



Mistborn: The Final Empire

Brandon Sanderson

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Following on the heels of Sanderson's successful launch into the YA market with the New York Times bestselling Rithmatist comes Mistborn, now repackaged for the teen audience

Once, a hero rose to save the world. He failed.

For a thousand years since, the world has been a wasteland of ash and mist ruled by the immortal emperor known as the Lord Ruler. Every revolt has failed miserably.

Yet somehow, hope survives. Hope that dares to dream of ending the empire and defeating the Lord Ruler. A new kind of uprising is being planned—one that depends on the cunning of a brilliant criminal mastermind and the determination of an unlikely heroine: a teenage street urchin named Vin.

Once, a hero rose to save the world and failed. This time, can a young heroine succeed?

Mistborn: The Final Empire Details

Date : Published May 13th 2014 by Tor Books (first published July 17th 2006)

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Author : Brandon Sanderson

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From Reader Review Mistborn: The Final Empire for online ebook

Cait • A Page with a View says

4.5 stars. I kept stalling on reading this because so many people told me I'd love it. I was worried the hype would be a letdown, but nope... this was SO GOOD.

The last half was AMAZING and feels like a new favorite book, buuuut I honestly didn't get into it until around 40%. There's a lot about Allomancy and I wasn't entirely sure that I *cared* just yet. Parts dragged for me but I kept reading because I loved the characters.

But the last half of this book is so intense and heartbreaking and brilliant... aaahh I don't even know how to explain the scale of this plot and how amazing the worldbuilding is. I got super invested in everything and am very sad... but also love how the book broke my heart? Yes.

I could say more, but I liked that I went into it without knowing anything. Basically the hype is real and everyone who's been pushing me to read a Brandon Sanderson book is right -- I'm definitely a fan.

Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says

Oh my gosh. I have tears in my eyes. This was by far one of the best fantasy novels I've ever read.

I don't even know how I'm going to function enough to give this a worthy review. Brandon Sanderson, you have rocked my world.

Seriously, if you want to try a high fantasy but you want to avoid those long/boring/depressing series - give this a go. I'm just going to point out all the things that made this a great read for me - but I'm not going to go into too much detail. I read this book without knowing anything and I suggest others do the same! (Though, I did look at some fan art and HOLY CRAP it looks so cool omg. But beware of spoilers.)

The World Building/Magic System

This book somehow managed to have the most extensive world building and the most creative magic system I've ever read about WHILE keeping me totally invested AND not bored the entire time. Don't get me wrong... there are slower parts and there is A LOT to this world - but Sanderson introduced it in such a way that it only made me feel for the characters the more as he revealed the world. My gosh, it is so well done and it felt real.

I'll admit, I'm a bit of a lazy reader. I was seriously worried I would be confused the entire time because there is a lot to remember about the magic BUT Sanderson does a great job of reminding you what every magical skill/burning metal does each time he brings it up.

So please, don't feel overwhelmed as you start going through this. As long as you get the general idea, you'll be totally fine.

The Characters (get ready for some ridiculous fangirling)

Good gravy. I freaking adored the ENTIRE CAST. Vin is just previous. I was SO connected to her the entire time - I just adore her so much. She's realistic. No special snowflakes here. Kelsier is a flipping genius and I have no words because just... ugh. Also his relationship with Vin was so touching. Okay I'm getting emotional.

ELEND. YASSS ugh. He was adorbs. He and Vin were just... I just.... ugh. I LOVE THEM SO MUCH. (My only complaint might be I wished we had spent more time with them alone - developing their relationship.) BUT I knew about him before I started the series so I was just dying for him and Vin to meet... and OMG his intro is the BEST EVER.

Sazed. Holy frick man you are a badass. Marsh? Omigosh.
NO WORDS.

Don't get me started on the genius villainous tactics Sanderson used with the Lord Ruler.

You guys, these characters feel so real that its scary. Sanderson is a master.

