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Cephrael's Hand: A Pattern Of Shadow And Light, Book 1



Synopsis

"All things are composed of patterns...." And within the pattern of the realm of Alorin, three strands must cross. In Alorin...300 years after the genocidal Adept Wars, the realm is dying, and the blessed Adept race dies with it. One man holds the secret to reverting this decline: Bjorn van Gelderan, a dangerous and enigmatic man whose shocking betrayal three centuries past earned him a traitor's brand. It is the Adept Vestal Raine D'Lacourte's mission to learn what Bjorn knows in the hope of salvaging his race. But first he'll have to find him.... In the kingdom of Dannym...the young Prince Ean val Lorian faces a tenuous future as the last living heir to the coveted Eagle Throne. When his blood brother is slain during a failed assassination, Ean embarks on a desperate hunt for the man responsible. Yet his advisors have their own agendas, and his quest for vengeance leads him ever deeper into a sinuous plot masterminded by a mysterious and powerful man, the one they call First Lord. In the Nadori desert...tormented by the missing pieces of his life, a soldier named Trell heads off to uncover the truth of his shadowed past. But when disaster places him in the debt of Wildlings sworn to the First Lord, Trell begins to suspect a deadlier, darker secret motivating them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First things first: I intend to keep this review spoiler-free. I originally bought "Cephrael's Hand" for my Kindle because it was advertised as "for fans of Brandon Sanderson", and I loooooove Brandon Sanderson. I was somewhat disappointed. This book is comparable in length to one of Brandon's "Mistborn" books, that is, close to 600 pages. However, by the time I finished reading, I didn't really

feel that the length was justified, because the plot seemed to drag at times. The story starts explosively enough and has a thrilling climax, but in the middle is a slow buildup of tension--too slow for my tastes. That said, there are a lot of plot threads woven together into the story. This book is filled with mysteries, some of which are explained by the end, and some of which are not. I enjoyed getting just enough hints about upcoming plot twists to figure them out for myself before they were officially revealed. I also enjoyed how many of the characters who had been leading separate lives through most of the book converged on one location for the climax (that is one of my favorite plot devices). One thing that put me off a little was the *very* large cast of characters. I wish I had known about the character index in the back before I'd finished the book, because I would have referred to it frequently. Speaking of the large cast of characters, I have a few favorites: Ean, Trell, and Phaedor. Ean because he accepted that character who reappeared in his life unexpectedly (and whose name I won't mention because SPOILERS), despite how he'd changed. Trell because he always does the honorable thing, regardless of the consequences. Phaedor because he's apparently a good guy, but totally mysterious about it.

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