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Midnight Tides: Malazan Book Of The Fallen Series, Book 5



Synopsis

After decades of internecine warfare, the tribes of the Tiste Edur have at last united under the Warlock King of the Hiroth. There is peace - but it has been exacted at a terrible price: a pact made with a hidden power whose motives are at best suspect, at worst, deadly. To the south, the expansionist kingdom of Lether, eager to fulfill its long-prophesized renaissance as an Empire reborn, has enslaved all its less-civilized neighbors with rapacious hunger. All, that is, save one - the Tiste Edur. And it must be only a matter of time before they too fall - either beneath the suffocating weight of gold, or by slaughter at the edge of a sword. Or so destiny has decreed. Yet as the two sides gather for a pivotal treaty neither truly wants, ancient forces are awakening. For the impending struggle between these two peoples is but a pale reflection of a far more profound, primal battle - a confrontation with the still-raw wound of an old betrayal and the craving for revenge at its seething heart. "This novel and all others in the Malazan Book of the Fallen series follow my own pronunciations of 'Malazan' words and names. My thanks to Michael and Jane and everyone at Brilliance Audio." -Steven Erikson, Victoria, B.C. Canada, January, 2014

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My buddy read of the most complicated series I've ever attempted continues. So just as I was getting into the story of the Malazan empire with the Bridgeburners, New Assendants and New Gods in play we stop and go back thousands of years to before any of the happenings in books 1-4 and start a whole new story with only one character that we have ever seen before. I think I might be dizzy from

the abrupt turn about. This is a story of brothers or two sets of brothers so be more precise. Told mostly about the three Tiste Edur brothers Trull is the only character in this book that we have ever seen before. This is the tale of how he was cast out from his people and one of the first power plays made by the Crippled God. On the other side of an upcoming war are the three Beddict brothers. Most of the tale is told from Tehol Beddicts perspective and is it an odd yet entertaining one. I found his shenanigans with his loyal servant Bugg to be the best parts of this book. While this book did give some great insight into the past of the Tiste Edur and hints of how things went terribly wrong for them to a point that in the current Malazan books they seem to be mostly killed off it really was my least favorite part of the book. For a few reasons one being that for awhile a lot of the Edur storyline was uncomfortable to read. Rhulad is the younger brother of Trull and Fear and he is so full of pride and envious of everything his brothers are or have. Rhulad flirts with the betrothed of his brother hoping to steal her away and believes himself to be the best warrior but he has never seen a battle. So when he ends up in charge of all of the Tiste Edur everything goes to hell in a handbasket and Trull is the only one to challenge the abomination that is Rhulad. Tehol's chapters are much lighter in tone and have a plethora of interesting characters. Bugg his faithful manservant that can make dinner out of just about anything was one of my favorites. Then there is a little corpse girl wandering around killing random people here and there and I loved her.

"Kettle, how many people have you killed in the past year?" She cocked her head. "I can't count past eight and two." "Ah." "Lots of eight and twos." "Just remember to be her friend and you should be fine." "I'm not sure what Tehol's revenge on the city was going to be but it seemed like he was trying to take down the entire Lethori culture. It just so happened to end up coming to a head at the end when the Tiste Edur show up to fight the Lethori and something else is breaking free of its chains all at the same time. There are some great characters in this and I was a little wowed to find out what/who Bugg is. But then at the same time at the end of this I had no idea why we have an entire book dedicated to the history of this world and wondered will we see many of the characters from this in future books because I believe there are millennia inbetween. I guess at this point in time I really didn't see a point to it. Still the storytelling is vast and intricate and I feel like I'm only catching the tip of the iceberg and getting 10% of the story while there is another 90% going on underneath that I'm totally missing. These books are truly dense and I must go slowly since it takes complete concentration. There are many other same story lines going on at the same time with so many other characters that I really

just can't comment on everything happening. I'm excited to get back to the main storyline and see how anything from this book plays into the present day events. There are a few characters that I would really like to see again like Iron Hands, Bugg, Tehol, Udinaas and Feather Witch. And who knows in this series it is entirely possible that they show up again with a new name and a new agenda.

I'm not going to pretend like *Midnight Tides* brings the whole series together, but it really fleshes out some of the thus-far lesser known races. At this point you should have a good idea of the Pantheon and you should know who and what the characters are, but if you don't you will be miserable. This book is yet another in the excellent series by Steven Erikson. The depth is unmatched and if you can stick with it, the series is so worth it

It is true that only 2 characters from the previous 4 books are carried over here, Trull Senger and the Crippled God, and while that can be daunting to learn of a whole new set of characters and realms in another 1000+ book, this was a welcome change for a number of reasons. First of all I laughed at the irony and quirky sense of humor often. He built upon the humorous attempts in *House of Chains*. This humor is coupled with a rich view of Tiste Edur and the Letheri. I have seen some people complain about introducing all of these new peoples, but he had to do something about the Edur, because he mentioned them in *Deadhouse Gates* (the ship with decapitated oarsmen). And the scenes on that ship with the crazy water and the dragon in the sky seemed to need more explanation. He has started to unravel more of the mysteries, he actually tried to explain the concept of warrens a bit better (the sci-fi reader in me tried to map them to a worm hole of course). For good or bad he injects his philosophy about capitalism versus other forms of economies as well, and I found several quotable passages. His treatment of Rhulad, the brat who becomes emperor was powerful, you do see both sides of the cruelty imposed by the crippled god, and the consequent horrid behavior from Rhulad. There are very few flaws in this book, but I wish he would have made it easier to understand how far in the past these events occurred relative to the other books. His ironic twists and keen observations and immersion have earned him a 5 star this time.

Midnight Tides is the best book of the series so far. Trull Sengar, his brother Rhulad and Beddict's brothers (especially duo Tehol Beddict & Bugg) are great characters and though the plot ends in bloodshed, there is no grandiose grand finale of clashing "cosmic forces" of the previous books, where one only wonders, what the main protagonists can do against such a "cosmic force", mostly

being mere (human) beings. Conflict of Tiste Edur and Letherii is well founded, characters, once introduced, behave logically and the book ending is quite realistic.

This book is essentially the start of an entirely new plot line within the series. Thus, it took a little bit for me to really get into it. So far, it has probably been my least favorite of the series. However, after reading the next in the series, things start to tie together which makes this book essential reading. As always, Erikson paints a wonderfully complex world full of interesting characters and creatures. While it may be my least favorite thus far, it is still leagues better than a lot of other books I've read. If you've read through book 4, what are you waiting for?! Just read it!

Still reading but so far (over 3/4 of way through) it is a fascinating tale with a lot of unexpected twists and turns. Easy to follow multiple interwoven story lines and if read after reading the previous titles in the series, it begins to draw some plot lines together that seems to appear at bit out of nowhere in some of the previous books. Can't wait to finish and to go on to Book 6!

If you have made it this far in the Malazan series you are in for a treat. I think this is the best one yet. Get the audio too. Wonderful and complex.

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