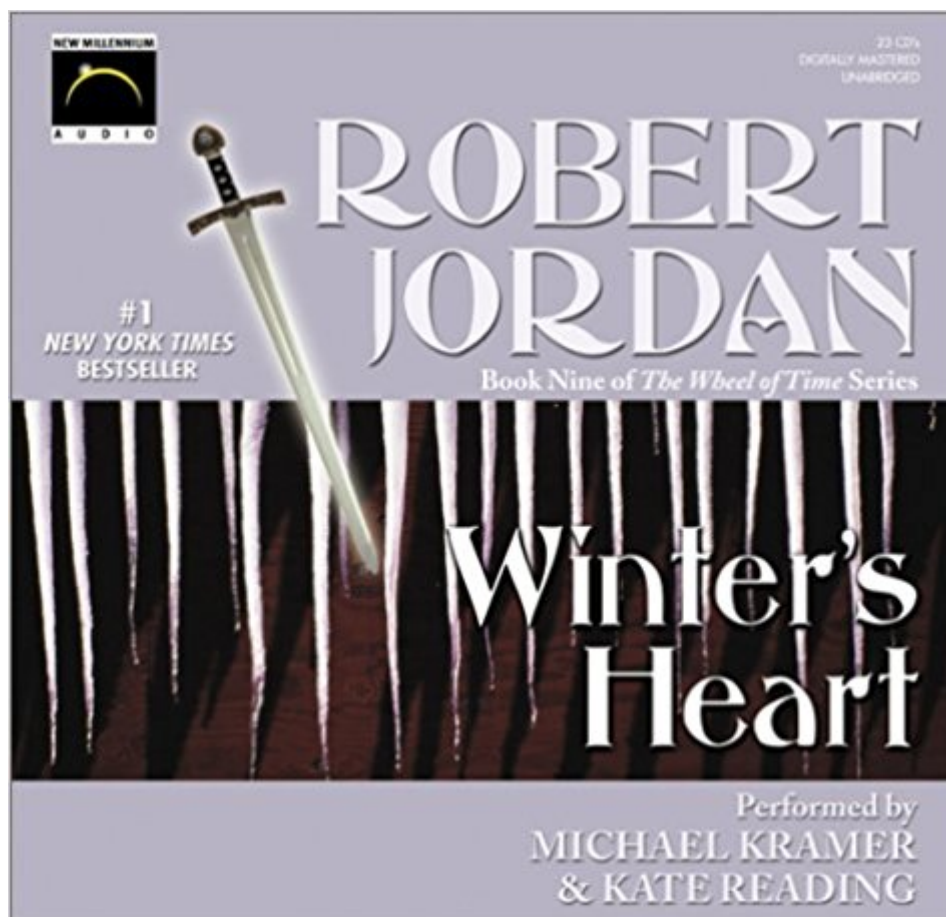




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Winter's Heart (Wheel Of Time)



Synopsis

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Book Information

Series: Wheel of Time (Book 9)

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Customer Reviews

unabridged audio book

Beginning with a prologue that's too verbose and then focusing on Perrin and Faile for the first six chapters, Jordan writes a book that has some strengths and a lot of weakness. Starting with the weakness, I don't really care what happens to Perrin and Faile as the entire Masema plot line seems to just be about giving Perrin something to do. Now that Faile has been kidnapped by the Shaido Aiel, one of the hallmarks of the series continues - constant fracturing of the plot lines. The Elayne section was rather terrible. Not as terrible as anything concerning Faile but still pretty bad. Mat makes a return to the series. His section focuses on his attempts to rescue some Aes Sedai from Seanchan occupied Ebou Dar. Along the way we are introduced to new POVs. Egeanin. Bethamin. Tuon. All Seanchan. And all allowing us to gain more knowledge of the Seanchan from their perspective. This was interesting. I could only wish Jordan focused more on showing us Seanchan. But wait. There are more POVs introduced. Now you can have double the POVS. Order yours now and Jordan will throw in some discussion of courses (More on that below). And of course there is the Rand section. The Elayne and Mat sections are both longer. But hey, who cares about the Dragon Reborn when you can write lengthy passages about fashion, horses and Elayne's

courses moving a week to match Birgitte's. But there are some moments of levity. The section where Rand confronts Elayne, Min, and Aviendha in front of Nynaeve is hilarious because of the latter's reaction. Later, everything that happens in Far Madding is middling. It's like Jordan wanted to show every single nation in the course of the series. And even later we get to Aridhol. But the events around Aridhol, that sadly only take place over 30 pages, are some of the best of the series. And if you've read my reviews you should know what happens in every odd numbered book so far. All in all, not as bad as Path of Daggers, but nowhere near as good as the first six books. Less Perrin/Faile and more Egwene laying siege to Tar Valon would have helped. Happily, the number of sniffs appears to be steadily decreasing. For this book Nynaeve sniffed the most.

