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Gardens Of The Moon: The Malazan Book Of The Fallen, Book 1



Synopsis

The Malazan Empire simmers with discontent, bled dry by interminable warfare, bitter infighting, and bloody confrontations with ancient and implacable sorcerers. Even the imperial legions, long inured to the bloodshed, yearn for some respite. Yet Empress Laseen's rule remains absolute, enforced by her dreaded Claw assassins. For Sergeant Whiskeyjack and his squad of Bridgeburners, and for Tattersail, their lone surviving mage, the aftermath of the siege of Pale should have been a time to mourn the many dead. But Darujhistan, last of the Free Cities, yet holds out. It is to this ancient citadel that Laseen turns her predatory gaze. However, the Empire is not alone in this great game. Sinister, shadowbound forces are gathering as the gods themselves prepare to play their hand.... Conceived and written on a panoramic scale, Gardens of the Moon is epic fantasy of the highest order - an enthralling adventure by an outstanding voice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a dark, grown up fantasy series. Don't expect the typical story lines, and plot progression. I think a lot of people who call this "difficult" fantasy, however, are over-stating the reality. This isn't "difficult" it just isn't obedient to the typical formulas fantasy readers have come to expect. Many have spoken about the fact that you don't know what is going on and have to "figure it out" as you go. Sanderson fans will hate that - sorry - not meant to be an insult, but that is indicative of Sanderson's style. His magic system is very direct and easy to understand. This series is not. This book doesn't answer all your questions, either. So, to be more precise, "difficult" is just too vague. I would say this story develops suspense and makes you wonder about the politics, the motivations

of the characters and the way the magic and world works without digressing to explain anything to you or to resolve all your questions. You must stick with the story to find out everything. There are no 'informative digressions', which is a common feature in fantasy today. What I mean by 'informative digression' is a point in the text where the main character or narrator will, as an aside, stop and 'catch you up' on how the world works, what his/her motivations are and just spend a page or so explaining things about the world and how things work in the world to you. So, this series has NO 'informative digressions'. Also, most modern fantasy is much more character focused. These are all stylistic choices, not substantive choices. It may make it harder to get into for some, but this is a point of preference, not quality. Given, if you want or need those character driven stories or like to get filled in as you go, you won't like this series. Personally, I enjoy both kind of stories and don't view one style as inferior or another superior, but I accept the style for it's strengths and enjoy them when they are well done. In this case, it is VERY well done and INTENSELY enjoyable!

Each time I read it, more of the subtle brilliance emerges. Get ready for a fantastic ride. Honestly the best novel I've ever had the pleasure to read, and it only gets better with the subsequent books.

I enjoyed the characters, though it's difficult to tell them apart sometimes. The main characters are much more distinctive. The secondary characters all seem like variations of the same person. Also, the story is very confusing for the first third to half of the book. It takes a long time to put characters and places in their proper context in order to understand the greater plot of the book. I'd venture to say that this book could have been two very good books if the author had slowed down and put together a better picture of the history behind this book, an understanding of how the sorcery works, and an understanding of the tiers of the gods.

Erikson dropped me into a world with a high learning curve. But I am so glad I stuck through. Something about the characters and the writing itself pulled me in and refused to let go. Until by the end I was incredibly invested and putting the book to the side after finishing with a whispered "wow." Definitely worth it. I will be buying the rest of the series for sure.

I've both read this book many years ago and listened to the audiobook in the past week. Wonderfully written and compelling Gardens of the Moon comes alive in the mind.

I didn't find the book as entertaining as I felt I would. I have read a wide variety of similar works and

knew the Malazan books by reputation. I wasn't disappointed per say, but I will not be continuing the series.

An incredible fantasy novel, like nothing ive ever read before and I've read them all. Gardens of The moon is easily my new favorite book. It is a must read for any fan of fantasy.

I had this book recommended by a friend as a grand fantasy - that importantly to me was completely written (unlike at the time of my writing the Fire and Ice RR Martin books...). A lot of characters with intertwined plots and a vague sense of who is "good" speaks to its complexity in a good way. I will continue to read the series and I hope the quality stays at least on par with this ones going forward.

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