduction of a certain revelation that came completely out of the blue, without the remotest of remote hints in any of the previous books, and that screws up the

worldbuilding and the "alternate Medieval times" feel of the series that gave it the same sort of credibility and plausibility that worlds like Tolkien's Middle-earth or Martin's Westeros have, in the sense that if you struck through "fantasy" from the genre category, this could be totally passed off as a bonafide historical novel. You get my point? Now, imagine (and before you read what I'm going to tell you to imagine: *spoiler alert!*) finding a surprise like discovering midway through LOTR or ASOIAF that(*view spoiler*) More I'm not saying, you'd have to read it to understand the context of my vexation. But, in short, this is the book where the Witcher series finally and definitely jumps the shark and, I'm afraid, this is the point of no rebound, no coming back...

And now I'm sad. And cross. But it's too late for giving up, so I'm rating this 3.5 stars and it's continue with lemon-sucking for me.

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### **Salvatore says**

★★★ 1/2

Libro un po' lento che aumenta di ritmo nel finale

Non mi fa impazzire che Geralt venga messo da parte così tanto.

Qualsiasi saga fantasy che si rispetti ha più di un punto di vista, questo va bene.

Ma i punti di vista di Geralt non portano a nulla, infatti sono quasi due libri che lui non è al centro della storia

Ci sono i suoi POV, ma la sua trama non è così centrale

Cerca Ciri, ma gira in tondo da due libri.

Ciri è appunto diventata in pratica la protagonista principale, anche se non la apprezzo più come nei primi libri

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### **Marta Conejo says**

Tengo que admitir que este hombre cambia la forma de escribir en cada libro como se le antoja, pero me ha gustado mucho. Me gusta cómo va creciendo el personaje de Ciri, curtiéndose y no siendo una niña de papa que tan sólo o vive mal o vive bien. Se sabe salvar ella misma

Tengo que admitir que tengo amor y pasión por la literatura fantástica, pero odio esa literatura fantástica destinada a princesas y elfos blandurrios y sosos, con la misma moral y pensamiento, sin picos en personalidad. Este libro tiene todo lo contrario

Y ahora con la Dama del Lago pues... sigue mejorando :D

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### **Mogsy (MMOGC) says**

3.5 of 5 stars at the BiblioSanctum [https://bibliosanctum.com/2016/05/24/...](https://bibliosanctum.com/2016/05/24/)

I am so in love with these audiobooks. Peter Kenny is the incontrovertible voice of this series, making all my favorite characters come to life with his authentic reading style and superb acting. Fan translations of these

books have been around for a while, but I don't mind waiting longer if it means I can enjoy the audio editions; every time I jump into a new book, it's like coming home to old friends.

The Tower of Swallows picks up from the end of Baptism of Fire, where the search for Ciri continues. The story begins by mirroring the intro of the previous book with a long convalescence of one of our characters, this time Ciri instead of Geralt. The young princess-turned-Witcher has adopted a new identity and settled into life with a party of young rebels who call themselves the Rats. Something happens, however, leading to her being found unconscious and gravely injured in the middle of a swamp by an old hermit named Vysogota. The old man nurses her back to health, and during her recovery Ciri tells him what happened.

Meanwhile, Geralt and his companions are still traveling together trying to find Ciri, but their precarious alliance keeps coming under fire from distrust and infighting, not to mention plenty of bad decisions. There's also a lot of political intrigue happening in the background as their enemies keep plotting against them, and a new face of evil enters the field.

While I really enjoyed The Tower of Swallows, I have to confess it wasn't my favorite. In fact, this was the first full-length Witcher novel in which I felt the pacing stumbled a little. After an incredibly strong beginning, the story loses steam around the halfway point when it takes a very sudden turn in a new direction. We go abruptly from fast-paced action and adventure to convoluted politics, which made the end of the book tedious and hard to understand when compared to the first half.

Still, this is a book you won't want to miss, especially if you've been following along with the series, and the good parts made it all worth it. One of the things I admire most about Andrzej Sapkowski's storytelling is the way he experiments with different narrative styles, which sometimes involve sudden jumps in the timeline and frequent switches in points-of-view. Normally I am not a fan of this; however, I love the interesting and engaging way Sapkowski does it, as illustrated at the beginning of the novel, where the events that befell Ciri are unraveled by having her share her story with Vysogota. Narrative threads are picked up, dropped, picked up again by different characters, but done in a seamless way that flows well and is easy to follow, even in the audio format.

