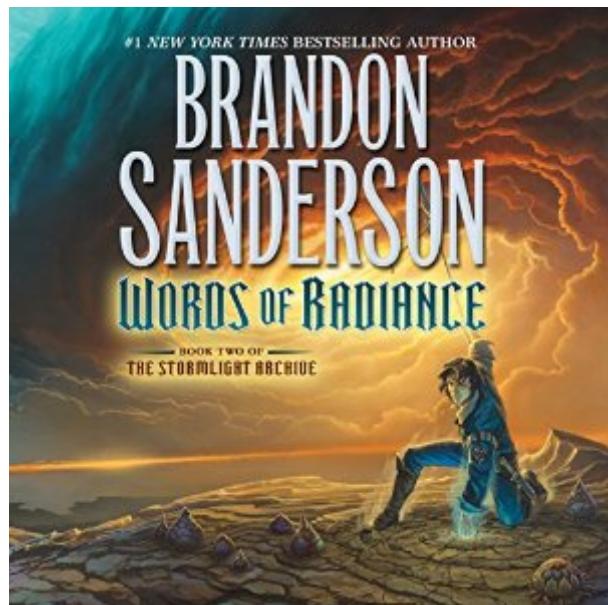


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Words Of Radiance: The Stormlight Archive, Book 2



Synopsis

The Stormlight Archive sequence began in 2010 with the New York Times best seller *The Way of Kings*. Now, the eagerly anticipated *Words of Radiance* continues the epic story and answers many of your questions. Six years ago, the Assassin in White, a hireling of the inscrutable Parshendi, assassinated the Alethi king on the very night a treaty between men and Parshendi was being celebrated. So began the Vengeance Pact among the highprinces of Alethkar and the War of Reckoning against the Parshendi. Now the Assassin is active again, murdering rulers all over the world of Roshar, using his baffling powers to thwart every bodyguard and elude all pursuers. Among his prime targets is Highprince Dalinar, widely considered the power behind the Alethi throne. His leading role in the war would seem reason enough, but the Assassin's master has much deeper motives. Expected by his enemies to die the miserable death of a military slave, Kaladin survived to be given command of the royal bodyguards, a controversial first for a low-status "darkeyes". Now he must protect the king and Dalinar from every common peril as well as the distinctly uncommon threat of the Assassin, all while secretly struggling to master remarkable new powers that are somehow linked to his honorspren, Syl. Brilliant but troubled Shallan strives along a parallel path. Despite being broken in ways she refuses to acknowledge, she bears a terrible burden: to somehow prevent the return of the legendary Voidbringers and the civilization-ending Desolation that will follow. The secrets she needs can be found at the Shattered Plains, but just arriving there proves more difficult than she could have imagined. Meanwhile, at the heart of the Shattered Plains, the Parshendi are making an epochal decision. Hard pressed by years of Alethi attacks, their numbers ever shrinking, they are convinced by their war leader, Eshonai, to risk everything on a desperate gamble with the very supernatural forces they once fled. The possible consequences for Parshendi and humans alike, indeed, for Roshar itself, are as dangerous as they are incalculable. The doors of the Stormlight Archive first opened to us with *The Way of Kings*. Listen to that book and then *Words of Radiance*, and you can be part of the adventure every dazzling step of the way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's safe to say that Words of Radiance has the most pre-release hype of any of Brandon's solo works to-date. And it makes sense. The Way of Kings was Brandon's best work at the time, and so everyone is wondering, will Words of Radiance live up to the high bar set by book one? This is a sequel that has a ton riding on it. After all, despite the first book's length, there's still so much more of Roshar to explore. There's so many places that The Stormlight Archive can go from here, that it has been hard to predict what would happen in this book, much less a few books down the line. Words of Radiance could fall on its face. So, does it live up to the hype? Storms yes it does. "Of course you'd like the book," you immediately say. "You're a 17th Shander, you'll love anything Brandon writes." I'd say this is somewhat true. None of us would be here if we didn't like what Brandon's done, but when you are a hyper fan, you set these books up to a high standard. You can see flaws that no one else sees, simply because you are so invested. For a while, I worried that Words of Radiance would end up like The Well of Ascension, which I have some problems with to say the least. I loved Well's ending (which made it entirely worthwhile), but rereading it is a slog for me. Well of Ascension was Brandon's first true sequel, and it shows a bit. Obviously, Brandon has grown a vast deal from almost a decade ago when that book came out, but it was still a worry. Sequels are not easy, to say the least, but it looks like finishing up The Wheel of Time really honed Brandon's sequel chops. I also worried because--and this may sound like absolute heresy to many of you--I didn't immediately love The Way of Kings when it came out.

I wrote in my review on the Way of Kings that it was the first full introduction I had to Brandon Sanderson's work. And what an introduction! It was 1000 or so pages of "Hello, may I introduce what you've been looking for all your life although you didn't really know this is what you've been looking for until now." That book's magical ability to draw me in -- with its immersive power, with its fantastic world-building detail, its characters that covered the range of lovable to hateable to everything in between, its "omigod omigod omigod"-inducing plot and action-- totally dragged me

into a whole new landscape of writing. I read somewhere that this was exactly what Brandon Sanderson was aiming for in this epic series, and I just want to say that he absolutely, breathtakingly nailed it. Words of Radiance is everything that its predecessor was, and more. I also mentioned in my review for Way of Kings that it took me 500 pages to realize the treasure that I had in my hands. I can be forgiven because I'm a bit slow when it comes to humongous tomes like Way of Kings, and I'm not usually one to stay that long with so many pages unless I'm promised a payoff. And the payoff was rich indeed. Words of Radiance hooked me from page 1. Scratch that. From the very cover. It may have been my expectations of a great read from an awesome author, or my excitement in waiting for what had been promised to be epic squared, that made me dive into the book with eager abandon. Well, my expectations were not only met, they were utterly demolished and reshaped. If I were to measure the number of squeals, cheers, outbursts of "wait, what?"

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