



## The Gathering Storm

*Robert Jordan, Brandon Sanderson*

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# The Gathering Storm

*Robert Jordan , Brandon Sanderson*

## **The Gathering Storm** Robert Jordan , Brandon Sanderson Now in development for TV!

Since its debut in 1990, The Wheel of Time(R) by Robert Jordan has captivated millions of readers around the globe with its scope, originality, and compelling characters.

The Wheel of Time turns and Ages come and go, leaving memories that become legend. Legend fades to myth, and even myth is long forgotten when the Age that gave it birth returns again. In the Third Age, an Age of Prophecy, the World and Time themselves hang in the balance. What was, what will be, and what is, may yet fall under the Shadow.

Tarmon Gai'don, the Last Battle, looms. And mankind is not ready.

The final volume of the Wheel of Time, *A Memory of Light*, was partially written by Robert Jordan before his untimely passing in 2007. Brandon Sanderson, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Mistborn books, and now Stormlight Archive, among others, was chosen by Jordan's editor--his wife, Harriet McDougal--to complete the final volume, later expanded to three books.

In this epic novel, Robert Jordan's international bestselling series begins its dramatic conclusion. Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, struggles to unite a fractured network of kingdoms and alliances in preparation for the Last Battle. As he attempts to halt the Seanchan encroachment northward--wishing he could form at least a temporary truce with the invaders--his allies watch in terror the shadow that seems to be growing within the heart of the Dragon Reborn himself.

Egwene al'Vere, the Amyrlin Seat of the rebel Aes Sedai, is a captive of the White Tower and subject to the whims of their tyrannical leader. As days tick toward the Seanchan attack she knows is imminent, Egwene works to hold together the disparate factions of Aes Sedai while providing leadership in the face of increasing uncertainty and despair. Her fight will prove the mettle of the Aes Sedai, and her conflict will decide the future of the White Tower--and possibly the world itself.

**TV series update:** "Sony will produce along with Red Eagle Entertainment and Radar Pictures. Rafe Judkins is attached to write and executive produce. Judkins previously worked on shows such as ABC's "Agents of SHIELD," the Netflix series "Hemlock Grove," and the NBC series "Chuck." Red Eagle partners Rick Selvage and Larry Mondragon will executive produce along with Radar's Ted Field and Mike Weber. Darren Lemke will also executive produce, with Jordan's widow Harriet McDougal serving as consulting producer." --*Variety*

## **The Wheel of Time(R)**

*New Spring: The Novel*

#1 *The Eye of the World*

#2 *The Great Hunt*

#3 *The Dragon Reborn*

#4 *The Shadow Rising*

#5 *The Fires of Heaven*

#6 *Lord of Chaos*  
#7 *A Crown of Swords*  
#8 *The Path of Daggers*  
#9 *Winter's Heart*  
#10 *Crossroads of Twilight*  
#11 *Knife of Dreams*

**By Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson**

#12 *The Gathering Storm*  
#13 *Towers of Midnight*  
#14 *A Memory of Light*

**By Robert Jordan and Teresa Patterson**

*The World of Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time*

**By Robert Jordan, Harriet McDougal, Alan Romanczuk, and Maria Simons**

*The Wheel of Time Companion*

**By Robert Jordan and Amy Romanczuk**

*Patterns of the Wheel: Coloring Art Based on Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time*

**The Gathering Storm Details**

Date : Published October 27th 2009 by Tor Books

ISBN : 9780765302304

Author : Robert Jordan , Brandon Sanderson

Format : Hardcover 783 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction Fantasy, Epic

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## From Reader Review The Gathering Storm for online ebook

