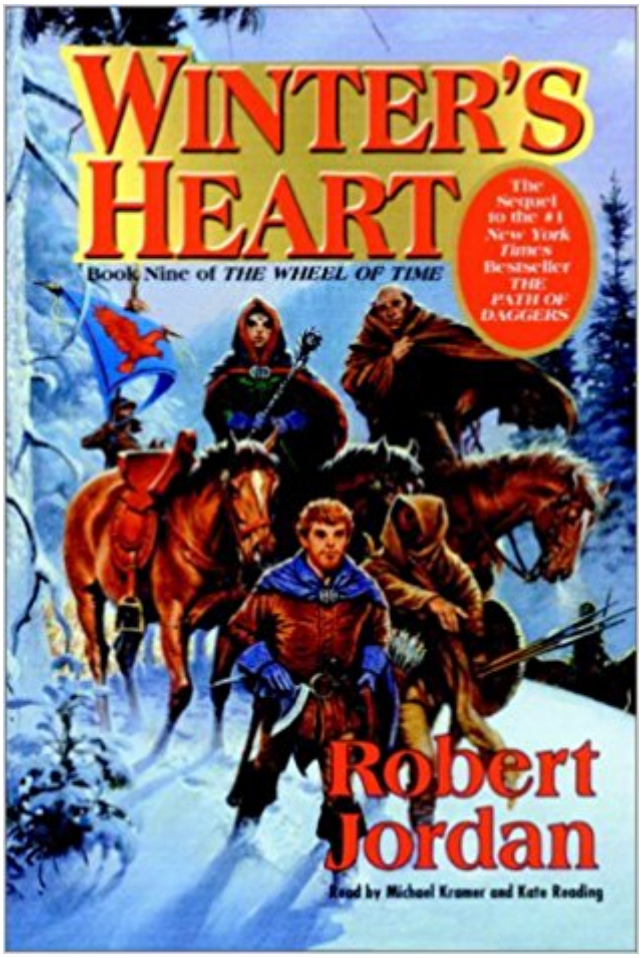
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Winter's Heart (The Wheel Of Time, Book 9)



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Synopsis

Part One Of Two Parts The ninth in THE WHEEL OF TIME series, WINTER'S HEART begins with Rand on the run with Min. Faile, with the Aiel Maidens, Bain and Chiad, is prisoner of Sevanna's sept. Perrin is hunting desperately for Faile. With Elyas Machera, Berelain, the Prophet, and a very mixed "army" of disparate forces, he is moving through a country rife with bandits and roving Seanchan. The Forsaken are ever more present, and united, and the man called Slayer stalks Tel'aran'rhiod and the wolfdream. In Ebou Dar, the Seanchan princess known as Daughter of the Nine Moons arrives - and Mar, who has been recuperating in the Tarasin Palace, is introduced to her. Will the marriage that has been foretold come about? "Jordan has come to dominate the world Tolkien began to reveal..." (New York Times)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The ninth installment in Jordan's sprawling Wheel of Time saga is as bountifully pregnant with plot threads as its predecessorsDand as bewilderingly esoteric for readers who have yet to commit its previous episodes to memory. Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, seems no nearer to fulfilling his destinyDto unite the embattled races of his domain against the Dark OneDthan he was in The Path of Daggers. The warmongering Seanchan are pouring into Ebou Dar, setting refugees in flight and complex schemes in fidgety motion. Perrin Aybara is distracted from his mission to shepherd the prophet Masema to Rand when he pursues the rebel Aiel who have kidnaped his wife, Faile. The mystical sisterhood of the Aes Sedai remain divided between Elaida, pretender to the title of the

White Tower, and Egwene al'Vere, ally to Elayne, Queen of Andor. Elayne, Rand's lover, barely escapes poisoning, and Rand himself, still smarting from the unhealed wound of an assassination attempt, shapeshifts through a variety of disguises to pass unnoticed in hostile territories. Jordan can always be counted to ground his dizzying intrigues in solid chunks of cultural detail, and he here rises to the occasion, with chapters as dense as Spenserian stanzas with symbols and rituals. Not all of his subplots tie together, and fewer than usual of his vast cast of characters make a memorable impact. Nevertheless, he manipulates the disorder of his narrative to credibly convey a sense of an embattled world on the verge of self-destruction, and he entertainingly juxtaposes the courtly civility of his villains with the precarious chaos they cause. Devotees accustomed to this ongoing epic's increasing lack of focus will no doubt find it on target. (Nov.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å"Robert Jordan has come to dominate the world Tolkien began to reveal.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is another filler book. I believe writers can often benefit from assistance from other writers. The publishing houses put stress on them and they rush out content. The end of the book is a good climax but you can not help but wonder that so many words being used to describe what people are wearing, what they think of one another but then there is a big battle dealt with in a few pages. This was such a great opportunity to flesh out a battle. I know he is not the best at battles, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth.

I wasn't wowed by Book 8 [The Path of Daggers], and neither did I revile it, as so many reviews did. I felt that it was somewhat rushed (due to its short length, and sometimes difficult-to-comprehend writing), and the least satisfying novel in the Wheel of Time series, but still a decent book in its own right, as a commentary on the aftermath effects of foreign invasion and the drawbacks of leadership positions; [The Path of Daggers] managed to move the larger story forward, though not as much as I wanted. It's for this reason that Book 9 [Winter's Heart] has exceeded my expectations, righting many of the wrongs I found in its predecessor.[Winter's Heart] brings back Mat Cauthon, a move that many fans found to be a marked improvement, myself included. He is one of the saga's most important characters, and his presence was sorely missed. Now, I'm not against Jordan's decision to leave certain characters out of some of his books; this only makes it all the more exciting when they return, as evidenced here. With the sheer number of characters who contribute to the grand