THE PLOT

Okay, so I've mentioned it before. It is kinda slow to start - but not a bad slow. There is the perfect amount of development, in my opinion. This is just a long book - and it needs to be with the amount of connection Sanderson is trying to draw. Just go into this expecting a high fantasy - it is NOT a light read.

I don't want to say much about the plot other than it is just brilliant. One things pick up (and they do) - its pretty much non stop until the end. There are some crazy plot twists and I was pretty much freaking out the entire last third of this book. Honestly this first book could be a stand alone- I did not expect so many things to be resolved in this.. but it was SUCH a pleasant surprise.

I'm still sitting here with my jaw open over the ending. This is one of the best endings I've ever read.

Overall

So, all this to say- this was an easy five stars. Literal perfection if you're into high fantasy. The writing was perfection. Everything was so detailed and real. WHY HAS THIS NOT BEEN MADE INTO A MOVIE.

My Blog ~ Instagram ~ Twitter ~ Etsy

Christine Riccio says

MISTBORN WAS SO GOOD GAHH HERE'S MY BOOKTALK: <http://youtu.be/S9kgwYQ6MPs>

Chelsea Humphrey says

Allomancy. The mystical power held by the nobility, granted to them by the Lord Ruler some thousand years before as a reward for their loyalty.

Readers have been urging me for years to pick up anything by Brandon Sanderson, and after browsing his books I knew that Mistborn would be the first world I wanted to enter. Opportunity arose, and I was able to read this along with two other Goodreads friends, which made for a much more exciting experience than if I had gone it alone. We were able to bounce ideas off of each other, chat about theories we had, and see where we were right and where we were completely wrong. *The latter is where we mostly fell. ;)*

I'm at a loss for words at how perfectly this book and I fit together; the only way I can think of explaining is that, upon finishing The Final Empire, I found myself questioning the validity of most of my previous 5 star reads. How could I possibly place them in the same category as this? I understand it won't be for everyone; the pacing is slow throughout a majority of the book and it's long by many readers' standards. I felt the hilarious banter between the characters relieved a bit of the slowness, but I also found that I loved the steady, detailed world building. The immaculate secondary detailing is what really set this apart from other adult fantasies I have read, and I can't wait to continue on and see where Sanderson takes us. I don't really have much else to say, as I've jumped on the bandwagon late in the game, so I thought I would close with my favorite (spoiler-free) quotes that I marked along the way.

If men read these words, let them know that power is a heavy burden. Seek not to be bound by its chains.

"Every action we take has consequences, Vin. I've found that in both Allomancy and life, the person who can best judge the consequences of their actions will be the most successful."

The Hero of Ages shall be not a man, but a force. No nation may claim him, no woman shall keep him, and no king may slay him. He shall belong to none, not even himself.

Belief isn't simply a thing for fair times and bright days, I think. What is belief-what is faith-if you don't continue in after failure?

Buddy read with Bentley and Scrill ! ?♥?

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

Sometimes, I revisit a book I had loved ages ago, only to tell myself "What the actual fuck was I thinking?! This book is crap!!!! Oh young Khanh, you were so dumb :("

Thankfully, this was absolutely NOT the case for this book. I appreciated it much more the second time around. It could be that it just took time for me to appreciate the book. Or maybe it just glows in comparison to all the crap I had been reading (2.5 average rating last year, baby!). Either way, I ain't complaining!

First, the bad, because I'm that sort of person. **Sanderson is a good writer, not a great one.** The world he has built is magical, his words are not. Sanderson's writing is simple, readable. Perhaps too simple. I appreciate the fact that there is no purple prose, but sometimes, a story is woven through the magic of words, and Sanderson's writing is simply too plain for me.

On the other hand, **damn, he's verbose.** This is a huge-ass book, people. I mean, I get it. The book is tremendously grand in scope, the story is complex, and will only get more complicated as the series wears on, but **I find myself wearying of reading**, which is a sad thing for any reader to realize.

