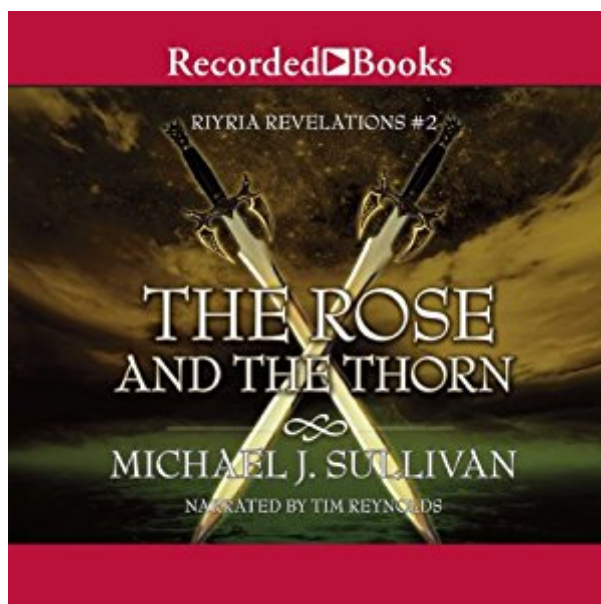


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The Rose And The Thorn: The Riyria Chronicles, Book 2



Synopsis

Two thieves want answers. Riyria is born. For more than a year, Royce Melborn has tried to forget Gwen DeLancy, the woman who saved him and his partner, Hadrian Blackwater, from certain death. Unable to get her out of his mind, the two thieves return to Medford but receive a very different reception - Gwen refuses to see them. The victim of abuse by a powerful noble, she suspects that Royce will ignore any danger in his desire for revenge. By turning the thieves away, Gwen hopes to once more protect them. What she doesn't realize is what the two are capable of - but she's about to find out.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been reading for pleasure since the early 1980s and I have not been paid or given any incentive for this review. I have confirmed purchase of each of these books on for my Kindle Paperwhite and I am writing this review for all of the Riyria novels and will post this for each. Please see the authors' notes for reading order of this series but this review is based on reading in chronological order: The Crown Tower (The Riyria Chronicles) The Rose and the Thorn (The Riyria Chronicles) The Death of Dulgath (The Riyria Chronicles) Theft of Swords (Riyria Revelations) Rise of Empire (Riyria Revelations) Heir of Novron (Riyria Revelations) Author Michael J. Sullivan has a gift. After 20 years I have a new favorite series and Michael J. Sullivan has another dedicated reader and fan. This series, and the writing style, takes me back to the old school days of Robert E. Howard in way | Each book stands on its own. It is a very clear story/adventure that starts and

concludes in a single volume so it can be read one at a time or binged all at once. The thing that differentiates it is that the series, in its entirety, is also a single epic adventure that starts in The Crown Tower and concludes in Heir of Novron. So taken individually each book is excellent and as a complete epic it more than satisfies. Like others have stated as well I was sad to read the end of it simply knowing that this particular tale was ending while at the same time that ending had enough adventure, emotion, humanity, and twists and turns that I was also happy to read the final pages. As an example the end of Glen Cook's The Black Company ended poetically and perfectly so too does the story of Riyria.

Prequels, I'm usually not really interested in them. I mean once you know where the story goes do you really care about the origins of it? For most of the books I've read I'd say that it's a big fat NO. But for Riyria and Michael J Sullivan there is a huge and resounding YES!!!! Not only do we get to see how Royce and Hadrian finally solidified into a team and found their front man, we also get to see the beginnings of Royce and Gwen as a possible couple and a young Hilfred in the castle before the fire. Since I read the Riyria Revelations first I know what a great team Hadrian and Royce are. But it is good to see some of the moments in the beginning. I thought that Royce was maybe a little tame for the dangerous killing assassin he was supposed to be. But after reading through this I can see where he got the reputation AND I can see how far Hadrian pushed him into being kinder later that is. "So why are you helping her?" "Because that's what people do. They help each other. If you saw a man lying in the road with an arrow in him, you'd stop, wouldn't you?" "Of course," Royce replied, "anyone would. A wounded man is easy pickings, unless you could see from your saddle that someone else has already taken his purse." "What? No! No one would rob a wounded man and leave him to die." Royce nodded. "Well, no. You're right. If he has a purse and you take it, it's best to slit his throat afterward. Too many people live through arrow wounds. You taught me that. No sense risking that he might come after you." "There are some great scenes in this book with just how cruel and bloodthirsty Royce can be when he realizes the people he cares for are in trouble."

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