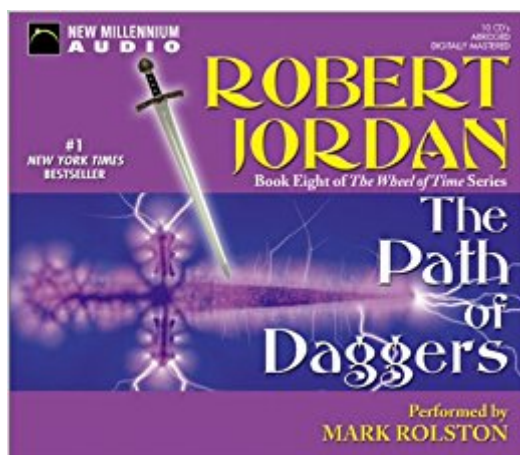


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Path Of Daggers (Wheel Of Time)



Synopsis

The eighth book in Robert Jordan's internationally bestselling epic fantasy series, THE WHEEL OF TIME, now reissued with a stunning new cover design. Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, has conquered the city of Illian, struck down Sammael the Forsaken and shattered the armies of the invading Seanchan. Nynaeve, Aviendha and Elayne have broken the Dark One's hold on the world's weather and are poised to retake the throne of Andor. And Egwene al'Vere, leader of the exiled Aes Sedai, marches on to the White Tower. But Rand and the Asha'man that follow him are slowly being corrupted by the madness that comes to the male wielders of the One Power. If they cannot remove the Dark One's taint from the True Source then none will survive to fight the Last Battle against the Shadow. And as Rand struggles to maintain his sanity the Seanchan launch their counter strike. Find out more about this title and others at www.orbitbooks.co.uk --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Jordan's bestselling Wheel of Time epic is one of the most popular fantasy series of all time for a reason. Jordan's world is rich and complex, and he's assembled an endearing, involving core of characters while mapping out an ambitious and engaging story arc. But with the previous book, Crown of Swords, and now with Path of Daggers, the series is in a bit of a holding pattern. Path continues the halting gait of the current plot line: Rand is still on the brink of losing it, all the while juggling the political machinations around him and again taking to the field against the Seanchan.

The rest of the Two Rivers kids and company don't seem to be moving much faster. Egwene continues to slowly consolidate her hold as the "true" Amyrlin (finally getting closer to Tar Valon and the inevitable confrontation with Elaida), and Nynaeve and Elayne keep on wandering toward the Lion Throne, again on the run from the Seanchan. Mat Cauthon is barely mentioned, and fellow ta'veren Perrin keeps busy with politics in Ghealdan. The ending does provide promise, though, that book nine might match the pace and passion of the previous books. If you're already hooked, you could sooner overcome a weave of Compulsion than avoid picking up a copy of *Path of Daggers*. But if you're new to the series, start at the beginning with the engrossing, much-better-paced *Eye of the World*. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The eighth book of Jordan's bestselling *The Wheel of Time* saga (*A Crown of Swords*, etc.) opens with a renewed invasion by the Seanchans, a conquering race whose arsenal includes man-carrying flying reptiles and enslaved female magic-workers as well as powerful soldiers, many of whom have joined the Seanchans out of fear of the Dragon Reborn. The Dragon himself, Rand al'Thor, appears in only a small part of the narrative, but during that time he endures the ugly experience of seeing his magic kill his friends, heightening his fear that his destiny is to slay everyone he cares about. The first third of the book is a little slower paced than is usual for Jordan, emphasizing the growth of relationships, but the action picks up soon enough. More compact than some previous volumes in the saga, this one has the virtues readers have come to expect from the author: meticulous world-building; deft use of multiple viewpoints; highly original and intelligent systems of magic; an admirable wit; and a continuous awareness of the fate of the turnip farmer or peddler caught in the path of the heroes' armies. Unlike some authors of megasagas, Jordan chooses his words with care, creating people and events that have earned him an enormous readership. For sheer imagination and storytelling skill, if not quite for mythic resonance, *The Wheel of Time* now rivals Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. 500,000 first printing; \$500,000 ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I understand that many readers of this series enjoy the extreme description that the writing entails. With that being said, each moderately long chapter's key events could be a paragraph long. So therefore imho, in order to really get to the heart of the events and stories, (which is the only reason I am still reading the series) you have to read a lot of slow pages just hoping and waiting for something exciting to happen. One of the things that really hooked me to the series in the first few

books was the nonhuman villains, ie the trollocs, halfmen, etc. This book lacked these villains almost entirely so it was a challenge for me to get through the many pages. Though I gave it three stars i feel it is more of a two point five.