Now, the good. First, **LOW ON ROMANCE, BITCHES! CAN I GET A FUCK, YEAH?** Sanderson, I feel, is so respectful to his female characters. They are strong, resourceful, independent. They can get by without a man. The women in his book have to earn their stripes. There's no getting by on beauty and flirtation here. Wit and cunning is a much safer bet than the size of a female character's tits.

The world building is tremendous. The magic of Allomancy is just so fucking awesome, and so well-described. World building, the myth and magic surrounding any high fantasy is so crucial, and Sanderson did a tremendous job.

Yes, it's a long-ass book, and the writing isn't as spectacular as some (Guy Gavriel Kay), but on the other hand, this book is eminently readable, with a limited amount of meandering (unlike Guy Gavriel Kay).

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I forgot that I did a re-read on audio of this a couple of months back! Thank you to my friends who out of the blue liked my old review and reminded me. I checked my Overdrive and the next one is going to come through soon for my re-read. ? I still feel the same about the book because it's freaking awesome, I'm just not sure about the audio. I don't think I will get it from Audible. It's okay I guess. **Anyway, the old review is below and nothing has changed**

Old Review

www.melissa413readsalot.blogspot.com

I'm sitting here in shock after reading this book. I have to admit that I cried, I didn't see that ending coming. Brandon Sanderson has done it again. This is only my second book I have read of his and they both have blown me away.

I loved all of the "good" characters in the book. Each one of them have an endearing quality. My favorites being Kell, Vin and Sazed. It took me a little bit to understand the Allomancy, but it finally started to make sense and there is a little chart in the back of the book that helps out with that :)

Kelsier (Kell) is a Mistborn and getting an army together to try to take down the Lord Ruler who is the ultimate jerk!! He finds Vin and brings her into his fold. She has no idea she is a Mistborn and she ends up being so much more than that! I love that he took her under his wing and taught her so many things. She caught on very quickly but this is because of what all she really is...no spoiler!

Kell has such a wonderful team. I love them all. There are several that have powers themselves. I really think this story is great at having all of these characters with different things they can do. They all stand out very clearly and the friendship between this team is the best.

The book is full of evil beings, strange beings, war, senseless torture and killings, and the good people trying to make a difference.

I'm still at a loss for a lot of words because of what happens and the feelings that are put into the book. All I can say is I look forward to reading many more Sanderson books!!!

Fin

Petrik says

The beginning of the trilogy that sparked my love for reading fantasy novels.

It's been exactly one year ten months since I first joined Goodreads or started reading *The Final Empire*, September 1st, 2016 to be exact. This is an extremely important book for me and the more I tried to explain why the harder it felt to come up with something other than saying the cliché phrase that "I absolutely love this book". The reason on the significance of this trilogy for me will have to be postponed until I'm done with rereading "The Hero of Ages" because it will be much easier for me to explain why by talking about my life before and after finishing the trilogy. So yeah, that's coming in a week or two but for now, as always, it's all about my thoughts on the book and why *The Final Empire*—even upon reread—is an absolutely incredible start to a trilogy.

Picture: The Final Empire by breath-art

The Final Empire is the first book in Brandon Sanderson's highly acclaimed Mistborn trilogy. For a thousand years, the world has been ruled with an iron fist by the immortal emperor, Lord Ruler. The main plot of the book focused on a rebellion built around a heist led by Kelsier and his newly found apprentice, Vin to overthrow the Lord Ruler. I absolutely loved the story here. The first time I read this book, I found the plot to be thoroughly engaging, seriously relatable but at times humorous due to the characters camaraderie and banter; I was also completely fascinated by the world and magic system that Sanderson has created here. All of these are still true but there's an additional superb quality that happened upon my reread: all the foreshadowing and hints are now laid bare for me to see with the gift of hindsight. *The Final Empire* on its own works perfectly as a standalone but trust me, it's not. Everything you read here—even the mini details—played major parts for the upcoming books.