The characters are also evolving nicely with each installment. Notably, Ciri has come of age and she is settling in as one of the series' major characters. She's still finding her way in this book, both literally and figuratively. Torn between her old life as a princess and her new one as a rogue Witcher, she's frequently waffling on what she wants, and like many troubled teens she is quick to anger especially when confronted with hard truths. She may be an expert fighter, but at the end of the day she's still just a lost young girl. Geralt is of course the other central figure, and here he suffers his own crisis of confidence, beating himself up for not doing all he can to find Ciri, at some points even convincing himself that she is dead and that his quest is futile. He also clashes with his companions, in particular with Cahir the Nilfgaardian, whom Geralt does not trust. Overall, lack of success has demoralized the party, causing rising tensions and fraying nerves. It almost makes you want to break out the popcorn and watch the fur fly.

Even though the second half is slow, the book does end with a bang, making me excited for what's coming next. In total, there are currently six books translated into English and produced in audio, including two that are story collections. I have a feeling all the questions will be answered and everything will come together as the series heads towards its conclusion.

Narration-wise, I really have no complaints. Peter Kenny has already won me over, and he's probably the biggest reason why I'm such a diehard fan of the Witcher audiobooks, to the extent now where no other format will do. I'm just sad knowing that the next book will be the final entry in the saga. Regardless, I'm

looking forward to seeing how it's all going to end.

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## Markus says

Buddy read with Celise!

***"I'm Ciri from Kaer Morhen. I'm a witcher. I came here to kill."***

Daaaamn.

Quite possibly the best book in the main saga.

Ramblings to come.

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## Joey Woolfardis says

*This review can be found on Amaranthine Reads.*

The *Witcher* series by Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski continues, with the Child Surprise Ciri travelling around with a bunch of thieves and bandits called the Rats, whilst Geralt, sorcerers and the Emperor send out people to find her.

This series has plummeted to the very depths of tedium. Every book has melded in to one and it's difficult for me to remember this particular one, though I do recall my consternation at the random change of narrative style. Geralt is still not doing any Witchering, there is still monumental bitching between all the female characters and the dialogue is still pitiful.

I complained during a review of an earlier book in this series that we rarely had other points of view during the narration, which seemed to slow down the entire thing. This book rectifies that, but in such a way that it may as well have not happened. We have around five POVs during any given chapter, which confuses things incredibly and don't actually improve the plot or pace of the action. We also, for some reason, begin to get excerpts from Dandelion's little memoirs, which add nothing to the plot except a general feel that perhaps this is something Sapkowski should maybe try out because it's cool, yo.

The plot is also the same as it was in the previous three books. This series, a five book series discounting the first two short story collections, is definitely two books too long and probably four books too long. Everything seems to take around two chapters to tell. A journey that could be told in one sentence ends up taking approximately half the book and we are left wondering why. Nothing particularly exciting happens during these journeys, except meeting new characters that add nothing to the story because the characters we already know are weak and two dimensional. Their interaction is always so false and incredibly immature.

Speaking of the characters, the protagonists known as Geralt and Ciri have become cantankerous and pathetic. They whinge and moan and act like little children not getting their own way. And yet no-one minds because one is a part of a prophecy and the other characters are all in love with the other. It is as if nothing can touch them-which is apparently the case since they elude capture, maiming and death numerous times

through no reason other than they must to keep the story going.

There is also far, far, far too many mentions of genitals. I have never read a book that is so obsessed with genitals and sex. I'm sure HBO would love to turn this in to a TV series-and a successful one at that-due to the sheer amount of tits and sex. Someone is either aiming to stab someone else in the penis or a man is wanting to shove his penis in a woman's vagina. This is basically all that happens, with some killing in between.

And there is still endless bitching between the female characters. I'm not sure there is a single woman who have anything nice to say about another woman, except Ciri but she's basically just a child anyway. And all women *love* all children. It's a fact.

I don't know why I felt the need to finish this series. There is one book to go after this and whilst I found this particular instalment as boring as any book can be, I find I've invested so much I need to know. Belzebub knows I will be disappointed: I can feel it with this book as the plot meanders, the characters flatten out even more and the dialogue improves by a hair's breadth. It is my own fault for wasting my own time.

