



# The Well of Ascension

*Brandon Sanderson*

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## **The Well of Ascension** Brandon Sanderson

Vin, the street urchin who has grown into the most powerful Mistborn in the land, and Elend Venture, the idealistic young nobleman who loves her, must build a healthy new society in the ashes of an empire. Three separate armies attack. As the siege tightens, an ancient legend seems to offer a glimmer of hope. But even if it really exists, no one knows where to find the Well of Ascension or what manner of power it bestows.

## **The Well of Ascension Details**

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Author : Brandon Sanderson

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy, High Fantasy

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# From Reader Review The Well of Ascension for online ebook

## Christine Riccio says

I FINISHED THIS AGES AGO AND IT WAS AWESOME : here's my booktalk!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMeGD...>

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## Samantha says

The overall book is a solid 4 stars bUT THE LAST 100 PAGES IS 5 STARS NO QUESTION OMG

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## Petrik says

**4.5/5 stars**

**A slow paced book containing an utterly powerful climax sequence; a spectacular middle book for the Mistborn trilogy.**

When I first read The Well of Ascension, my experience was that I thoroughly loved it. It's not until later that I discovered that apparently, a lot of people found the book disappointing. Because of this, I was scared that my reread experience would be ruined. Apparently, there's nothing to worry about. Yes, it's slightly an inferior book in comparison to The Final Empire but my overall experience of this reread is that I found the book almost as good as the first time I read through it.

**Picture: The Well of Ascension by breath-art**

The Well of Ascension storyline took place a year after the end of the first book. The majority of the plotline revolved around Luthadel being sieged from many sides and now, Vin, Elend, and everyone must do everything in their power to stop the upcoming threat; also dealing with Luthadel's internal political turmoil. The Well of Ascension at its core is a slow-paced book that's very heavy on politics and making sure the characters' motivation end up in the right set of mind before the final installment of the trilogy. This resulted in a lot of talking, contemplation, with no actions at all. However, despite all these, I was never bored; I lost track of time like Elend did.

“Elend: I kind of lost track of time...

Breeze: For two hours?

Elend: There were books involved.”

I never mind slow-paced book as long that there are excellent characterizations in it, and in my opinion this

book delivers on that front greatly; this were especially true for Vin, Elend, Sazed, and OroSeur. I know a lot of readers were bored because they found the first ¾ of the book too slow or uneven in pacing, which in a way is kind of true because it contained almost zero action sequences. However, the mystery, the character developments, the magic system, and the world were more than enough to give me joy. I didn't think the 500 pages as useless or boring, it was an engaging and very well-written exploration on leadership, identity, love, and faith.

“A man can only lead when others accept him as their leader, and he has only as much authority as his subjects give to him. All of the brilliant ideas in the world cannot save your kingdom if no one will listen to them.”

I won't lie that there was some scene that was unnecessary and yes, some part did go for a bit longer than it should but in my opinion, the slow and long build-up truly made the last 150 pages explode in quality.

“It's easy to believe in something when you win all the time...The losses are what define a man's faith.”

There was also a new metal to burn for the Mistborn her, duralumin. This single metal expanded the magic system and action sequences of the trilogy exponentially. Back when I first read the first book, I thought the magic system introduced in the first book was it for the trilogy. I couldn't be more wrong because Sanderson ceaselessly expanded the complexity of the magic system with each installment; this includes the next book and Mistborn Era 2. The existence of duralumin made all the action sequences—especially the last 150 pages—in the book oozing with greatness; it was similar to Attack on Titan battle scene, which means it was incredible.

**Picture: Interior artworks for the The Well of Ascension Leatherbound edition by Charles Tan (left) and Miranda Meeks (right)**

In terms of world-building, Sanderson also did a great job in utilizing the epigraph once again to explore the lore and the mystery aspect of the book. Specifically on The Deepness and the Well of Ascension itself. Plus, the nature and secret of the Kandra and Koloss revealed here were utterly beneficial in catching my interest in the book and never let go.