story as a whole, it’s impossible to cram all of them into one novel and have everyone doing something interesting or useful. As such, Egwene al’Vere is absent from [Winter’s Heart]; her character appears a couple times in the dream world, but her plot thread and point of view are both absent.More elements that I found to be improved from Book 8 were that the writing was more cohesive and less confusing. Although there were a few very conspicuous typos, and Jordan does occasionally overindulge in descriptive details, the writing is mostly high-quality. I also didn’t find myself having to look up who characters where as often as I did in the past couple books; I’m relieved to see that Jordan didn’t overuse minor characters as he did in the past few novels. Instead, some characters return from previous books, and a few important ones are introduced, while the number of newer minor additions to the cast is small enough to keep track of. While some new story threads are introduced, a few of the novel’s longstanding mysteries are beginning to be solved. Most importantly, I felt more satisfied at the conclusion of [Winter’s Heart] than I did after [The Path of Daggers]. I felt like this book carried more enjoyment and momentum, and I had a good time tearing through itThe big plot point is Rand’s attempt to cleanse Saidin, which is one of the most famous story arcs in the saga, and frequently cited by fans as one of the best. The book sets it up as the central event, with Rand announcing his intent to cleanse the source in the prologue, and the entire length of the book mounts tension, leaving fans to wonder if Rand will finish the job by the time the book concludes, or if he even has the power to do so. The arc culminates in an intense scene in which Rand’s enemies amass against him, and his allies unite around him in order to protect him. Beyond that, a lot goes on in Rand’s story: his character grows pessimistic and cold; the tension between him and his three lovers is finally put to rest; he begins to resolve some of his issues with Alanna; Cadsuane makes her best effort to restore some humanity in Rand; Rand embarks on a quest for vengeance against his would-be assassins from Book 8 and comes back with more than he bargained for. Rand’s arc is by far the highlight of [Winter’s Heart], and series fans should read the book for that alone.However, [Winter’s Heart] is still a distance away from the greatness of the series’ early works. The pace is slow in the plot threads besides Rand’s. Perrin and Faile show up for a short time at the beginning, and then are not mentioned for the rest of the book. Mat attempts to liberate some Aes Sedai prisoners and escape Ebou Dar; this is a good arc that reveals more about the Seanchan, but I felt that it could have been slightly shorter. Elayne begins to consolidate her power in Caemlyn, but not enough progress is made, and her arc doesn’t end on a point of interest. A conflict between Logain and Mazrim Taim is hinted at, but Jordan doesn’t explore this potentially interesting plot device. The problem here is that Jordan does not use cliffhangers; there’s nothing to get readers excited and wondering where the characters will pick up in the next

book.Despite the flaws, I do maintain that I liked [Winter's Heart]. The problem is that it's good, but not good enough. It must be hard to avoid criticism when the early Wheel of Time books set such a high standard, so I will give Robert Jordan credit for soldiering on with his vision of the world he created. However, he is asking for a lot of patience from his readers, who have waited several books to see the series' mysteries solved. Each book has its strong points, and a strong underlying theme, but we must keep in mind the story at large. It may be no fault of the author's, and instead my own impatience, but I'm growing more eager to see the end of the wheel's turning. I'll continue to read and enjoy, and hope that the next book offers a little more of the resolution I've been waiting for. [Winter's Heart] is a worthy addition to the series, though, and possibly the strongest of the "middle" part of the series.

Winter's Heart is the ninth book of the Wheel of Time fantasy series and, in my opinion, not the best one by far. By this time I'm obviously invested in the story and the characters or I wouldn't be in the ninth book of the series. That being said, this one really strained my commitment. Its a continuation of events from the previous book along with hints about events coming in the next book. In other words, it came across as a filler book in the series to me.

Absolutely love this series

Good story

I just read the review of book 10, thinking that I might buy it because it would have to be better than this book. WRONG. I thought it was my own lack of concentration that had made it so hard for me to read books 8 and 9, so I'm glad to see some people agree with me. I would love to be able to read to the end of this series and see it resolved, but this is getting ridiculous! I decided that there would be no book 10 for me, and in fact, after thinking about it, I gave books 1 through 9 to a deserving thrift store and am done with the series for good. I'm sorry, Mr. Jordan - it started out very well, but there's only so much one can take...My main point in writing this review, however, is I want to take issue with the comments about Jordan writing to please his female readers, and the praise for his female characters. I am female, and I find the leading female characters (except possibly Birgitte) to be very stereotyped - basically, they are angry at and distrustful of the men they know (even the ones they are supposedly "in love" with), suspicious of most other women, over-concerned with clothing and appearance, and, worst of all, they never EVER seem to change, even after going

through what should be life-changing experiences!Jordan obviously believes that the relationship between men and women is adversarial and that men and women are different species who cannot ever understand each other, even if they are married. I disagree. He apparently thinks the back-biting and hostile interplay between his male and female characters is witty or funny - I think it got really old even by the end of the first book! I have skipped or skimmed the male-female interactions in all these books because they are irritating and repetitive. And if I have to hear either Rand, Mat, or Perrin say yet again that the other two are the ones who "understand women" once more, I'll probably throw the book across the room! Grow UP, Mr. Jordan! Or at least let your characters grow up!

Just saying that i was glad this book featured more of Mat. Definitely my favorite character. This book also managed to pick up the pace a bit. There were some interesting events, such as Rand hunting a few Asha men in Far Madding, for example. Cadsuane's purpose becomes more clear in this book as well. All in all, one of the better installments in the series. It's been reviewed to death already, but i think the key element here, for me at least, is that the plot continued to progress without getting bogged down by what people were drinking at the moment, or in what way they were currently pulling their braids, lol.I enjoyed it.

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