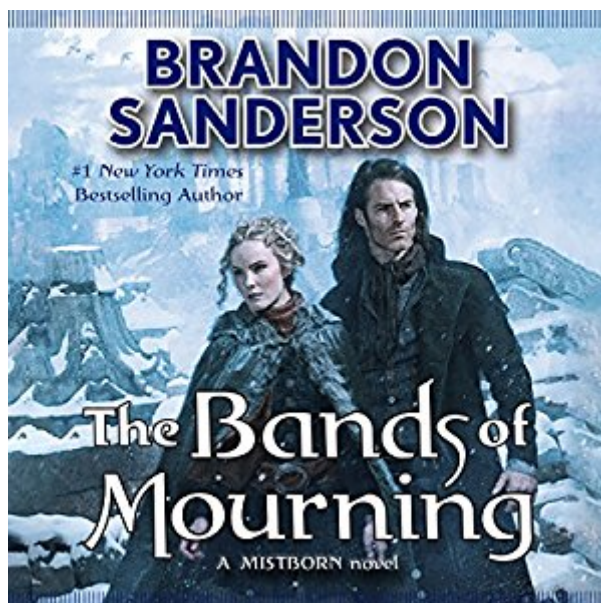


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The Bands Of Mourning



Synopsis

The number-one New York Times best-selling author returns to the world of Mistborn with the follow-up to *Shadows of Self*. With *The Alloy of Law* and *Shadows of Self*, Brandon Sanderson surprised his audience with a New York Times best-selling spin-off of his Mistborn books, set after the action of the trilogy, in a period corresponding to late 19th-century America. Now, with *The Bands of Mourning*, Sanderson continues the story. The Bands of Mourning are the mythical metalminds owned by the Lord Ruler, said to grant anyone who wears them the powers that the Lord Ruler had at his command. Hardly anyone thinks they really exist. A kandra researcher has returned to Elendel with images that seem to depict the Bands as well as writings in a language that no one can read. Waxillium Ladrian is recruited to travel south to the city of New Seran to investigate. Along the way he discovers hints that point to the true goals of his uncle Edwain and the shadowy organization known as The Set.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

3.5 StarsI just finished the book and I have so many mixed emotions. Throughout reading this book I thought it would be one of, if not, the best books he's ever written. It's great seeing Sanderson's writing grow, and it really showed in this book with the characters. I liked *The Alloy of Law*, but some of the characters' personalities (especially Wayne) felt a bit forced. I have felt this way about some of the characters in his other books as well, but they were never TOO bad. In *Shadows of Self* they got better, but the plot and twists were more of the highlight of that book, and not so much the side

characters like Wayne, Marasi, and Steris. In this book however I found all the characters wonderful, but the plot.....not so much. All the characters (especially Steris) were delightful to read and I must have laughed out loud at least 10 times while reading this. Their chemistry just worked so well together and I think this is the best Sanderson book to date character-wise. The plot itself though just never captured me. It was ultimately the characters and their interactions with each other than made me read this book so fast and not want to put it down. The plot was just.....boring and compared to Sanderson's other books, which have spoiled me with their twists and explosive endings, it fell flat. -- SPOILERS FROM HERE ON OUT -- It's probably my fault a little bit that it fell flat for me, because seeing some of the early reviews got me REALLY excited. People talked about the cosmere getting tied together, about alien forces invading Scadrial, and all around just made it's scope seem big and epic. Well....none of that really happened. The plot was just a basic treasure hunt with a few obvious and meh twists (Wax's sister and the Spear) and a weak ending. *Shadows of Self* teased us with Trell and this book just teased more and never really answered much. I was also super excited to figure out what the void eyed demons were and then they just turned out to be people with masks from far away on Scadrial. I mean come on, I'm sure everyone who's read *Stormlight* got all excited like me and thought they would be some sort of minion of Odium, it turned out to be SUCH a let down. All in all I give this book 5 stars for the characters, and 3 stars for the plot. Another terrific book by Sanderson, but ultimately a little bit disappointing

This is the third of the Steampunk-ish trilogy on this complex planet in Sanderson's wonderfully complex Mistborn fantasy universe, and it does not disappoint. A number of twists and turns and it reads like suspense but plenty of humor because Sanderson creates great characters - human and non-human. He knows what motivates people and the range of what people can be. The very reasonably logical yet fantastical powers the Mistborn possess and too fun to describe. You want to read the Mistborn series IN ORDER, please, so you understand the full depth of what is happening and what has happened on this very unusual world as well as its theology. The Mistborn humans can use the powers of various metals by metabolizing them, and each one gives a unique ability for as long as you have a store of the metal inside "to burn." Try anything by Brandon Sanderson. He never disappoints in fantasy writing!! PS - If you're the kind who read the *Silmarillion* when you read *LOTR*, or you play D&D, then you'll want to read the appendices in which he explains why the fantastical happens in this universe, in a very logical but complex way.

I'm not going to lie: after consistently top shelf Mistborn content from page one, the Bands of

Mourning got off to a sluggish start. The customary flashback in the beginning was muddled, and the beginning got bogged down in the minutiae of allomancy in a way Sanderson had always avoided. Having said that, the plot was a slow but steady build and rose to the occasion by midway. As is his custom, Sanderson surprised and delighted with a rich inter gender relationships that most (male) SFF authors never even approach. The mystery of the hidden antagonists and their god(s?) recalled the dread of the Lord Ruler's metal chronicles in the Hero of the Ages. After the rattling conclusion of the previous book all bets are off about the gods: Harmony is possibly not that good, he is definitely not infallible, and no one is claiming he's omniscient. It's a mark of Sanderson's skill and experience that he pulls off a grinding crisis of faith from so many angles out of a constructed mythology. This is apparently the penultimate book in the latest Mistborn cycle, although Sanderson has so much fun with this series one imagines he won't ever be truly finished with it. Regardless, it finishes strong and lays a good precursor for the finale, however it happens.

This series has been an absolute joy to read. I highly recommend reading the Mistborn Trilogy first; although Sanderson does deeply explain Allomancy, Feruchemy, (etc.) here again. Note that it's a fairly jarring transition from the previous series, but ultimately just as addictive and engrossing. This series is THE definition of "fun reading." I'd call this a "Fantasy-Western Comedy Adventure" series, due to the regular laugh-out-loud moments throughout. There are a lot of stellar series-long payoffs here, with clearly plenty to come in the 4th book. Can't wait!

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