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### Thomas says

Βαθμολογία: ★★★★

Διαβάζοντας λόγο high fantasy των τελευταίων καιρών, χωρίς ρθει στο εξερευνητικό συμπρασμα: Στη γενική λογοτεχνία των να βιβλίων τελειώνει εναντίον του φυσικού, απόδιχεσαι εναντίον κολαρίστη η ιστορία χειροψώθει και φτίσει στο τέλος της, εσείς σαι τοιμος να αφέσεις τους χαρακτήρες και να προχωρήσεις σε κατάσταση διαφορετική.

Στο fantasy η ιστορία δισκολα φτίσει στο τέλος της, ο καθημερινός εναντίος τηρείται και πλούσιος, πνευματικά θα υπορχει κατά ματαναποθετικό, ο αναγνωστής χειροποίησει και διψάει για τη συνέχεια. Για αυτήν την ιστορία οι συγγραφές δεν σταματούν ποτέ στο πρώτο, θα βγαλούν τριλογίες, πενταλογίες, δεκαπενταλογίες.

Τοι λοιπόν, χοντας διαβάσει αυτήν τη βιβλίο, το οποίο στη σειρά του Witcher, χαρούμενο που υπορχουν ακριβώς διαφορετικοί προσανθηση, αλλά μελαγχολικοί κινητας που χωρίς σχέδιο φτίσει στο τέλος. Μια γλυκιά, μωρός, μελαγχολική που πηγάζει από την αγάπη για τους ρωμαίους και τα ταξίδια που χωρίςει μαζί τους. Ελπίζω ο Sapkowski να ποιά στιγμή θα αποφασίσει να επιστρέψει ξανά σε αυτήν την κατηγορία, ζωες; να 'χει.

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### Sr3yas says

**Believe it or not, the hero of this installment is not the Witcher, Yennefer or Ciri. It's Andrzej Sapkowski and his masterful storytelling technique, which utilizes various POVs, narrative styles and multiple timelines across the centuries and locations. He weaves a narrative yarn which should have been confusing but surprisingly turns out to be fresh, sharp and fun to read.**

I bow down before you in supreme awe.

*Mild spoilers are the necessary evil, they are necessary.*  
----- Sreyas, the tales of **SPOILERS AHEAD**

The last installment had very little narrative space for Ciri and Yennefer (*no complaints there*), but this one brutally revamps Ciri as on hell of a character by pushing her limits like never before. At the risk of sounding corny, let me say Ciri is like a diamond, and in Tower of Swallows, they cut her.

The story opens with Ciri, who recounts her tale to a Hermit named Vysogota, who found her wounded in his forest. Sapkowski did an excellent job with these two characters and their interactions, effectively building Ciri's story arc with the old school storytelling method.

*\*Ciri and Vysogoto chilling\**

**Witcher's story arc is still my personal favorite** because of the company he keeps and the adventures he stumbles on to. In this installment, Witcher's fellowship adds a new young member to their ranks and this completes the *adopted dysfunctional family of Witcher*. The scene where Geralt accuse Cahir of betrayal and the mayhem that follows afterward was spectacularly hilarious, proving once again the colorfulness of Geralt and his company.

Yennefer once again gets least screen time, and once again her chapter blew me away with complex narrative style and sheer visual spectacle. I was never a fan of Yennefer before this book, but now I am a fan.

**What makes this volume stand out from others** is the bold narration and widened explanation of what the hell has been going on outside the main characters. All the installment before Swallows gave me an impression that I am looking at the great Nifflegardian War through the wrong end of the telescope. Tower of Swallow finally confronts or at least untangles the politics of war and character motivations through chapters featuring Twany owl as well as Dijkstra.

I especially loved Dijkstra's chapter, the last pages of this chapter was storytelling at its best.

Swallows even stepped up the action. The action scenes featuring Witcher and Co were complete mayhem as always, and there are many memorable moments. But Ciri stole the show with amazing finale fight on the ice. Seriously, words fail me!

And appropriately, the artist featured the battle on Ice near Tower of Swallows Spanish edition cover.

Needless to say, My love for Spanish edition covers continue.

I want to talk more about stuff like how assassin Bonhart reminds me of DC's Deathstroke, and I want to talk about how fascinated I am with world of Witcher because of some crazy and similar aspects it share with our own world (Months, twisted Norse mythology, festivals), and Spawaski's writing style which at one point reminded me of old western. (view spoiler)

But I don't think there will be enough space and moreover, I don't think I can put them in words properly!

**So TL: DR? Another great installment in Witcher series!**

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