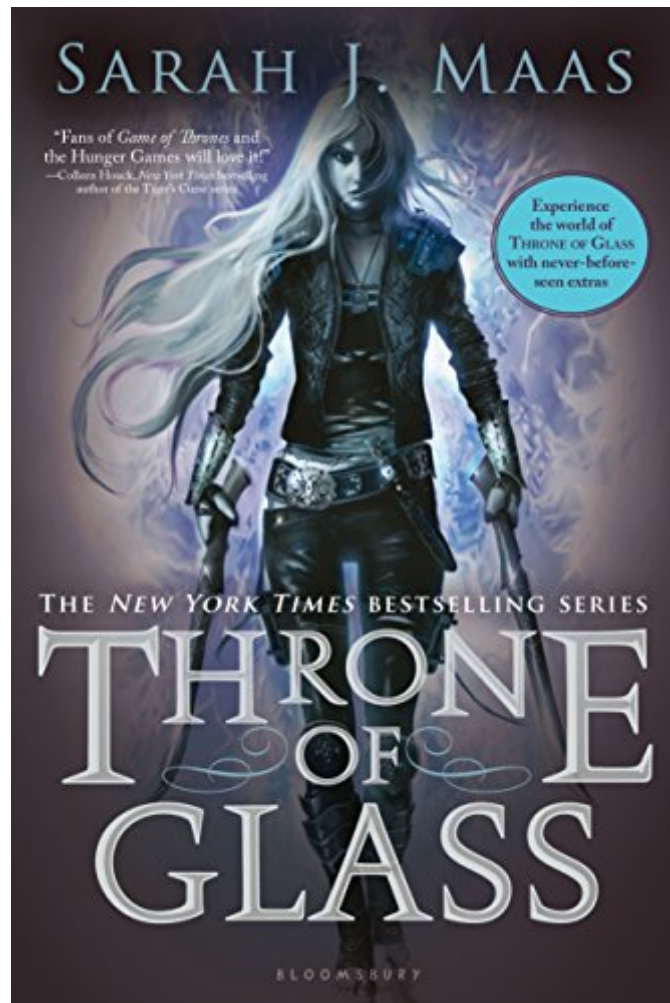


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Throne Of Glass (Throne Of Glass Series Book 1)



Synopsis

After serving out a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, 18-year-old assassin Celaena Sardothien is dragged before the Crown Prince. Prince Dorian offers her her freedom on one condition: she must act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin. Her opponents are men-thieves and assassins and warriors from across the empire, each sponsored by a member of the king's council. If she beats her opponents in a series of eliminations, she'll serve the kingdom for three years and then be granted her freedom. Celaena finds her training sessions with the captain of the guard, Westfall, challenging and exhilarating. But she's bored stiff by court life. Things get a little more interesting when the prince starts to show interest in her... but it's the gruff Captain Westfall who seems to understand her best. Then one of the other contestants turns up dead... quickly followed by another. Can Celaena figure out who the killer is before she becomes a victim? As the young assassin investigates, her search leads her to discover a greater destiny than she could possibly have imagined.

Book Information

File Size: 3104 KB

Print Length: 416 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; 1 edition (August 7, 2012)

Publication Date: August 7, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007N6JEII

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #737 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Royalty #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Royalty #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Geography & Cultures > Royalty

Customer Reviews

"Throne of Glass" is the much vaunted debut novel by Sarah J. Maas. The publishers make much

of the fact that the story has had a ten-year gestation period since the author shared its first draft with the world on FictionPress.com. It is disappointing, then, that for all its honing, the book still reads as though it was written not only for teenagers but also by one. For while the author may have matured her writing style and narrative structures to the point where these cannot really be faulted, the book still retains one glaring feature of story-telling immaturity: a complete absence of understanding of her purported core subject matter. For all that this book purports to be an action fantasy novel about a teenage assassin with a "heart of ice and will of steel", the sad fact is that it is actually a plodding courtly romance, featuring an undisciplined, blushing teenager, with a great interest in eating candy, wearing posh frocks, attending parties and staying up all night reading romantic stories than in actually achieving the freedom she supposedly aspires to above all else. Throughout the book, the author fails to demonstrate that she has the slightest understanding of what would be involved in becoming the sort of character that her heroine is supposed to be. The author's desire to invent a character with whom her target audience can identify means that she portrays a teenage bookworm, concerned first and foremost with how she is perceived by the young men she encounters who -- naturally -- has some kick-ass abilities which they cannot immediately see. In short, the book presents some romantic sanitised Disney notion of "assassin", rather than any realistic portrayal of what the word means and entails.

Twice. I've read this twice. The first time, I started with good intentions, then ended up not finishing it and gladly giving *Throne of Glass* one big fat star. The second time; I was practically forced by my friends who loved it. They continuously told me that I had to read it again, that the first time I just didn't understand it. That I had to read it, start to finish. (I actually stopped reading it, but my friends bullied me into reading the last few pages. Mean, I know.) And here I am. *Throne of Glass* was filled with great potential, really it was. From the blurb, I knew the *Hunger Games* somehow merged with *A Game of Thrones* with assassin-sprinkles on top. And with the fantastic buzz, the raving reviews that were practically farting rainbows with positivity, and the movie surrounding it, it seemed to me that Sarah Maas had made the greatest thing since the slice pan. Oh how wrong was I. Straight off the bat, I hated Celaena. This was possibly the biggest of issues - because you shouldn't wish the main character to be eaten by a monster, or fall off the castle wall and splatter on the ground below like a squashed pumpkin. The so called Ardan's greatest Assassin has the ego the size of America. Practically in every freaking page she was prancing around saying "Oh, look at how great I am. I am Ardan's Assassin. I have trained with the Silent Assassins of the Red Desert and can defeat anyone with literally my glance and did I mention how ugly I am but I'm actually stunning? And

look what I've accomplished and I'm only 19 years old and I'm so tough and lasers can shot from the cheeks of my butt -"Girl, stop. Stop before I force myself into this book and kill you with my hands. You know what, Celeana? Show us.

There are few beautiful things in this world. This is one of them. That right there was my ONLY Goodreads status update over more than 400 pages of reading. I read this in one day, in nearly one sitting. (It would have been one sitting if my dad hadn't interrupted with things supposedly more important. There is nothing more important than this.) This book was impossible to put down right from the get-go. The main character of Celaena is initially very stiff. For the first few pages, I was wondering if I was going to like her at all. Then she opens her mouth to speak and the snark pours out and I decided I wanted to be her best friend. I found it wonderful how her character unfolds over the course of the novel, and you find out more and more about her as the pages go past. Even in the end of the book, you're finding out a few more things that add loads of depth to her character and yet add more questions that need to be answered. Despite having no idea what it would be like to live her life, I found myself connecting with her all the same. Originally, I wasn't very excited by the idea of a love triangle forming between Celaena, Dorian and Chaol (or Captain Westfall, as the blurb names him). After all, you know how I feel about love triangles. (Hint: I hate them.) However, this one wasn't badly done. Celaena is absolutely NOT a air-headed girl, and the guys played it out nicely. There was no brooding testosterone match. Plus, the love triangle was hardly the focus of the book AND it ended interestingly. So yes, believe it or not, I have found a love triangle I approve of. No, pigs are not flying. Yet. I had heard this world likened to that of George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones, and I can certainly see why.

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