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The Assassin's Blade: The Throne Of Glass Novellas



Synopsis

Celaena Sardothien is her kingdom's most feared assassin. Though she works for the powerful and ruthless Assassin's Guild, Celaena yields to no one and trusts only her fellow killer for hire, Sam. When Celaena's scheming master, Arobynn Hamel, dispatches her on missions that take her from remote islands to hostile deserts, she finds herself acting independently of his wishes - and questioning her own allegiance. Along the way, she makes friends and enemies alike, and discovers that she feels far more for Sam than just friendship. But by defying Arobynn's orders, Celaena risks unimaginable punishment, and with Sam by her side, he is in danger, too. They will have to risk it all if they hope to escape Arobynn's clutches - and if they fail, they'll lose not just a chance at freedom, but their lives... A prequel to *Throne of Glass*, this collection of five novellas offers listeners a deeper look into the history of this cunning assassin and her enthralling - and deadly - world. Included in this volume: *The Assassin and the Pirate Lord*, *The Assassin and the Healer*, *The Assassin and the Desert*, *The Assassin and the Underworld*, *The Assassin and the Empire*

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Customer Reviews

Sarah J Maas's writing pulls you in from the get go! I loved getting a glimpse into the past of Celaena Sardothien! These 5 books give you a taste of who she was and how she became who she is now! I have to say I was shocked to learn she didn't always love Sam!. And while I love that we got to see him as a character, I was not prepared for him to be murdered even knowing it was going to happen I still cried! I can't wait to continue this series!

WOW! Sarah J. Maas has become one of my favorite authors. The writing and story intricacies... well laid out and thought through.... character development.... treatment of details.... A lot of authors today are hard to read... they have good stories but poorly executed or poorly written... I liken it to an Oscar Award quality movie script being ruined by a bad actor.... Publishers today are looking for quantity over quality... so it has become all too common place... After reading this and the other books in this series by Sarah J. Maas, I came across another one at our local Bookstore, yes we have one of those locally.... I couldn't help but buy it... I went home and ordered the prior one in that series too (I like the hardbacks so I usually have to order past books of a series from .com but can get the newest at the Bookstore)... I didn't even worry about "if I would like them" The quality of Sarah's writing melds with the quality of her story plots and character development to deliver a truly great series of books... what's more is, given the contrast between her book and many others of recent publication, she has my trust... thus when I see her name attached now, I just order it.... I haven't been let down yet!

Review originally posted on The Book Addict's Guide I had been meaning to start THRONE OF GLASS for a long time and was juuuust about to start it when Nikki from There Were Books Involved advised me to read the novellas first. See, this would haven't been my first read of THRONE OF GLASS. I had actually tried back when the book first came out in 2012 and made it about 80 pages before my book was due back the library. But I hadn't been really interested in it. I had found it a bit hard to get into and I think I wasn't at a point in my reading life at that point in time where I could really appreciate fantasy as much as I do now. When Nikki advised me to read the novellas first because they actually helped her appreciate THRONE OF GLASS that much more, I decided that was definitely the best route for me. The funny story is I was only able to borrow some digitally from my local library so I had to purchase the others and ended up accidentally reading them out of order (I read the third one first and the first one third). It didn't really affect my overall opinion too much, but more of a funny little story which obviously wouldn't have happened if I was actually reading THE ASSASSIN AND THE PIRATE LORD. Oh well! THE ASSASSIN AND THE PIRATE LORD is the first novella of the bunch (and the one I ended up reading third. Oops) and I'm actually kind of glad I ended up reading it out of order. I really loved all of the novellas but I think this one was my least favorite. Since I read the third one first, I already knew essentially what happened here and it wasn't that it was anticlimactic but more so that I had already seen a more mature Celaena

“even two novellas later” so I grew a bit impatient with her at times. It wasn’t a huge deal for me, but I did notice it a bit. I also felt like the plot was probably the least interesting out of the four that I read and felt more like a string of sequences than something that really flowed. It did have quite a bit of important foreshadowing in there, though, and it was really great to get that foundation for both the world and the characters. This was also an extremely important story because it really sets to motion absolutely everything that leads up to THRONE OF GLASS. The second novella (skipping over the one that is only in Table so technically # 0.3) is THE ASSASSIN AND THE DESERT. I think I enjoyed this more than THE ASSASSIN AND THE PIRATE LORD because Celaena really starts to learn things about herself and is both mentally and physically pushed to the limits on so many levels. It’s easy to know who you think you are but once you’re put in extremely trying situations, you start to see the person you really are and what weaknesses emerge. It was heartbreaking too, because I think Celaena really opened up and discovered a lot about herself but then both of those things made her close herself off again. I really loved the relationships in this novella a lot and I think it was a really important piece of Celaena’s background that we got to know. The next novella was THE ASSASSIN AND THE UNDERWORLD (that I accidentally read first) and I just fell in love. It was so intriguing and so complex for a novella! I really felt like I got to know all of the characters so intimately and each of the characters “as well as the plot lines” really begin to grow. There were TWISTS and things I did not see coming and it was probably one of the best novellas I have read in a long time (maybe ever?) That is until THE ASSASSIN AND THE EMPIRE “HOLY CRAP, you guys. This novella BROKE me. It was flat out amazing and also set up a lot for THRONE OF GLASS but there were so many things I didn’t expect and so many things that completely floored me. If you read the main novels first” as goes for any of these novellas “you already know what happens in the end but I got to experience all of that backstory first hand and it was” well it was a wild ride. This is one of THE best novellas I’ve ever read and all of these are worth the read, whether you’ve already read all of the books so far in the series or not. My overall opinion of the novellas is that they’re must-reads for fans of this series. I know a lot of people actually aren’t a fan of novellas but these four (and I’m assuming the fifth that I haven’t read yet) all fit together to really kind of form a whole new story in one book. I read them all before I started THRONE OF GLASS which you don’t have to do, but I really enjoyed it because these are all prequel novellas and I really felt like I was reading the series in chronological order. Given what I’ve learned so far in CROWN OF MIDNIGHT, I think it’s important to read these novellas before book two because there is a

lot of history explained there that really makes more sense and draws on more emotions if you've read the novellas first.

This could've been easily a 5, or a 3 to be honest, but I opted for 4, because I really like it. I don't particularly love it, or do I? Alright, so first things first, this was an incredible read that kept me on the edge of my seat for more than I cared to admit. At times it was predictable, but I loved that I just kept on reading nonetheless (and when I reached around the 360 page mark, I panicked and bought the next three books in the series because I didn't want to stop reading this. However, some of the issues with this book that I found faulty, were how "The Assassin and the Pirate Lord" ended. I felt that it was totally anti-climactic and had it not been for the severe consequences that occurred I honestly would've stopped reading. It seemed so unbelievable and the ending did the book a disservice. Even some of the character development happened in a way that didn't necessary justify how they went about and made choices. There were a few loose ends, that I hope will be answered in the next books (and I don't mean the main plot or characters, something so vital in the first few pages happens and its just forgotten and fades away, no probing, no questions, no whys and whats. Someone as the King of the Assassin's Second... disappearing would raise a few brows in my opinion. Overall, I would recommend that you get this. Sure, there are a few problems but the action kept pulling me to the book and didn't allow me to go make a cup of tea -that really says something- the characters jump from pages and you get a genuine concern about their well-being as you see some of them evolve and go through Hell. Awesome, well done, and can't wait to read the rest of the books.

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