Idrien - I Nynaeve - I
 Renee Harfor - I Tylin - I Teslyn - I Min - I Joline - I Alivia - I
 And for the nine books so far Nynaeve retains her crown of sniffs, Nynaeve - I
 Egwene - I
 Elayne - I
 Aviendha - I
 Min - I
 Leane - I
 Moiraine - I
 Faile - I
 Suian Sanche - I
 Bair - I
 Elaida - I
 Idrien - I
 Lanfear/Selene - I
 Larine - I
 Melaine - I
 Romanda - I
 Teslyn - I
 Amys - I
 Cook at Inn - I
 Deira - I
 Feraighin - I
 Lelaine - I
 Liandrin - I
 Laras, Mistress of the Kitchens - I
 Joline - I
 Adine - I
 Ailhuin - I
 Alise - I
 Alivia - I
 Aludra - I
 Balwer - I
 Beonin - I
 Berowin - I
 Bornhold - I
 Breane - I
 Cadsuane - I
 Cairra - I
 Carlinya - I
 Corvil - I
 Daigian - I
 Edelle - I
 Erith - I
 Females in Crowd - I
 Galina - I
 Garenia - I
 Graendal - I
 Jeaine - I
 Jeaine - I
 Lini - I
 Marin al'Vere - I
 Merana - I
 Merilille - I
 Nesta din Reas - I
 Nildra - I
 Renaile - I
 Rendra - I
 Renee Harfor - I
 Rhiale - I
 Samitsu - I
 Setelle Anan - I
 Sevanna - I
 Signet Ring Fellow - I
 Somara - I
 Sorilea - I
 Suroth - I
 Tavern Wenches at the Woman of Tanchico Inn - I
 Therava - I
 Tion - I
 Tylin - I
 Vandene - I
 Verin - I
 Woman in Fal Dara - I
 Women of Emond's Field - I

This review applied generally to books 5-10 in the Wheel of Time series. Perhaps this part of the series should be entitled, "Waiting for Godot," or "Waiting for Rand to actually do something." I got started on this series this past March, when I happened to read a review of the the final book in the series, which had just been released. Books 1-4 were pretty good, but books 5-10 seeming drag on - and on and on. The pace of plot is increasingly glacial, and by that I mean glacial before global warming. Way back in the beginning, the author set up the series climax as the showdown between the hero, Rand, and the Dark Lord. But we seem to continuously add new characters and unnecessary subplots. How long long can Perrin search for his kidnapped wife before finding her? How long can Mat watch the dice in his head go round and round? There are many Sci-Fi/Fantasy Series that extend over many volumes. But in the successful series, major plot elements are resolved at the end of each book, or at least at the end of 2-3 books. But in this series, there is rarely

plot resolution, we just keep adding more characters and subplots. And speaking of characters, if you are going to have seemingly hundreds, please give them distinctive names that don't begin with the same letter? The much referenced Pattern seems to favor women's name beginning with "E." Reading late at night, the E-women seemed to blur together. Many of the Foresaken seemingly have names that begin with "M." Or they continuously change their names. Well, I foresook trying to remember who was who. The pattern must be like the native Hawaiian language with a distinct shortage of letters. I found the names to be very confusing. On the positive side, Mat and Perrin continue to be interesting characters - while Rand seems to be going Shakespeare on us, acting like Hamlet. These middle books tend to muddle together in my mind, so I am not quite sure what happened when - but the Cadusunae character is interesting as well. Min and Elayne continue to be Min and Elayne, and the same can be said for most of the balance of the characters. I would have probably given up on this series but for the reader reviews for the later books 11-14, where the plot gets going again, reaching a quite satisfactory climax (see my review of book 14). So I viewed books 5-10 as having to eat my vegetables - and I am a devout meat and potatoes guy. You need to read the middle books to understand where the plot stands at the beginning of book 11, but I think most people tend to skim this lengthy interlude.

This one was pretty great! I really enjoyed it, though it wasn't the best of them. There are some pretty ridiculous scenes and for some reason Mr. Jordan got into this habit of saying "Something really awesome is about to happen" then going to someone else and talking about their buttons and their soup for 20 pages. When you get back to the awesome thing, it's over and he says "Wowie, it was awesome, you should've been there, but those buttons and that soup was more important." Still this was a good one and I slammed through it. Now, book 10 is just outright torture. Did not like book 10 and almost gave it 2 stars; so enjoy this one. I hear books 11 and one are great.

Episode Nine didn't advance any particular story line, and the primary event, while significant to the story in that we may never have to read about the nauseating taint of Saidin again, if we ever hear it described for anyone other than the ever nauseated Rand Al'Vere. The book gives further credence to a personal theory that the "One Power" is actually a mental poison, that somehow makes people cruel, petty, and self centered unless threatened with personal violence or pain. This might be the author's commentary on what people are actually like in any social structure involving more than three people, but I seem to see some corollaries in the story line that people with honest threats to their life or livelihood tend to be friendlier and more honest. The Aes Sedai seem to be a fine

collection of sociopathic megalomaniacs with a fashion fetish. I hope the story lines complete/converge/resolve at some point. At this point in the story, I can get a clear mental image of Leafblighter tapping his toe, checking his watch, sending texts to all his evil friends with notes of impatience.

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