"Plots behind plots, plans behind plans. There was always another secret."

Picture: Kelsier and Vin by GisAlmeida

Where do I even begin with the wonderful characterizations? Let's start with my book girlfriend (this will most likely be the only time you see me use this term), Vin. I've read more than 200 books since the first time I started this trilogy and Vin—by the end of the trilogy—remain my favorite heroine of all time. This doesn't mean that Vin is the only great character from the series; Kelsier, Sazed, Elend, and many more I can't mention for now because their greatness won't come to play until the third book. Some of you who've

read it might think of Vin's thoughts as being "emo" or if you're in 9gag, "edgy" but think about it, with her past, can you blame her? I found Vin to be an amazing character here because she taught me that despite being betrayed and left behind countless times, it's always okay and better to love and trust someone again than being alone. Kelsier taught me about justice and hope; that it's not okay to stand still in the face of tyranny, oppression, and slavery.

"Men rarely see their own actions as unjustified."

Sazed taught me that it's possible to have a different faith and yet still be respectful and kind towards each other's belief.

"Our belief is often strongest when it should be weakest. That is the nature of hope."

There were plenty of things to learn from the characters in the book but for now, let me talk about one of the main highlights of the book and the trilogy itself, the magic system.

The Final Empire introduced us to Allomancy and Feruchemy. I'll be honest, coming from a heavy gaming and reading manga/anime background, I thought I would not encounter a magic system of high caliber that can be found in that two medium within the novel form. However, I was wrong. Allomancy is amazing and still by far my favorite magic system in the medium; even more than the one in Sanderson's magnum opus: The Stormlight Archive. The intricacy of the magic system that Sanderson has created in Mistborn saga never ceased to amaze me and I've yet to encounter a more engaging, complex, and amazingly easy to understand magic system within any fantasy novels. Plus, the actions spawned from the magic system resulted in some vivid and fast-paced battle sequences. Don't believe me? Try going to a forum and ask "what's your favorite or the most intriguing magic systems you've ever read in fantasy?" I guarantee you that snow will fall in my country if someone doesn't shout Mistborn; it's just THAT good.

This book was also my first encounter with Sanderson's spectacular world-building skill along with his simple, vivid, and immersive prose. The world of Scadrial that's clouded by ash and surrounded by mist was extremely atmospheric to read. There was also a lot of well-built mystery and lore within this book as Sanderson used the epigraph that can be found within the start of each chapter masterfully. I've heard a lot of criticisms from readers that Sanderson's prose here are too simple for their liking and I do agree that not only this book, all his book contain simple prose. However, that's actually one of the things that I do appreciate about his works. His writings never get in the way of the story and he's still capable of telling a story of epic proportion with simplicity. Even though his prose is simple, this doesn't mean that there isn't any wisdom in it. In my opinion, all of his books contained a lot of wisdom easily applicable to our daily life. A few examples:

"The right belief is like a good cloak, I think. If it fits you well, it keeps you warm and safe. The wrong fit however, can suffocate."

And this

“You should try not to talk so much, friend. You'll sound far less stupid that way”

And with that quote, I realized that it's time for me to put an end to my review here. It's safe to say that I still consider The Final Empire one of my favorite books and one of my favorite starts to a trilogy. My reread experience of this book has been better than I expected and I can't wait to see how the rest of the trilogy holds up for me. Below here, just for fun, cringe, and nostalgia, is the first review I've ever written. Hopefully, I did a better job this time! :)

You can find [this](#) and the rest of my reviews at [Novel Notions](#)

My first review on Goodreads and I'm really happy it's this book that I chose. The book have an amazing world-building, great characters development and most of all, very intricate magic system and actions. This is coming from someone who've seen plenty of magics (not real of course) from 20 years of gaming and watching anime/movie/television series. The amount of details Sanderson put into each words (not to mention it's really simple and easy to understand) is insane.