### Maria Dimitrova says

#### **Buddy Read with the Sanderson cult, umm I meant fans, over at BB&B.**

Going into this I was equal parts excited, because I've heard good things about Sanderson, and apprehensive, because it's still a change and an unknown. Considering how much time it took me to get used to Robert Jordan's style, I was scared that I won't have enough time to acclimate to the new style. Thankfully my fears didn't realise. The book was amazing! I just couldn't put it down. And I think it's because of the changes Mr. Sanderson introduced. The main change was the pacing. The early WoT books had a hell of a lot pacing issues, there were moments when I wondered if this thing will ever end. TGS has perfect (for me at least) pacing and it let me breeze through the book in mere two weeks, when I usually need the whole month. My fellow buddy readers more familiar with Mr. Sanderson's works and style pointed out a few other differences, like the humour, but the only other difference I noticed was the more direct approach to certain situations which I had come to expect to be left vague or explained with a more subtle approach. And to be honest, I quite like these changes. There subtle enough that you might not notice them at all if you're not careful. So ultimately I'm very pleased with the way the series is handled. I doubt there's someone who could have done a better job, except RJ himself.

A lot happens in this book. Lots of storyarchs were brought to fruition. Things I have been dreading for books came to pass and the results left me at times angry, sad, frustrated, elated and once even sobbing outright. I've come to care about these characters so much that seeing their suffering, especially Rand's, who cares the fate of the world on his shoulders, is like a punch. A constricting hand around my heart. So much happened to all of our beloved characters - Perrin showed a willingness to step on the redemption path, Mat showed us that despite the mask he is a deeply caring man, if a bit callus and rude, Rand had to fight himself and his ever growing madness and depression, Nynaeve, steadfast Nynaeve, who cares so deeply for her friends and husband is given an impossible task when Rand descents deeper into the darkness, Egwene showed the world what a true Amyrlin should be and many, many other things. Almost all of the main characters showed up at one time or another. The biggest exception being Elayne who is MIA for this instalment. However we got Gawyn who reappeared in a more significant manner this time around. Some of the scenes with him were deeply satisfying, mainly because (view spoiler) I can't pick a single scene or chapter that I disliked or was bored with. However, there's a scene that's burned into my soul:

"The difference between you and Caduane is that you actually care about me. She only cares about my place in her plans. She wants me to be part of the Final battle. You want me to live. For that, you have my thanks. Dream on my behalf, Nynaeve. Dream for things I no longer can." -Rand al'Thor

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### Eon ?Windrunner? says

I like to think that this book is the first result of what it would have been like if Jordan and Sanderson co-authored this book together in real-time. It is filled with that same Robert Jordan touch, the WoT feel, the same epic story and wonderful characters, but now with the added injection of Sanderson's style, his mastery

of pacing. That just might be because these are the closing books and everything would have been racing towards the end anyway, but I do not think there is anyone who could have done Jordan saga better justice than Sanderson who is a huge fan himself.

The story flows from one chapter to the next with nary a drop in pace and I found myself finishing this one WAY before the finishing date of our BR as every chapter just gave me that “one more” ending.

Without further delay, highlights aka SPOILERS: (view spoiler)

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## **Robin (Bridge Four) says**

### **4.75 Someone Else is Driving the Car Stars**

*“The end is near,” ... “The Wheel has groaned its final rotation, the clock has lost its spring, the serpent heaves its final gasps.”*

This is the first book that was written after Robert Jordan’s death by Brandon Sanderson. I got so emotional when I read the opening words in the Foreword.

*I have not tried to imitate Mr. Jordan’s style. Instead, I’ve adapted my style to be appropriate to The Wheel of Time. My main goal was to stay true to the souls of the characters. The plot is, in large part, Robert Jordan’s, though many of the words are mine...*

*But this is a big project, and it will take time to complete. I beg your patience as we spend these next few years perfecting this story. We hold in our hands the ending of the greatest fantasy epic of our time, and I intend to see it done right. I intend to remain true to Mr. Jordan’s wishes and notes. My artistic integrity, and love for the books, will not let me do anything less. In the end, I let the words herein stand as the best argument for what we are doing. This is not my book. It is Robert Jordan’s book, and to a lesser extent, it is your book.*

I’m just going to give props to Sanderson for taking over such a massive epic fantasy. It couldn’t have been

easy and yet I think that he did a fantastic job with this book. Yes there are some differences in the writing styles and a few of the characters change a smidge more than expected but overall it is amazing how well he did.

