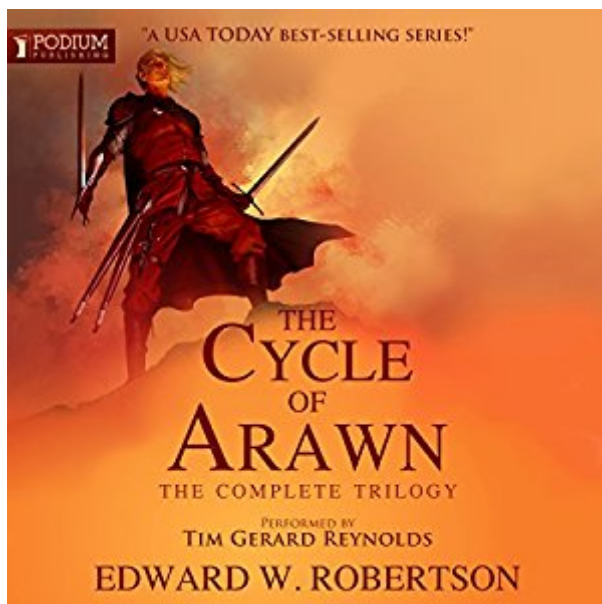


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The Cycle Of Arawn: The Complete Trilogy



Synopsis

The White Tree (book one): In Mallon, the dark magic of the nether has been banned for centuries. Its users have been driven out or killed. Its secrets lost. But the holy book of the nethermancers has just been found by a boy named Dante. As he works to unlock the book's power, he's attacked in the street. The nethermancers aren't gone-and they want their book back. Caught between death cultists and the law, Dante fights for his life, aided by his growing skills and a brash bodyguard named Blays. Together they're drawn into a centuries-old conflict that brings Mallon to the brink of civil war. Surviving won't be easy. But if they make it out alive, they'll step down the path to becoming two of the greatest warriors the world has ever known.

The Great Rift (book two): Dante and Blays have averted war against their new home of Narashtovik. But they didn't do so alone. It's time to repay their debts. The norren who helped them remain enslaved by the Gaskan Empire. While arming the norren clans for rebellion, Dante hears one of them is in possession of the legendary Quivering Bow. If he can track down the weapon, it could secure norren independence. But the wheels of war have already begun to turn. As Gask moves to crush the rebellion, Dante and Blays find themselves at the head of a campaign for survival-for norren and Narashtovik alike.

The Black Star (book three): Narashtovik has been saved-but Dante and Blays' friendship has been destroyed. Blaming the Gaskan king for the loss of his love, Lira, Blays infiltrates the enemy nobility. There he schemes to bankrupt Gask and drive its ruler from the throne. But Dante's been waiting for Blays' return. If he finds and exposes him, Blays will be executed as a spy. As they squabble, strange lights shine in the east. Harbingers of a long-forgotten threat. If the signs go ignored, Narashtovik will be annihilated by an enemy it never knew it had.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since, at the end of book 3, this author said it took him seven years to write these books, I guess I'll give it a review. At the end of book one I said to myself, "Why should I care anything about these two boys/men?" There's no hint as to how Dante heard about the Cycle of Arawn or why he thought he might have the gift of nethermancy. He and Blays reminded me a lot of Starsky and Hutch - an effective team, full of wit and sarcasm, but did I really want to continue? At the end of book two I was sure I was not going to continue on. How can you read almost 1,000 pages and still not know who these two are or care why they do the things they do? I'm glad I stuck it out to book three as this is where it all finally comes together. Blays figures himself out and goes a long way to giving us an understanding of Dante. And you just knew what Dante was going to do with the Black Star, even though Dante himself didn't know. Hooray for friendship - even when you are sure it no longer exists. The plot moved right along in this book and came to a very satisfying end. So I'm glad I stuck it out, even though I'll never give it a second read. You can't read just book three - you will never understand the back story if you don't read the first two. The author is no Brandon Sanderson or Michael Manning, or Patrick Rothfuss, but he has the potential.

I rarely write book reviews, but this series far exceeded my expectations. The dialogue is probably the best part - engaging, and funny enough that I actually laughed out loud several times (which I never do!) But it is not a comedy. There are also reflective and insightful sections that made me think. The characters are very well-developed, and they mature noticeably throughout the books (which cover about 10 years). They are not one-dimensional, either - the main character in particular makes some choices that make his heroism a little questionable at times. The number of characters is reasonable, and I didn't have the problem of forgetting who people were from the beginning of this series to the end. (Although it is only 3 books, it is still a very long series due to the length of each book.) The different countries and regions also have their personalities. The plot is reasonably unique, the magic system used is interesting, and the length of the series gives the author time to develop things in a way you don't always find (but without getting bogged down in minutiae or lost among too many plot lines). There is plenty of war and death, but it is not depicted in a gruesome or overly violent manner. Another thing I liked about this series is that it had an actual ending. The last few chapters provide closure and tell you what happened to the characters after the "main event". Too many books leave you hanging, with unfinished plot lines, but this series wraps it up nicely.

Highly recommended!

After reading Mr. Robertson's The Breakers series, I was hooked on him as an author, so naturally I picked up The Cycle of Arawn for my Kindle. I'm not usually into the Fantasy genre, however, but I'm sure glad I gave this series a shot. It was absolutely EPIC! The writing style is easy to read, yet gets thinking throughout. A lot of care was put into the cast of characters, and they are witty, thoughtful, sometimes selfish, and at usually hilarious (especially the banter between Dante and Blays), making me laugh out loud; which when you can find books that makes you laugh, either to yourself or out loud, you know you've found a good book! All in all as far as how Mr. Robertson develops his characters over the course of the three novels, I couldn't have asked for more. As time progresses in the books, Dante and Blays move from adventure to adventure, feeding off each other, sometimes facing certain calamity, other times resounding success. CAUTION SPOILER: what I tuned into was the very fact that they so well complemented each other, that when they had a falling out, I could actually feel the hole that they both left on each other while they were apart. That's all I will say for spoilers; if you want to know more, buy this series, you won't regret it!

This fantasy trilogy was impossible to put down. The author has given his readers a unique system of magic which continues to expand in capability as the story progresses. Although the main characters are teenagers, adults should not avoid this set thinking it is YA fare. Although the three books together make for the longest read I've tackled recently, I was so caught up by the well paced story that I had to push straight through to the last page.

Be forewarned, you will not be able to read this entire trilogy in one session. The characters, the depth of the background, the narrative itself will keep you reading for hours. Eventually various biological functions will demand you put it down for a short time. I especially enjoyed the continuity of the thought processes and dialogue that being this story together. Personally, I think this story is strong enough to be made into a screen play. The resulting movie could be an Oscar winner! Now to go forth and dive into the next trilogy taking the story even further. See you in the Spring.

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