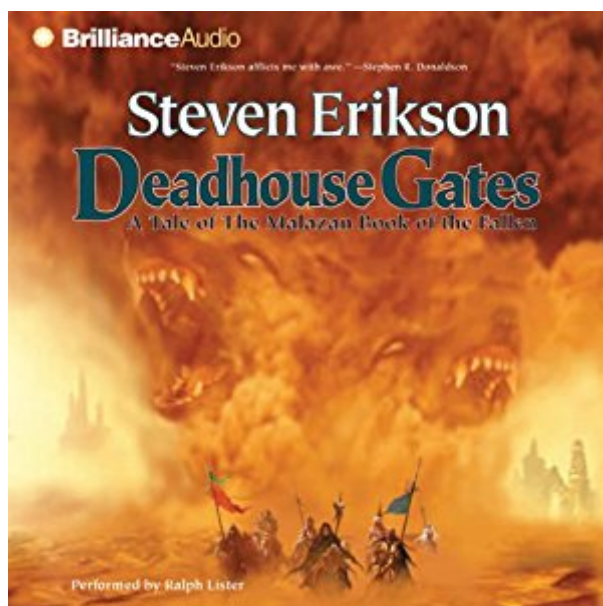


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Deadhouse Gates: Malazan Book Of The Fallen, Book 2



Synopsis

In the vast dominion of Seven Cities, in the Holy Desert Raraku, the seer Sha'ik and her followers prepare for the long-prophesied uprising known as the Whirlwind. Unprecedented in size and savagery, this maelstrom of fanaticism and bloodlust will embroil the Malazan Empire in one of the bloodiest conflicts it has ever known, shaping destinies and giving birth to legends..... Set in a brilliantly realized world ravaged by dark, uncontrollable magic, this thrilling novel of war, intrigue, and betrayal confirms Steven Erikson as a storyteller of breathtaking skill, imagination, and originality - a new master of epic fantasy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What Erickson does well: Plot, action, world building, conflict
What could use improvement:

Characters
I am in awe of Erickson's complex plot and worldbuilding. I'm not so in awe of his ability to create characters that I, as a reader, can become invested in. He eventually wins me over with his characters in the third book (Memories of Ice), but there are points in this book where I felt that it was a slog to get through, because I just didn't care about the people he was writing about, even though the plot was incredible. If you like epic fantasy - do yourself a favor and get this series. Read it. Just be patient with the storyline and characters. It takes a bit to get rolling.

I'm not even sure where to begin! The world of the troubled Malazan Empire is so huge and varied that I found myself looking back at the maps every dozen pages or so. The book is told from the

perspective of a few characters that are traveling by themselves or in group, scattered all over the map and through warrens. These different story arcs intersect with each other and are touched with memorable moments. The suffering and amazing transformation of some of these protagonists is really, really humbling. More often than not you'll find yourself wondering how long is (s)he going to last or how long can loyalty keep a soldier invested? This is a complex book, for thoughtful readers that don't need everything explained in the smallest detail. If you like mature fantasy, where there's no true good or evil, only people caught in the machinations and vanities of gods, then you'll probably enjoy this book. It would make more sense if you read the first one too: "Gardens of the Moon"

Better than the first book, but still kind of dull. Some storylines much stronger than others. I liked the Chain of Dogs storyline the most. It had some awesome moments, particularly at the end of the book. Towards the middle of the book, I started skimming some of the more boring stories to get to the next part featuring Coltaine. It's frustrating because this storyline was brilliant, but it was hidden within pages of boring and seemingly pointless side stories like the Felisin storyline. The whole book should have been about the Chain of Dogs story in my opinion. I liked that story but I don't feel compelled to try the rest of the series.

Definitely for adults, with a strong sense of narrative, solid dialogues, convincing descriptions, characters that come to life and enjoyable prose. Parts of this book I liked very much. Coltaine's long march, for example, which made a weird, heroic kind of sense and is beautifully written. But I tired of magic and supernatural characters popping in and out of warrens and pursuing foggy agenda of their own. Too many plotlines, too many unconnected characters. You may say this reflects the world as it is, with billions of people pursuing their own goals unawares of the bigger picture, but after a while you cease to care.

I reviewed gardens of the moon and gave it 3 stars. I gave this one 4 stars. It is better, I liked the change of venues, and the new characters are done better and the already existing ones we get to know much more intimately. I actually began to care a lot about the storylines of Fiddler and Kalam in this one. It would have been nice to see more attention given to Apsalar but she was never miss personality anyway. The world building and lore, the histories, etc., continue to astound. The story seems simpler than in the first book, at least in how it's presented to us, or perhaps those of us who have made it through this far are finally growing accustomed to Erikson's often overly eloquent style

of prose. The long march of/in this one seems to go on forever, I mean that figuratively and literally. But what I did not expect was the emotional reaction I would have at its end, thus, it was a successful, if not drawn out affair. Because the book is 200-300 pages longer than the first I noticed two things that 'Gardens' didn't have. One was pleasant, the other became the beginnings of an annoyance which continues to plague me into book 4. On one hand we get more character development, and thus I liked/hated and was pulled more emotionally by the characters in this book. Erikson continues to throw a lot of characters at you, and to give so many justice, he needs a lot of pages I guess. The trouble is that Erikson seems to have filled much of these extra pages with far more "eloquent" prose which I simply find confusing and pointless. I'm talking about characters talking endlessly to themselves, or having lengthy and baffling dreams. I did not notice this as much in book one, or not enough to become a distraction from the flow of the story. This actually gets worse in book 3, which is, ironically, an even better book overall. Go figure. I found this book marginally better than the 3.5 rating I would have given book one if I could give half stars. Simply because I liked the characters better, and cared for their plight.

The second book in the series takes us to a different continent of the Seven Cities. There are only a few recurring characters in this book as it takes place concurrently with book 3 of the series but in a different geographic location. Expect a lot of the same great writing from the first book with a new cast of characters that suck you in all over again. While I prefer a lot of the characters from the first book over this one, I felt that the story pacing and development of the world/characters was vastly improved in the second book. While you are confused by characters stances in the first book until nearing the end, you feel like you understand each character much earlier on. I absolutely loved Coltaine's character and we even get to see the famed Icarium mentioned briefly in passing in book one through his companion. Towards the end of book two however you don't yet see the overarching storyline, this issue is fixed in book three and you start to see the overarching narrative there. If you made it through book one, this book won't disappoint. I would say its a definite step up in writing and I haven't been excited to read through a series like this in a long while.

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