### **The Best Parts:**

? - The better pacing of the story. I don't know if this is because we are coming to an end and so all the foundations that RJ set down and the arcs he built up are finally starting to tie together or if Sanderson's style of writing has led to it but the pacing of this huge book is fantastic. I've been reading this series for a year now just a few chapters a day and this was the first time that it was actually really hard to put the book down after 2-3 chapters.

? - Verrin just WOW. Look I've gone back and forth on Verrin and her goals in this series. Which team is she playing for? What is that woman up to? Can we trust her or is this just another Aes Sedai Plot? Do I like her, do I hate her??? Well I'm just going to say that whatever I was thinking what was actually true was SO MUCH BETTER.

? - I'm going to give huge props to Egwene. She is really proving to be a very competent Amerlyn and I'm really interested in what she is going to do after this book. She could be the greatest Amerlyn in history if she keeps this up.

? - Min is always one of my favorite characters and I really like to believe that she and Rand are the true soulmate match and he is just going to sperm donor it up for Elayne and Avienda ~~they are a cuter couple together than with Rand~~. I think this book shows just how much Min gets Rand and how she is the one that is going to support him through this huge undertaking. But Rand in most of this book was bleak and we find out why.

*"I continue to wonder,' he said, glancing down at Min, 'why you all assume that I am too dense to see what you find so obvious. Yes, Nynaeve. Yes, this hardness will destroy me. I know.' ...  
You all claim that I have grown too hard, that I will inevitably shatter and break if I continue on. But you assume that there needs to be something left of me to continue on. ...  
That's the key, Nynaeve. I see it now. I will not live through this, and so I don't need to worry about what might happen to me after the Last Battle. I don't need to hold back, don't need to salvage anything of this beaten up soul of mine."*

? - The meeting with the Seanchen. Look I didn't think that it would go well but Rand meeting Tuon....well I've been waiting for it for so long and now it has happened and I'm not sure where all the chips are going to fall. I semi-see both sides BUT the Seanchen collar and subjugate those who have the one power and I don't see that being something that Rand will ever tolerate.

? - I loved all the different crazy happening with pockets of power. It is just amazing all the different ways the dark one is touching the land and how it is affecting different people in different places. The Town that Matt went to for instance well that is a huge disturbance and a very cool idea.

? - Last but not least Terminator Rand is dead. Look he has been pretty moody and bleak for the last few books and I get why but it was so nice to finally FINALLY have some resolution with that voice in his head. I'm glad that we got that out of the way. It has been an emotion trip with Lews Therin in Rand's head but we definitely got some great resolution on that story arc and I'm really happy with it.

### **The Worst Parts: (they aren't really bad they are just different)**

BS did a great job with this but there are going to be a few things that are different that you notice.

1 – Robert Jordan's humor was more situational and Brandon Sanderson's is more banter/wit type. I liked this change since I appreciate the banter/wit more than situational comedy. Still it is noticeably different especially in Mat's character and Telmanus. Not really good or bad just different.

2 – I think that RJ's villains are a bit more subtle and Sanderson's are more in your face. Elida is a prime example. She was a bit cruel before but in this she was flat out cray-cray

3- The flow of the story is a bit different. I like the change up and faster speed of things but you can definitely tell that someone else is driving the car now.

### **Overall:**

This world/story have been amazing and I'm really glad we are wrapping everything up and going into the last battle. It is time and I do think looking at the last 2 books I read that it was probably worth some of the slow meandering of books 8-10 to get to 11-14. But I'll know better if that is true at the very end.

