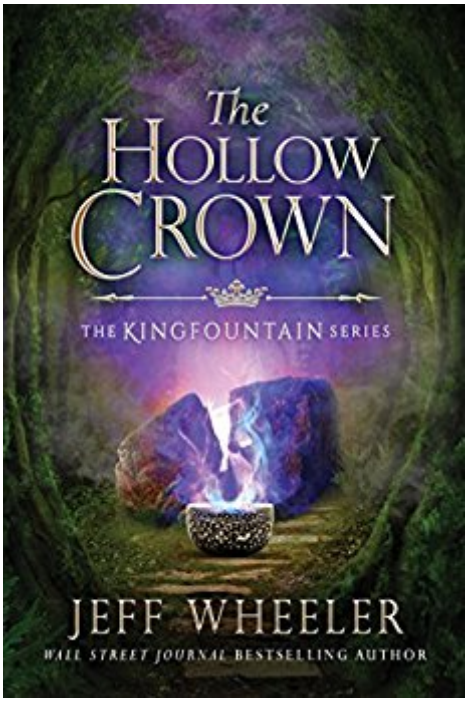
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The Hollow Crown (The Kingfountain Series Book 4)



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Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal bestseller.Following the downfall of a tyrant, years have passed in prosperity for the kingdom of Ceredigion. Now, as the time comes to celebrate the new kingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s nuptials, the specter of a new enemy emerges to destroy all that has been painstakingly built in those years.Tryneowy Kiskaddon has grown up learning military and diplomatic strategy from her father, one of the kingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s closest advisors. She feels her destiny lies in defending the kingdom as a knight, not as a Wizr as her parents have decided, though no lady of the realm has taken up the sword in a century. As she seeks to understand her own Fountain-blessed powers, she studies in the tradition of her mother while training in secret and closely following the realmÃ¢â ¬â„¢s politics, alarmed by her motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s vision of an impending clash and a devastating future.But the pieces on fateÃ¢â ¬â„¢s game board are in motion, and on the eve of battle, a threatening force irrevocably changes the future of the kingdom and her own. Does Trynne have what it takes to maneuver CeredigionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s key players into position and outsmart the kingdomÃ¢â ¬â„¢s enemiesÃ¢â ¬â •even those still concealed in shadow?

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Sword & Sorcery

Customer Reviews

Reader thoughts:I very much enjoyed this first book in the new trilogy of Kingfountain. We read about Owen's daughter, Trynne. Her destiny may be even greater than his.I wasn't quite as invested in Trynne as I was in Owen. Part of that is because he seemed to be in more danger and have fewer allies and more enemies. Her life, despite the scars on her face, seems to be easy in comparison. She has two parents, a brother, a duchy, magic teachers, words of power, fountain traveling, and powerful friends. There's the prophecy threatening the one she loves, and there's the whole destiny and shield maiden thing, but Trynne's story is just getting started. We'll see where it goes from here.I do wish I knew exactly what Trynne's fountain magic was. She can sense stuff about people like her dad? It seems to drain rather quickly, and I wish she would figure out that she ought to use her own fighting ability as much as possible before relying on magic else she'll never get anything done.I like the fights and Trynne participating in disguise. Secret identities and disguises are some of my favorite things in books. Only her loyal guard knows who the guy with half a blue face really is, and that just makes the danger so much sweeter.I really like that the characters in these books keep their word, even when it's hard. Trynne wanted to tell her mother about the shield maidens. She wanted to make her guard leave her alone. She wanted to stop protecting the king so that she could save her family. She didn't, though, because she had promised her parents or the fountain that she would not do that. She stuck to her promise, and it turned out better because of it.I'm worried about what will happen to some of the older characters, my favorite characters from the first three books. Now that they're adults, they're not guaranteed to live. That brings me to my writer point of view.Writer thoughts:Normally, threatening the father of the MC (yes, Owen is in big trouble in this book) wouldn't cause such alarm. The MC is liable to overreact, but the readers might shrug it off, assume he dies, and move on with the story. We fantasy readers are rather callous about the lives of MCs' parents. However, since JW's first three books featured Owen as the MC, readers are much more invested in this guy. He's not just somebody's parent, he was our hero just a few pages ago! This way, readers can be fully on board with Trynne's semi-reckless plans to protect her father.

Good book, as always. Jeff is a master at leading you, the reader, in one direction, and then pulling the rug out from under you. You really never know where the plot is taking you. Frustrating sometimes, but true to life. He reminds me in some ways of David Gemmell. My only complaint is

that it is kind of a "cliffhanger". I'm glad that the next book comes out at the end of this month and not a year or two from now, as some series are apt to do.

I love this series. I love the inclusion of the magic. The characters in the story have much depth and personality to them.One can really understand their motives and feelings, even the villians. This is an excellent series and very well written. It was brilliant of Wheeler to continue the series with the children of the heros and heroines of the first books. I personally did not want to see the series end. Thank you Jeff!

At first, I was a little sad to be reading about mostly the new generation rather than the characters I was familiar with. Those characters ARE crucial to the story, but they are not the focus. The new generation brings a wealth of new personalities and story potential and I look forward to reading more of their adventures.

I enjoyed this book, will read the next and recommend. One thing that comes through in Jeff's books is a clear sense decency and care. Not decency in a Pollyanna way, or in specifics but in general. People received blessings they don't seemingly deserve (Iago, Severn) and are forgiven, even rewarded for bad acts but there is greater good that couches those comprises.I enjoyed the characters in this story. There is a complexity to it without being cumbersome or overwritten, the pacing is excellent and pulled me along. I was curious to see how Evie and Owen had progressed in their lives and we see both in this book- I was a bit disappointed that while it seemed some part of Owen will always love Evie, she seemed to have moved on without issue or concern, it was easy. I found the protagonist challenges, growth and development really well written. The supporting characters are real and developed, each has a story and their own motivations.This is generally a really good book but there were a few moments found myself cringing just a bit. Probably the biggest challenge for me was that the book demonstrates how difficult it is to break stereotype, even when the protagonist is a clear effort to do so. I found myself put off by what seemed like every man the protagonist met being so handsome and each causing a blush & flutter response in her stomach. This response reached a peak for me (minor SPOILER) When after a major battle, full of devastating, kingdom changing and personal loss- the protagonist is again struck by her response and attraction to the so handsome antagonist. The response seemed completely incongruous to the circumstances in which they were expressed. A very stereotypical representation of female characters- The twittering heart/stomach in response to every handsome man around her. If it were

once it would not be worth mentioning, but it was a reoccurring response to men for her.The second thing was perhaps more personal, I never felt fully invested the potential marriage/love storyline at all. It might be a case of "once bitten, twice shy" or "past is prologue" but after reading Jeff's previous series and books in this series, I've come to expect marrying female characters off for political gain as a standard practice, women are objects to be bought sold or traded in most of his books. As a result, I just don't put much care or emotional energy into the love elements of his stories anymore.So yes, very much worth reading but know in advance, the female role as objects, seen as noble in their willingness to be traded for the greater good is a staple.

The story of Owen Kiskaddon follows with his daughter coming of age and the far off empire of Chadagril challenging King Fountain and Trynne, Owen's daughter. It will be interesting to see what happens to the characters and if Morwenna is successful.

My recommendations if you haven't read this...Read 1-3 first. Then read the maid prequel then this.I liked the book. My third of the series is still probably my favorite because I love Sinia.Good read. Well done Jeff

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