The Path of Daggers is by far one of the weakest of the The Wheel of Time books. And even though it is the shortest of the books, it felt interminable. While one could argue that Jordan had his reasons for so much exposition, we the readers can also argue that Jordan could manage to be both verbose and not manage to say anything worthwhile. Now that is a Talent. Names. Names. Names. Jordan introduces so many new characters in this book and shows too many secondary plot lines to make this book a good one. I don't want to bore you with it all, but suffice it to say you get POVs from all over the place. Wise ones. Aes Sedai. Seanchan. Forsaken. Dark Friends. But you know what POV you won't get? Mat. As he has done with Perrin before, Jordan chooses to not include one of the primary three male protagonists in the book. It is weaker because of this. Mat adds humor and fun. Without Mat we are left with a lot of brooding and a whole lot of descriptions of fashion. Perhaps Jordan missed his calling; perhaps he should have written for Vogue. At the end of A Crown of Swords we saw that Elayne, Nynaeve, Aviendha, and Mat were in Ebou Dar looking for The Bowl of Winds. They found it. And the first 25% of POD is taken up with the use of the Bowl of Winds to set the weather right. This part of the book is probably the best that you're going to get. And it too is flawed. How is it flawed? Because the introduction of a good look at the Sea Folk show that they are some of the most totalitarian, nasty women of the entire series. Probably has to do with their naval traditions over the past few thousand years. It created a society in love with hierarchy and military orders. Anyway, the Bowl gets used and then all the women - Kin, Aes Sedai, Sea Folk, etc. have to flee from Ebou Dar because the Seanchan are on their way to collar them. So they Travel to the outskirts of Caemlyn. Another small section focuses on Egwene manipulating the Aes Sedai. This section is decent. And has the most potential. Another section focuses on Perrin confronting Masema. This section is really, really bad. Not as bad as the next section though. The last section focuses on Rand's war against the Seanchan. Having claimed Ilian, Rand now faces the Seanchan headed toward the city from recently captured Ebou Dar. This section of the book is atrociously written. And it felt like it never would end. I do not need any more descriptions of all the nobility or their appearances or their maneuvering. Ever again. Should you read this? Yes. Later books are once again better, especially the next one, Winter's Heart. So I have been counting sniffs. Because this book is the shortest, there were less sniffs. For The Path of Daggers there were only 14 sniffs. Maybe Jordan got tired of sniffs. Once again, Nynaeve leads, though in a tie for

first. Elayne - II Teslyn - II Nynaeve - II Alise - I Sevana - I Egwene - I Lelaine - I Min - I Daigian - I Balwer - I Romanda - I And for the 8 books so far Nynaeve - IIII IIII IIII IIII IIII IIII IIII II (42) Egwene - IIII IIII IIII I (16) Elayne - IIII IIII IIII I (16) Aviendha - IIII IIII II (12) Leane - IIII II (7) Min - IIII II (7) Moiraine - IIII II (7) Faile - IIII I (6) Suian Sanche - III Bair - III Elaida - III Lanfear/Selene - III Larine - III Melaine - III Romanda - III Amys - II Cook at Inn - II Deira - II Feraighin - II Lelaine - II Liandrin - II Laras, Mistress of the Kitchens - II Teslyn - II Adine - I Ailhuin - I Alise - I Aludra - I Balwer - I Beonin - I Berowin - I Bornhold - I Breane - I Cadsuane - I Caira - I Carlinya - I Corvil - I Daigian - I Edelle - I Erith - I Females in Crowd - I Galina - I Garenia - I Graendal - I Idrien - I Jeaine - I Jeaine - I Joline - I Lini - I Marin al'Vere - I Merana - I Merilille - I Nesta din Reas - I Nildra - I Renaile - I Rendra - I Rhiale - I Samitsu - I Setelle Anan - I Sevana - I Signet Ring Fellow - I Somara - I Sorilea - I Suroth - I Tavern Wench at the Woman of Tanchico Inn - I Therava - I Tion - I Vandene - I Verin - I Woman in Fal Dara - I Women of Emond's Field - I

I have been reading the wheel of time series in marathon fashion. Now, typically, this is not how I read; normally I will intermingle book series, but I found that Jordan introduces so many different characters and plot lines I was having a very difficult time keeping track of everything going on. I literally started taking notes because I started to feel like I was missing story lines. As I compiled my list of references, I found that I wasn't missing anything and that, in fact, Jordan takes pleasure in introducing new names, plots, and lines into the existing chaos of the story. While I am sure the intent is to keep the story fresh and driving forward, I have found it distracting; at times it even detracts from the amazing story telling Jordan was lauded for in the first several books in the series. I am now finding myself bored and weighed down by the over abundance of side character introduction. I have read and heard when Sanderson picked the series up the pacing and story telling goes back into drive mode, but for now, it looks like I am relegated to having to trudge through the last two of Jordan's works to get to Sanderson's completion of the series. I am, of course, disappointed because Jordan had started out so strong with the first several books in the series. I will stick it out for the conclusion, but it is hard to keep paying for books that don't excite me and are becoming almost a chore to get through.

I returned to this series after having given up on it long ago. A big part of the reason I made the decision to do this was the quality of Brandon Sanderson's solo writing. I realized he had finished the series, and thought that if I could just wade through some of these slower paced books I would finally find out how this ends. That is still my plan, and the attitude with which I am reviewing this

book. There are moments in this story that reveal the author's skill. The characters are well developed and the world is amazingly intricate. I cannot imagine the number of hours that must have been poured into developing each city, country and culture in this book. It's almost too much. The details can be overwhelming at times. Granted, I am returning to the series after a hiatus, but even had I not been absent, the amount of detail is a bit much at times. I counted a three page long knitting scene. That being said, when the plot finally moves, it really moves. It is those moments where things finally start to come together that convince me I definitely do need to finish this series. Their rarity is the reason I will need a break between books, however.

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