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### **Phrynne says**

Book number twelve in the series and I really think I liked it the best so far. What's not to like when my favourite characters are featured so much. Rand of course has been a favourite from the beginning but now I also find Mat to be interesting and very entertaining. Even Egwene redeems herself in this book and has some of the most exciting scenes all to herself. An awful lot happens in this particular volume and the story really feels as though it is progressing towards its ending. Brandon Sanderson's writing is easier to read than Robert Jordan's was in the earlier books and the pace overall seems better. Oh and Sanderson also knows how to finish a book with a brilliant ending. Go Rand!!! So only two massive tomes to go and I will have finished this excellent series. I think I must read them slowly as I will miss them when they are done.

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### **Andrew says**

Superior to the last half-dozen Jordan books, Sanderson does The Wheel of Time better than its original author.

Sanderson puts in so many things that Jordan alluded to for effect but never satisfactorily depicted: Aes Sedai politics, characters' scheming and ploys, Rand recalling all the women he killed.

Characters reminisce about their past and other characters Jordan neglected, and refer to how they have changed; their emotions are more real and tangible, and demonstrated through actions. Egwene's struggle to unite the White Tower was actually involving; Rand's fury at his loss of freedom becomes disturbing and yet touching; Ishamael spells out why he went over to the Dark One, and it makes sense. One of the ex-second-tier characters reveals a big secret and gives context to Jordan's inept portrayal of the squabbling and

ineffectual Darkfriends.

Sanderson is a more diligent author, going back to refer to places and events that Jordan used and discarded. No doubt Sanderson is working for the legitimacy of his volume, but the added continuity brings out the epic nature of the series. In the more recent Wheel of Time books, Jordan lapsed into pointless politicking disconnected from earlier volumes. The fantasy aspect fell away, and there was no sense of progression towards an ending; the story was becoming a soap opera of endless one-off tasks.

A couple of Mat chapters deserve special mention: here Sanderson incorporates humour and horror that touched me far more than thousands of Robert Jordan's pages.

I don't know whether Jordan intended the direction Sanderson aims the series in raising the philosophical implications of prophecy, reincarnation and fate, but I'm really enjoying it.

The book still is slow, but by Wheel of Time standards, a lot happens and does so much more convincingly. If you are a fan of the series, and have stuck with it this far, you're in for a treat.

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## Evgeny says

Final rating: **3.5 stars**.

After an early and unexpected death of Robert Jordan somebody had to finish his magnum opus. A relatively new and unknown at the time author was chosen: Brandon Sanderson. Fortunately for the series' fans Jordan left enough notes regarding further plot developments and it is said the final chapters of the last book were entirely written by him. So did Sanderson succeed in continuing the biggest epic series in fantasy? It really depends on what you expect from Wheel of Time.

The first and foremost complaint about Sanderson's writing was about the characters: they did not feel right and became somewhat two-dimensional; the latter is my own opinion. I will give a detailed picture of each of the major people below.

Rand has his emo moments practically non-stop; I was reminded of Sazed in the last two books of Mistborn trilogy: he was in exactly the same mood most of the time. Rand's last development in the book came up completely out of blue and without any good reason or explanation. He has his moments, though.

If you heard anything at all about the series and Sanderson's writing, you know that he completely missed writing the most interesting character in books 3-11: Mat. Basically Jordan's Mat used to be a lovable rogue, but Sanderson's Mat is a foul-mouthed rude. The less is said about him, the better.

I am happy to say that Perrin felt exactly the same as before. The guy had his last exciting moment in book 4 before Faile firmly wrapped him around her finger: he cannot have two thoughts without one of them being about his wife anymore. Sanderson's Perrin is as boring as Jordan's, but this is really not his fault.

Nynaeve became interesting when she decided to become useful. She does not have a lot of screen time, but she still keeps pulling her braid as usual. I really cannot say anything bad about her.

Egwene spends first half of the book pretending to be a character from a BDSM themed book (the one with

heavy spanking); she practically enjoys it. She started being fairly close to Jordan's vision; I feel as her plot-line developed, she became more and more distant from that vision. She also became quite hypocritical by the end, but I suspect it comes with having a lot of power. The majority of the book was spent with two Aes Sedai fractions: rebel and the White Tower which means we get to see a lot of Egwene. I was never a big fan of petty intrigues by obnoxious magic users who do not know the meaning of humility (there are only two exceptions for this), so this is one of the influencing factors the book did not get a higher rating from me.

