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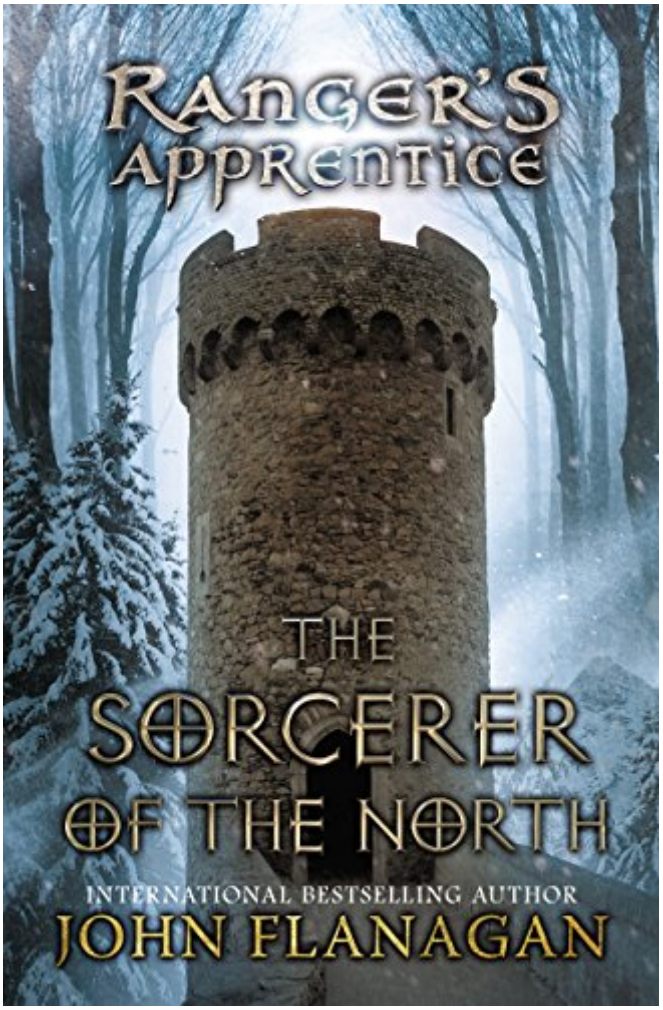

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Synopsis

The international bestselling series with over 5 million copies sold in the U.S. alone!Several years have passed since the apprentice and his master, Will and Halt, first met, and Will is finally a full-fledged Ranger with his own fief to look after. The fief seems sleepy?boring, even?until Lord Syron, master of a castle far in the north, is struck down by a mysterious illness. Joined by his friend Alyss, Will is suddenly thrown headfirst into an extraordinary adventure, investigating fears of sorcery and trying to determine who is loyal to Lord Syron. As Will battles growing hysteria, traitors, and most of all, time, Alyss is taken hostage, and Will is forced to make a desperate choice between his mission and his friend.Perfect for fans of J.R.R. Tolkienâ ™s Lord of the Rings, T.H. Whiteâ ™s The Sword in the Stone, Christopher Paoliniâ ™s Eragon series, and George R. R. Martinâ ™s Game of Thrones/A Song of Ice and Fire series.

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Customer Reviews

On his first secret mission, Will must use everything Halt has taught him, as he tries to decide who is the "bad guy", and who he can trust.The lord of an important stronghold, protecting their land from a Pict invasion, has been "cursed"! At least, that’s what the locals think. His heir isn’t a soldier, or a

tactician; but a scholar, and an unpopular one at that.His illegitimate cousin is both popular And a soldier. A recipe for resentment, and confusion among the castles soldiers as to who should be in charge.Will enters the castle in the disguise of a jongaleer, (sp), or singer. He plays a mandala and sings well; good enough to pass in a backwater place like this one anyway.He will be sent help, (also in disguise.)Unfortunately, a bad apple from their past, blows their cover, and events start to get complicated rapidly!No spoilers, so I will just say this was a fun, witty, entertaining book, starring the younger band of heroes. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, and was holding my breath during some moments. Will climbing up a tower wall at night was just one of them. Did I mention it was cold and icy?Is there really sorcery going on? Will it be possible for Will to rescue his partner from the castle tower; and if so; how? What crazy, inventive ideas will sprout from Will and his friends agile minds this time, and will they be enough to win the castle back?And...what about those Skandians?Get busy reading so you can find out! I have to start the next book now!

For the first time reader of the series this book will pull you in and leave you wanting the next book right away. With the Rangers apprentice series you get a lot of story packed into pages as arcs span a few books. If it was an ongoing series where you are having to wait for next book it would be quiet frustrating. As a completed series with some great arcs it flows fairly well. It was fun to see our hero's growth and that of his friends.

My wife and fifteen year old love John Flanagan's The Ranger's Apprentice series. We've been listening to the audiobooks for a few years now, always when we're on long trips so we can get a whole book in. This Thanksgiving we got away for a few days, and we listened to The Sorcerer of the North, the fifth book in the series of ten. Our trip was shorter than normal this time, though, but we ended up listening to the book during the quiet hours of our stay at a rental cabin.In this book, young Will is a man hand has his own territory to cover as a Ranger. He's pretty much a law unto himself, a spy and a force for the king. It was odd seeing Will in action as a man instead of a teen, although he isn't a very old man, barely into his twenties. I missed seeing him a Halt's side, or trying to figure out how to play the odds against the adults. But it was also nice to see him pretty much full grown and doing what he was trained to do.The plot is complicated in this book, and it took a little while for all the pieces to come together, but Flanagan is a gifted author when it comes to plots. Will is tasked with finding out what sickness has stricken down Lord Syron and who is truly loyal to him, and maybe sorting out who the eventual inheritor of the lands should be.I liked the plotting and the characters, the hiding and the spycraft that goes on throughout. Alyss, Will's friend who is also a

spy, joins the mission and things really heat up on all fronts because during the action Will and Alyss discover that they're drawn to each other in ways they hadn't expected.Flanagan's sense of the world is awesome in this one. As Will traipses around the castle, the castlegrounds, and the forest outside the walls, the environment comes to life on every page. Flanagan has a vivid imagination and shares if quite elegantly with his readers.I also enjoy the author's subtlety, the way he leads you down a path and you start expecting events to take a certain turn, then he twists everything around so that you don't know quite what is going on or who to trust. Flanagan is at his best in this one.The only thing that will put some readers off, especially the new ones, is how the book ends with so many things left hanging. I howled when we got to the end, not prepared to let go. My son patiently reminded me that every book Flanagan does is more or less two parts. And that's true. Books five and six basically form one large story, as did the first pair of books and the second pair. However, the other two were not truncated quite so suddenly as events come to a halt in this one.I've got the sixth book in the series. I'm just waiting on another family trip!

Reading this series to see if it is a good fit for my grandchildren to begin reading. I am happily breezing through and can't wait to introduce the kiddos.

One of the best series of books ever written!There should be movies make out of these. Just excellent writing and character development.

My 10-year-old son and I are reading these books and comparing notes. We both thought this was one of the best in the series so far. The characters are well drawn, and the story is different from the ones that came before. I would not necessarily recommend reading it out of context in the series, because it does help to have the background of the characters and enjoy their growth and development, though.My son, who also loves Wings of Fire, Fablehaven, Bartemius and Spirit Animals, loves this series. It has a lot of humor and is well written for middle-grade children.

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