I will definitely read the rest of the trilogy straight after this and more works by him!

Jessica ✶ ↵ Silverbow ↵ ✶ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

I hate everyone.

You: Everyone who?

Me: Yes.

You: Eh?

Me: Leave me alone. I don't want to talk about it!

You: *backs away slowly*

Me: IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT. *sobs*

Are you one of them? Are you? Did you rave about MISTBORN and convince me it was one of the BEST fantasy series ever? You can't believe I haven't already read it--I'm going to LOVE it. Hmm? DID YOU?!

Then you, *friend*, are whom I hate.

As for you, Mr. Sanderson . . . I TRUSTED YOU.

I collected your clues and gathered your hints like freaking MANNA, and when you did-the-thing, I . . . panicked. But then I thought, no, no, this CANNOT be, he wouldn't do this, and I went back through all my meticulously collected clues and hints and found an explanation. A perfectly. Reasonable. Explanation.

An explanation that made sense.

An explanation that would keep my heart in one piece instead of the shattered, brittle thing it has since become.

An explanation . . . I am forced to conclude . . . you deliberately planted . . . to foster FALSE HOPE.

YOU are the Deepness, Mr. Sanderson. YOU are that which will destroy the world. And YOU will do it GLEEFULLY.

I hate you most of all.

I can't write the review that I want to . . . I can't talk about Sanderson's brilliance as he cultivated my doubt, and how that doubt made the loss so much worse: (view spoiler)

Which is exactly what he intended. It was so masterfully done, it couldn't be an accident.

Why does your manipulation make me admire you so?

Probably b/c (thanks to you) I'm a shadow of myself. <-----oh, look at that. You probably PLANNED THAT TOO.

The world of the Mistborn is not a pleasant place.

There's always a downtrodden servant class in a Sanderson series, but this world's version is particularly bleak.

Ash falls like rain from the sky, supplying the skaa with a never-ending, yet thankless workload. They're beaten regularly, often resulting in their deaths. A pretty daughter is a curse rather than a blessing, b/c not only will the Master feel obliged to have his way with her, but when he gets bored, she'll be killed.

Halfbreeds are to be avoided, you see.

The nobility is sometimes blessed with magic. Magic which passes genetically to offspring, and we can't allow the peasants to gain that kind of power, can we?

twirls mustache

Enter Kelsier. *fireworks*

In the city where corruption among the nobility chokes the air almost as much as the ashfall, some skaa thumb their noses at the system.

They form street gangs and steal whatever they can from those who would enslave them, existing in a cutthroat world by embracing a cutthroat mentality.

Most of the gangs are comprised of ordinary skaa, but a few are different, more organized crews than low-level thieves . . . They take bigger jobs, they are the royals of the petty crooks, they are the Mistings.

And in a few extremely rare cases, they are the Mistborn.

Not every halfbreed life is snuffed out before it can begin . . .

And Kelsier is the greatest of them all.

Among the common criminals, he is legend:

“That’s where he got those scars, you know,” Disten said. “The ones on his arms. He got them at the Pits, from the rocks on a sheer wall he had to climb to escape.”

Harmon snorted. “That’s not how he got them. He killed an Inquisitor while escaping—that’s where he got the scars.”

“I heard he got them fighting one of the monsters that guard the Pits,” Ulef said. “He reached into its mouth and strangled it from the inside. The teeth scraped his arms.”

Disten frowned. “How do you strangle someone from the inside?”

But Kelsier was betrayed, and when he finally escaped the pits that claimed his wife, he was determined to be *more* than a crew leader. More than a thorn in the Lord Ruler's thigh or a bramble in his path.

And when you think about it, as far as planning goes, there's not much difference between organizing a chancey heist and plotting to overthrow a corrupt ruler who thinks himself a god . . .