A couple of more notes on the characters: Elaida used to be a fairly complex character, but she became a psychotic while Tuon is a lovesick puppy all of a sudden.

I also need to mention one of the biggest reasons I like the series was the sense of wonder when I read it: whether some ruins of the ancient forgotten cities, giant statues built in times forgotten, uncovered relics serving unknown purposes, some magic constructs - something was always there to stimulate my imagination. Even in the slowest book of the series - Crossroads of Twilight - one of the towns visited by Perrin impressed the hell out of me with its creepiness. Well, this sense of wonder is completely gone from the first Sanderson's book. I can literally feel him rushing to reach the end of the series and completely ignoring such trivialities along the way.

I need to be very generic in this part of the review to avoid very big spoilers as I am about to talk about some of the plot resolutions. Some of them felt forced and way too simplistic after the monumental buildup. I am talking about the whole Verin help and the confrontation with one of the Forsaken. I could go on and on, but I cannot be more specific.

The first part of the book was slow - slower than the last Jordan's book. In the second part the pace picked up considerably and different subplot resolutions kept piling on the top of each other.

Do you expect a typical summer blockbuster movie: a lot of huge explosions, fast-moving plot and flat characters? You got it here. Do you want continue enjoying the world full of wonders at a leisurely pace, or interesting cases of character developments? Look somewhere else. Even with all the problems I mention the book is good enough to warrant 3.5 stars; the widespread opinion is that the last two books are improvement of this one, so I am eagerly await to continue with the series.

This review is a copy/paste of my BookLikes one: [http://gene.booklikes.com/post/832916...-](http://gene.booklikes.com/post/832916...)

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### **Choko says**

\*\*\* 5++++ \*\*\*

**Another buddy read with the Fantasy Addicts at BB&B! May the Wheel keep on turning!!!**

*"... ""Pessimism, she is a fond friend of yours, yes?"" -  
That's uncalled for. I barely know her. Mere acquaintances, at best."..."*

WOW!!! Brandon Sanderson did Robert Jordan proud!!! What a ride! What an amazing series!!! The complexity of plot and characters are not comparable to anything else I have ever read in my entire life! It would be impossible for me to even delve into what happens in this book... How do you summarize the

whole of everything that goes on around you at all times? Impossible! There was joy, there was pain, there was anger, grief, and there was hope! And Sanderson's style of writing, although not the same as Jordan's, fits perfectly with the feel of the series, mostly in the ability to lace even the toughest situations with some humor and make us look on the bright side of the problem! Wow!!! Did I say WOW????!!!!

*"... "The Wheel has turned, for better or worse. And it will keep on turning, as lights die and forests dim, storms call and skies break. Turn it will. The Wheel is not hope, and the Wheel does not care, the Wheel simply is. But so long as it turns, folk may hope, folk may care. For with light that fades, another will eventually grow, and each storm that rages must eventually die. As long as the Wheel turns. As"..."*

To all fans of Epic Fantasy, you guys have to give the series a try! It is soooo worth it!

*"... "The end is near," Moridin said. "The Wheel has groaned its final rotation, the clock has lost its spring, the serpent heaves its final gasps."..."*

Wish you all Happy Reading and may you always find inspiration in the books you read!!!

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### **Richard says**

I first picked up the Wheel of Time series fifteen years ago while a freshman in college. I remember being totally caught up in the series, consumed by the characters and taken in by the world. I looked forward to every page, couldn't decide on my favorite character and couldn't wait for the next book. That changed as the series went on. Wandering plotlines, characters that became so unlikeable that I loathed when they appeared for more than a chapter at a time, and so much of the plot taken up with unimportant throwaway characters that I felt like I needed a separate book just to keep up with all of the characters. I remember clearly the moment I decided I was done with the series, after an entire book searching for the bowl of winds, only to reach the end of the book and with bowl in hand, the characters... do nothing. It was another half a book before the artifact was finally used. So it wasn't until Robert Jordan died that I went back and picked up the last few books that I hadn't read, in anticipation of Brandon Sanderson's writing the final novel. I was pleased to find that the books resolved some of the issues as they went on, even though, as I picked up the 'last' of the Wheel of Time books I learned it would be the last of three.

