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The Wise Man's Fear: Kingkiller Chronicles, Day 2



Synopsis

"My name is Kvothe. I have stolen princesses back from sleeping barrow kings. I burned down the town of Trebon. I have spent the night with Felurian and left with both my sanity and my life. I was expelled from the University at a younger age than most people are allowed in. I tread paths by moonlight that others fear to speak of during day. I have talked to Gods, loved women, and written songs that make the minstrels weep. You may have heard of me." So begins the tale of a hero told from his own point of view - a story unequalled in fantasy literature. Now in *The Wise Man's Fear*, Day Two of *The Kingkiller Chronicle*, an escalating rivalry with a powerful member of the nobility forces Kvothe to leave the University and seek his fortune abroad. Adrift, penniless, and alone, he travels to Vintas, where he quickly becomes entangled in the politics of courtly society. While attempting to curry favor with a powerful noble, Kvothe uncovers an assassination attempt, comes into conflict with a rival arcanist, and leads a group of mercenaries into the wild, in an attempt to solve the mystery of who (or what) is waylaying travelers on the King's Road. All the while, Kvothe searches for answers, attempting to uncover the truth about the mysterious Amyr, the Chandrian, and the death of his parents. Along the way, Kvothe is put on trial by the legendary Adem mercenaries, is forced to reclaim the honor of the Edema Ruh, and travels into the Fae realm. There he meets Felurian, the faerie woman no man can resist, and who no man has ever survived... until Kvothe. In *The Wise Man's Fear*, Kvothe takes his first steps on the path of the hero and learns how difficult life can be when a man becomes a legend in his own time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Much like *The Empire Strikes Back*, perhaps the 2nd installment is better than the first. While *The Name of the Wind* is spectacular, *The Wise Man's Fear* introduces us to a far greater landscape than the narrow confines of the University. We see Kvothe, not just as a brilliant young student, but as a flawed, dynamic young man. WMF takes us to the gossip and intrigue filled court of Vintas, the mountains and warrior culture of Ademre and the nest of Fellurian herself. Kvothe becomes not only a more dynamic character, but a far deeper one as well in these pages. I cannot recommend this book more highly.

I like the book and it was a steady read on my kindle. It had a main theme but also included stories within the main story. I loved the characters you were supposed to love and hated the ones you were supposed to hate. This is a fantasy type story but very mature. There were plenty of twists and suspense. The book was a fun read. Make sure you read the 1st book (*The Name the Wind*) first. I would use the same description for that book.

Patrick Rothfuss continuation of the Kvothe's story in *The Wise Man's Fear* is deeply captivating. Rothfuss' writing is incredibly enjoyable as he immerses the reader in his world through beautiful prose. I thoroughly enjoyed his first book, *The Name of the Wind*, while the University, Tarbean, Imre and the Edema Ruh were all well developed I did not feel like I understood the rest of the world all that well. Not to say that I found *Name of the Wind* lacking; quite the opposite, I was so captivated by the story I gave little thought to far off lands and cultures. Yet a longing to know more of this world slowly grew as I awaited the second book. Upon opening *The Wise Man's Fear* and examining the world map I was amazed how little of Rothfuss' world I had been exposed to. After reading it I am amazed at the depth and development that Rothfuss put into his world. I should not have be surprised given his how captivated I was by his world in the first book, however seeing how language reflects the thought patterns of a culture and how the inner maneuverings of an aristocratic court influence that society I was enthralled. Looking back I realize that the world was opening up to me much as it is opening up to Kvothe and Rothfuss masterfully connects his readers to the character through shared experience, we see what Kvothe sees, we learn as Kvothe learns. If I were to distill Rothfuss' writing mastery to its essence I would say he possesses the unparalleled ability to place his readers in psyche of his characters allowing both to embark together into a world that contains both the marvelous and the mundane. I highly recommend *The Wise Man's Fear* and Patrick Rothfuss.

Kvothe continues telling the Chronicler the story of his life, this time including adventures beyond the University. One of the things that impressed me was the depiction of the hard grind of poverty as Kvothe struggles to pay his tuition and stay ahead of his money lender. When he does come into money at the end, it makes me nervous because I just know with his fortune that he's going to lose it all...again. I hope we see Tempi again.

Rothfuss's first volume of this series, *The Name of the Wind*, began a potentially GREAT fantasy series. It was a tough act to follow. It says a lot that while this volume does not live up to its predecessor, it is still worthy of 5 stars. This volume continues to develop both the legend and the mystery of the main character. No spoilers, but the problem is that for me the venues for developing new aspects of his character are just not as inherently interesting to me as the University, and parts of this hefty volume seem to drag a bit. After my first reading when this was newly released, I did not like Kvothe very much any more. After a recent rereading prior to reading the author's recently released *The Slow Regard of Silent Things*, I neither like nor dislike the character, but only because he has become too much of an enigma to get an easy handle on. I have begun reading *The Slow Regard of Silent Things*, a small gem of a book set in Kvothe's world. I have not finished only because I want to savor it. It is magical (no pun intended!) and gives me every reason to hope that Rothfuss can keep this wonderful series flowing. But it has been a slow process, and I am not as young as I was when I began the series. Just sayin', Patrick! ;)

Nice follow up to "The Name of the Wind" which is the first book in the series. If you haven't read "The Name of the Wind," get it first and enjoy the ride. As far as "The Wise Man's Fear," this book is well written and Kvothe is a likeable character, but while reading it I felt like this book is actually 3 different books strung together. Book one is Kvothe's time at the University, book two is his time with Felurian and finally, book 3 is spent in the hinterlands with the Maer and Adem. None of the three books really flow with the others and it's easy to forget that things are happening or moving forward in the other two. One small complaint against the main character: Kvothe is almost TOO good at everything. He can sing and play music like a professional, he can pick locks and work magic, he can create artifacts no one has ever seen before, he picks up foreign languages in a matter of days, he's admitted to the Arcanum at 16 years of age, every woman he meets is instantly attracted to him... the list goes on and on. C'mon Rothfuss, a few scratches on the paint 'aint going to ruin the racecar. Give us a character with a flaw or two and I'll wager we'll like him more for his failings than for his effortless success at everything he tries. That small criticism aside, I thoroughly

enjoyed the book and the storytelling from Rothfuss was fun and engaging. Pick up this book when you can.

This volume continues the story of Kvothe's life, but skillfully woven into two stories, his young life as University student taking time off to find a sponsor and flashes forward to "present time" as an older man. This is done very skillfully and the storyline is enriched significantly. Now, just as with Game of Thrones, we are left hungry for book three. I hope the next offering comes soon!

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