One might even suggest that Kelsier is the perfect man to do it . . .

Beyond his suitability for the task, there's something immensely likable about the image of this noble Fagin flipping a coin he keeps to anchor his Allomancy, the ability to metabolize and manipulate metals.

And here's the thing about Sanderson: the man's a genius. Now that I've familiarized myself with him, I don't think I'll ever be able to stop reading his books. Even if I'm not thrilled about the execution, there is always incredible potential in his ideas.

Take the concept for this series: what would happen if the hero meant to save the world . . . failed?

SO. We have servant class con men with flash + an immortal tyrant = Revolution! We have a world in ruin one thousand years after the hero of prophecy failed to save it. Add to that Sanderson's trademark misdirection, and, well . . . Despite my brokenness in the aftermath, how could I *not* read it? How can *you* not?

Highly recommended, but only with LOTS of cake (or something stronger) to drown your agony.

PS - this changes nothing. I still hate all of you.

Pre-review:

Also, I HATE ALL OF YOU.

BUDDY READ with my peeps in **Sanctum of Fantasy** .

It's *supposed* to start tomorrow, but:

waves at Robin

My other reviews for this series:

The Well of Ascension (Mistborn, #2)

Benjamin Duffy says

I can't remember being this violently conflicted about a book in quite some time. There are some areas where it's just so well done, with the author absolutely nailing it, and then others where I found myself grinding my teeth in frustration. I'm going to abandon my usual practice of writing short, pithy reviews and just drunkenly ramble on a few things here. (Still no spoilers, though.) That OK with y'all?

Language. About two and a half chapters into this book, I found myself asking, "Why does this feel like a kids' fantasy book?" It wasn't the subject material or the plot, both of which were clearly more sophisticated than Harry Potter and his ilk. While I would feel perfectly comfortable having a 12-year old read this PG13-violent and utterly sexless book, I don't feel as though it's necessarily written *for* tweens. Finally it occurred to me: *it's the language*. This book is one of the most simply written books I've ever read, using only the most basic vocabulary. That isn't a bad thing, as I'd rather read something direct and simple than something flowery and overwritten, but Sanderson's language is so simple here that it's almost as if he's drawing with the Crayola 16-set when other authors have the big 64. (One notable exception: having apparently become recently enamored of the word, he uses *maladroitly* at least three times. Maybe he was jamming some Weezer while he wrote.) I haven't read any of his other works (yet; Mistborn #2 is on deck), but I have to assume this simplicity is by conscious choice, and it's an interesting choice at that. I'm just not sure yet how I feel about it.

One language choice that I *am* sure how I feel about is Sanderson's decision to have his characters speak good old American English. The narration is similarly plainspoken, with a fair amount of American slang thrown in, rather than the twee, faux-Elizabethan style of a lot of fantasy authors. I like the approach. One of the most time-honored fantasy tropes is having all the characters *thee* and *thou* each other, with a few *ne'er did yon stars of Yomama glimmer so resplendently, my suzerain* for good measure. And I can handle that stuff, having been weaned on Tolkien and everything that came after, but I found Sanderson's decision to move away from that convention refreshing. I interpreted it as Sanderson saying, "The unspoken assumption here is that this book has been translated from whatever languages they speak on this made-up world, so why translate it to anything other than what is most understandable and comfortable for you to read? To couch this story in funky language is to insult your imagination by implying that you *need* that in order to realize you're reading a fantasy novel."

Setting and Plot. The setting is a typical high fantasy world - feudal-style nobility and peasantry; shadowy,

powerful priesthood; mysterious evil lord, etc. - with some odd, almost steampunk flourishes thrown in. There are wristwatches. Men's formal wear is described as something more like Victorian coat and tails than medieval garb. Magic in this world is fueled by elemental and alloyed metals, which are described rather exactly, using percentages. It's a unique and interesting blend.