The Gathering Storm renewed my love of the Wheel of Time. Sanderson's writing pays homage to Jordan just enough that the book doesn't seem disjointed, but in so many ways it is much better. Rare are the chapters where we follow a character through the minutia of walking from one place to another without the plot moving forward. Chapters told from the point of view of characters not central to the plot were revealing and concise. The plot moves forward at a satisfying pace and resolves many of the plotlines that we have been waiting years for. Even more satisfying is that the characters become likeable again. Even Rand by the end, is one step closer to being a sympathetic character. I totally recommend the Gathering Storm as a book that will renew the faith of Jordan readers like me, who became disenchanted over the years. I'm looking forward to the final two books of the 'A Memory of Light' and in the meantime I will be introducing myself to Sanderson's other books.

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### **Kaitlin says**

So this is book 12 of the Wheel of Time series and this is the first one which is written after Jordan's death by Brandon Sanderson. I am not going to lie, Sanderson is the reason I began reading the WoT series (because I wanted to read everything by him) but along the way Jordan sucked me in, developed this stunning world of visionary, resentful, powerful and dangerous characters, and created a massively fun story. Some of the books are better than others. I liked most of the ones so far (although book 6 remains my favourite at the moment) and yet, getting to the Sanderson books still makes me feel so good. Not because I forced my way through the series or hated it, I didn't, but because I knew that I began 2 or so years ago with the series because I wanted to get to the Sanderson books, and now I have done so (and so far it's wonderful!)

Book 12 is the beginning of the end. Whilst Knife of Dreams (book 11) was the start of Jordan's attempt to bring the strings back together book 12 is the beginning of the questions being answered and the characters forming up and resolving their problems/plotlines in order to be ready for the inevitable Last Battle.

In terms of how Sanderson compares to Jordan as a writer I think he does a great job of not disrespecting the story which Jordan set up so well. He says in the introduction to the book that he never wanted to lie and try to emulate Jordan and have none of his personality come through, but equally he wanted it to be true to Jordan's wishes for the story and he wanted it to come out right in the end. Sanderson being a long-term fan of the series is also obviously a big help to him because he knew these characters and he knew who they were before he began writing them, and he does a fab job of emulating them and continuing their storylines in a way that makes them believable still.

In terms of the plot this book is undeniably much better paced than some of the previous ones by Jordan himself. Whilst Jordan's books tend to be a steady and slow build with the halfway point being the turning point where the action really begins, Sanderson has a knack for instantly starting out with something that will not only interest you, but will also capture and hold your attention for the duration of the book. I flew through this book a lot quicker than any of the last few books in the series. I wanted, at all times when I was busy, to have the audiobook going or the physical book in hand. It was fun, it was fab, it was full of answers and resolutions which we've been longing for, and ultimately needing. The series has, in my opinion, benefited massively from Sanderson taking over, and that's no discredit whatsoever to Jordan, as he set everything up and planned everything out meticulously, but Sanderson is better at engaging you quicker.

On the whole, I won't go into any details about what really happens in this book but just know that this is the second best of the series so far (with the first one being book 6 by Jordan himself) and that it really is a thoroughly good read. I would say that this has filled me with so much excitement for the final two books now, and I eagerly await seeing where they will take not only me, as the reader, but the characters that we follow in the story. I want to know who will win, how will they win, and what is going to happen in the end to the world of the Wheel of Time. There's so much originality which for a time became a little stale, but now I have nothing but anticipation for book 13 and 14.