The basic plot is about as stock as it gets. If you're familiar with the *Star Wars* films, the *Harry Potter* or *Percy Jackson* books, *Eragon*, the *Dragonriders of Pern* trilogy, *Dune*, *Ender's Game*, or any one of about a million other works, please play along:

Dear [kid with weird name], I know you are only a [farmer / orphan / urchin / child of a minor noble], and this will be hard for you to accept, but you [have Great Powers / are the Chosen One / insert name of funky power here]. You are the only one who can [save the world / save the universe / defeat the Empire / restore order to the Force / kill the Big Boss]. Luckily, even though you just learned your destiny fifteen minutes ago, you will make up for lost time by quickly becoming better than anyone in the history of ever at [Quidditch / dragon riding / sandworm riding / Allomancy]. Any questions?

Needless to say, the book's plot could have been a ticket to Hack City, but it really isn't. Vin's growth and development are handled well.

Exposition. This is a fantasy book for the video game generation. By that, I mean that the book follows the general path of a first person RPG:

- 1) Introduction to the world and the main characters
- 2) A few early levels whose only apparent purpose is to teach the player how to use the buttons
- 3) Quests of increasing difficulty, with progressive reveals of the Big Plot
- 4) Fight with the Main Boss, including the inevitable twist
- 5) Denouement and teaser for the next installment.

Not that that's a bad thing! But I was really surprised at the way Allomancy (the main "magic" in this world) was laid out. In the two towering fantasy/sci-fi works of the 20th century (*The Lord of the Rings* and *Dune*), the supernatural elements of the story operated behind a sort of curtain or screen. The One Ring in *LotR* and the spice Melange in *Dune* both held great, mysterious powers, but the specific effects and extent of those powers were seen only in fits and flashes, and never understood completely by the characters or the reader. In contrast, fairly early in this book, Kelsier takes Vin on a practice run where he explains how her powers work and what their advantages and limitations are, using plain language and real-world physics, and lets her fly and mess around and just generally exult in her magic. It left me, the reader, as well as Vin the character, feeling that even if we didn't understand this magic perfectly right now, we might at some point in the future, which was a very different feel.

OK, after enough rambling about things I feel ambivalently about, let's wrap up with one big win and one big fail:

WIN: Brandon Sanderson can write the hell out of an action scene. (And since the final quarter of this book is pretty much all action, playing directly into Sanderson's strengths, it kicks all kinds of ass.) The fights in this book are gut-wrenching without being overly gory, and the chases and sneaks are heart-stopping as well. Perfect combination of pace and detail. Amazing. Possibly the best I've *ever* read from an author in this genre, and if he's able to do that so effortlessly, so early in his career, it gives me hope that he can fix...

FAIL: ...the dialogue. In spite of being favorably disposed due to the use of informal American English, I

eventually found the dialogue here really clunky. Everyone is too wordy. Everyone says one sentence too many. Over and over again, I found myself going, "Real people don't talk like this" and especially, "Real people who are supposed to be close friends don't talk anything like this to each other." Seriously, think of how you talk to your best friends in private, then compare it to this book. In addition, there was always that odd feeling of unneeded exposition, as if the characters were talking half to each other and half to the reader. It was unfortunate, especially in contrast to how slick and fast-moving and just plain awesome a lot of the other writing was.

All in all, this was a fun, kinetic read...with a few holes in it. It builds, it explodes, and the ending is really good. If half-stars were allowed, this would have been a 3 1/2. Good stuff.

Also, here are my (spoiler-free, suitable as previews) reviews of the second and third books in the series, if you enjoyed this one!

Mark Lawrence says

This was an odd one for me. I've seen an enormous number of opinions about Sanderson's books on the fantasy forums I hang out on, the great majority favourable. I was interested to see what it was that had sold so very many books and got such an incredibly high average score on Goodreads.

The opening was strong and engaging. Then I started to falter. For most of the book I didn't think that I would be giving it 5*. I started to worry that I might have a legion of Sanderfans on my case :o

I think I am too much of a scientist for the magic system not to jar against me. I liked the complexity, and the effects, and the ways it was used were cunning, clever, and ingenious. But the ingredients and the execution fill me with unanswered questions.

And for much of the middle section I was struggling through all the balls and house politics, having a hard time caring.

And the plans felt flimsy and dubious...

BUT

But, the last hundred and fifty pages were a huge payoff and I really liked all the twists and turns. Also the action scenes were great, and the tension was kept high, nobody felt safe, the reveals kept coming ... it was all really well done and I had a blast with it.

I've heard it said that Sanderson's biggest strength is plotting, and yes, the plot unwound splendidly.

The reading experience and writing put me in mind of Brent Weeks more than any other writer I know.

A really fun read.

Join my 3-emails-a-year newsletter #prizes

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Claudia Ramírez says

I'M NOT OKAY I'M STILL CRYING.

On to read the next book!

Raeleen Lemay says

Read for Popsugar's 2018 Reading Challenge #4: A Book Involving a Heist

(re-read)

I stand by my rating! This book is FANTASTIC but just not quite a 5-star read for me. I'm really glad that I took the time to read my physical copy this time around (I speed-read most of the book on audio the first time I read it) because I feel like I grasped the story way better. I feel sufficiently re-capped now so I can finally read book 2!

first read in 2014

4.5

So good oh my godddddd

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

WOAH. That was a crazy epic adventure full of fantastic characters and action packed madness! It definitely lived up to all the hype for me. :)

Val...Shameless.Skanky.B*tchy. says

6/21 Re-reading...

Thank the Lord Ruler I finally crawled out from whatever rock I was living under and *finally* decided to read this book.

Because.

It.

Was.

So.

Fucking.

Awesome.

I have been telling myself for years that I should try and branch out from just romance, paranormal romance, UF romance, sci-fi alien smut and the occasional murder mystery or biography (not that there is a damn thing wrong with my beloved romance, but just to challenge myself to try something new) and attempt to tackle a straight high fantasy.

Well, this book was my first true foray into that genre and all I can say is...

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LOLZ.

Jay kay, peeps, jay kay.

Just making sure I live down to your expectations. *wink*

In all sincerity though, this book was everything and I truly don't know why I waited so long to tackle this genre.

Comic/Sci-Fi/Fantasy movies are my all time FAVORITE movie genres.

And this book felt like I was locked in one of them.

Like I was in a theater watching an epic fantasy film.

Only BETTER.

Because we ALL know the book is *always* better.

Brandon Sanderson is now a front runner in the Val's Spirit Animal Games and I just want to sit across from him at a pub table and watch him breathe.

His world building is so amazing, I can't even.

I was enthralled from page one until page end.

This is an older book and I'm late to the fiesta, so I'll stop there; but long story short, I loved this thing so hard I might sleep with it under my pillow for a while.

And the best part?

There are now aisles of books at the bookstore that I feel have suddenly been opened to me.

AISLES, people.

So glad I tried something new.

I feel so mature.

Three cheers for Garth.

Kat O'Keeffe says

BOOKTALK HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-XEW...>

Just as I expected, this book was FANTASTIC. The story, the characters, the world, the magic system--I loved it all! It was a wonderful first book in a series--satisfying on its own, yet there's still plenty to explore in future books (which I will definitely be reading soon!)

Really, the only somewhat negative thing I have to say is regarding all the hype. While I definitely think the praise is deserved, it did leave me with very very high expectations. Expectations that were met, but because I was anticipating awesomeness, it didn't blow me away as much as it could have. But again, this is a very minor gripe, and more about my reading experience than the actual book itself.

I'll talk about the book more in a video soon, but for now I'll just say again, I LOVED IT. The story was beautifully constructed, the world was rich and believable, and the characters were likable and well developed. I can't wait to continue the series and see where it goes next!