A wonderful 5\* read with so many improvements to the character's storylines and the way they're progressing. Can't wait for book 13 very soon :)

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### **Jon says**

4 stars

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## Manveer says

Sanderson love <3

Brilliant book. Fast paced, lots of shit happening. Couldn't spot any differences in the writing style initially, but signs were there.

The beginning of the end!

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## Jonathan Terrington says

This twelfth volume of The Wheel of Time is one of the most famous of recent times. Simply because it was, at the time it was promised, expected to be the final volume of the (then) ongoing series. It was also the first volume written by Brandon Sanderson (then known simply for *Mistborn: The Final Empire*) with the aid of many, many notes left by Robert Jordan. When I picked up *The Eye of the World* three or so years ago I knew that this twelfth volume of The Wheel of Time (due at the end of that year) was by a different author. I had no inkling of how I should feel about that as on the whole I dislike novels by other authors. Yet a friend had recommended the series strongly to me so I decided to read it and I personally very much enjoyed the story all the way up to this twelfth volume. Then when I read *The Gathering Storm* I was impressed by how skilfully put together the story was and consider it to be one of the finest in the entire series.

Brandon Sanderson, as an author, has several strengths which combat Jordan's weaknesses nicely in this novel. One friend recently posed that there are two types of writers. There are those who are natural storytellers, more concerned with the plot ideas and details. Then there are the technicians, those who focus more on prose and literary qualities over stories. Now, they stated, most authors are combinations of both by nature, yet they seem to have one aspect more strongly over the other. I would say that, while Sanderson is a writer with ideas and natural storytelling ability, that he is a stronger technical writer than Jordan.

When I say that Sanderson is a stronger technical writer I'd like to consider it from this perspective. Do you believe, if their roles were reversed, that Jordan would be able to as effectively write Sanderson's stories? I personally theorise that Jordan would find it more difficult to adapt to Sanderson's style. Brandon Sanderson in this novel has done something that is ridiculously near impossible in copying Jordan's style and telling the story as Jordan wanted (more or less). Yes, there are flaws every so often when as a reader you realise that an expression or idea dropped by Sanderson does not quite fit into the logical confines of Robert Jordan's world yet for the most part he does a perfect job of capturing Jordan's writing style and the voices of the characters he fills this world with. If you disagree try writing a short story in the style of your favourite author and you will see how hard it can be to emulate writing.

In calling Sanderson a stronger technical writer I would also like to point out that Sanderson typically uses a less 'wordy' style than Jordan. That is not to say that Sanderson is not lengthy when he writes, indeed some of his sentences occasionally prove a touch awkward and he himself readily admits that he is not the greatest author of all time. However, that said Sanderson has an economy of language that works, it seems to me that he understands his limits and the theories of writing to a strong degree. On the other hand I feel that Jordan at times writes in a style that is overly long and above what he should aim for. I personal feel that Sanderson's sense of economy adds pace and energy to this novel in addition to the strength of Jordan's worldbuilding. I

also felt that Sanderson added degrees of humour and warmth which I haven't felt from the other books in the series.

Now, I do not intend this to be a sign of disrespect for Robert Jordan. Indeed I think it would have been great if he had been able to finish the story himself. Yet Sanderson has clearly added something to this book that, for good or for bad, makes it a better and stronger story.

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## Markus says

*"Ravens and crows. Rats Mists and clouds. Insects and corruption. Strange events and odd occurrences. The ordinary twisted and strange. Wonders!"*

*The dead are beginning to walk and some see them. Others do not, but more and more, we all fear the night.*

*These have been our days. They rain upon us beneath a dead sky, crushing us with their fury, until as one we beg: "Let it begin!"*

*-Journal of the Unknown Scholar, entry for The Feast of Freia, 1000 NE"*

Tarmon Gai'don is looming. War, death and madness have become part of day-to-day life in the Westlands as the final struggle with the Shadow is at hand...

*The Gathering Storm* is the first of the three books written after the Creator's passing. Brandon Sanderson does not disappoint, especially because his influence is practically invisible. There are differences, of course. But apart from the minor change in writing style, this is still very much Robert Jordan. Light be praised.

Storylines are finally moving towards an end. A couple of major revelations are dropped. And Egwene al'Vere is the obvious star of the show. Who would have thought?

***"The end is near," Moridin said. "The Wheel has groaned its final rotation, the clock has lost its spring, the serpent heaves its final gasps."***

### **Wheel of Time reviews:**

- #1 *The Eye of the World*
- #2 *The Great Hunt*
- #3 *The Dragon Reborn*
- #4 *The Shadow Rising*
- #5 *The Fires of Heaven*
- #6 *Lord of Chaos*
- #7 *A Crown of Swords*
- #8 *The Path of Daggers*
- #9 *Winter's Heart*
- #10 *Crossroads of Twilight*
- #11 *Knife of Dreams*
- #12 *The Gathering Storm*

#13 *Towers of Midnight*

#14 *A Memory of Light*

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

Fanfreakingtastic!

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### **Gavin says**

I guess the big question that counts when considering this 12th volume of the WoT is how did I feel about the switch from Robert Jordan to Brandon Sanderson? I was more OK with the change than I anticipated. I'm a big Brandon Sanderson fan but I had definitely been dreading the moment when he took over writing WoT. Mostly just because I like consistency and WoT books always had such a familiar and distinct feel to them. Some things were definitely different, but I think the most important thing of all was that Sanderson managed to capture the spirit of the story and managed to maintain that special "WoT feel". Sanderson's WoT was worse than Jordan's WoT in some ways but, surprisingly, better in others. The trade off worked out about level for me.

The big plus Sanderson brought to the 12th WoT instalment was a dramatically improved pacing. There was no dull spots and no chapters that felt like filler or where it felt the characters were just treading water. Every chapter was engaging and interesting and a few of the more action packed and emotionally charged chapters were among the best WoT moments in the whole series.

One of the most noticeable differences between Sanderson and Jordan was the tone and type of the humour. Jordan always favoured subtly and hilarious mishaps while Sanderson favours a more direct style which meant the humor came more in the form of witty banter. I'm not sure which type of favour I favour in general but did find the change in style in the context of this series to be a touch jarring at times.

I also felt like Sanderson had a slightly different interpretation of some of the WoT characters than Jordan himself had. I know, not a big surprise considering we as fans all likely have a billion different interpretations of the characters from what Jordan himself intended! Still, I did find the change a little jarring. It was most noticeable in Mat, Nynaeve, and Elaida. Talmanes was also a bit different but Sanderson had more wiggle room there as Talmanes was only a minor secondary character in Jordan's books while in this one he was basically promoted to Mat's main sidekick. Mat and Elaida regularly acted "out of character" in my eyes while Nynaeve also had a few moments that felt wrong for her.

The story itself in this 12th WoT book was actually pretty good. It was fast paced and quite engaging from start to finish. We got to see excellent progress in a number of the long term ongoing story arcs. The main focus of the story was on Rand and Egwene. Rand sought his alliance with the Seanchan, had more encounters with the Forsaken, tried to get his army ready for the Last Battle, and battled a lot of his own inner demons and increasing madness. Egwene sought to unify the Aes Sedai and deal with the Black Ajah. Both story arcs were pretty exciting. Mat and Perrin had a few moments of their own, especially early on, and their parts were entertaining enough. Elayne never appeared at all and was basically on the bench for this

instalment.

As always the main cast was helped out by some enjoyable back up from a few of the secondary POV characters. The pick of the bunch in this book was Tuon, Cadsuane, and Tylee.

All in all this was a great read and a worthy addition to the fantastic WoT series.

Rating: 4.5 stars. I was tempted to give it the full 5 stars as it really was that sort of quality by I'm hacking off half a star because of some moments that really annoyed me.

Audio Note: We might have had a change of author, but thankfully we retained our fantastic WoT narration pairing of Micheal Krammer and Kate Reading. They are as good as it gets!

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