Although the book contained some elements of the infamous second book syndrome, it was one of the rare cases where I still end up enjoying it, very thoroughly. The first-time reader of the book may not know it yet but The Well of Ascension served its purpose as a middle book installment; whether the reader like the book or not that's another story. In my opinion, Sanderson has set the stage for the transcending conclusion in The Hero of Ages magnificently with this installment and once again, even upon reread, I'm still amazed by how much this book holds up for me.

Jessica ✿ ⇨ Silverbow ⇨ ✿ Rabid Reads-no-more says

**Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

**3.5 stars**

Anytime I'm reading fantasy for review, I take *copious* notes. In fact, most of the time, my review is pretty much written by the time I finish the book, I just need to make slight alterations to account for any last minute goings on.

And I like that, b/c your average fantasy is 2 - 3x longer than any other book. Trying to go back after the fact and recall all the key details would be a nightmare.

BUT.

Brandon Sanderson has consistently thwarted me in this area. And by consistently, I mean every, single time.

Why do you hate me, Mr. Sanderson? WHY?!

If I were to rate a Sanderson book--any Sanderson book--prior to the last 20%, almost all of them would hover around the 3.0 star range.

But unlike most books that benefit from higher ratings b/c OMG, THAT ENDING!, my experience with Sanderson has been very different.

Yes, there is definitely an element of OMG and FEELS overwhelming your brain stem, making you instantly forget whatever had you feeling so MEH for the majority of the book, but that's only one small aspect of the turnaround. I'll get to the greater part in a minute.

I've called Sanderson a master of misdirection several times, but I'm finding it to be especially true in this first MISTBORN trilogy.

You know what happened last time . . . *This* time . . . it wasn't quite as drastic, but it had a greater impact on my overall reaction to the book.

B/c initially, I didn't much like this one.

We know from THE FINAL EMPIRE that the Well of Ascension is where the shit went down. The Lord Ruler traveled to the mountains of Terris as prophecy dictated to seize its power and defeat the Deepness . . .

A power that wasn't meant to be contained but released, and in selfishly keeping that power to serve his own purposes, the Lord Ruler became the *new* Evil.

With his death the Deepness is returning.

His ominous last words proved truthful, and whatever had been holding it back is now absent. Strange shapes take insubstantial form and stalk the Mist by night, and by day . . . no longer banished by light, the Mist attacks and kills defenseless villagers.

And Vin is drawn by a distant thrumming, a constant drum beat in the distance that only she can hear . . . calling her to the Well.

You'd think that a journey across a land filled with various and dangerous threats would make for an excellent second installment, and it would have . . . if the book had been about a journey across a land filled with various and dangerous threats.

But it wasn't.

It was about about a city besieged by not one, not two, but THREE armies, one full of the remnants of one of the Lord Ruler's monstrous creations.

It was about a naive manboy who needed to lose the boy and become a king. It was about an insecure girl who loves Manboy, but thinks he deserves far better than her. It was about grasping factions in a fledgling government and political scheming and backstabbing, and while that *may* sound marvelous in theory . . .

After roughly 600 pages, it's dreadfully dull.

Especially after an action-packed first installment, which brings up another complaint . . .

This is the second time I've encountered a lackluster sequel in a Sanderson series, so while I'm not 100% that it's a pattern, it *is* 2:2 which dramatically increases the likelihood . . .

It goes like this:

Book 1 - first 80% can be slow and consists primarily of misdirection, false trails, etc. leading to the brilliant chaos of the last 20%. World-building and character development are typically enough to keep you engaged.

Book 2 - favors political scheming over action, lots of agonizing(ly boring) soul searching, angst-fueled love triangle, and above all else, miscommunication and refusal to confront emotional problems directly.

If this *is* a pattern, Mr. Sanderson, you need to break it.

Sooners rather than later, baby.

But despite my annoyance with the lack of progress towards the ultimate goal being somewhat neutralized by last minute revelations (which, by the way, is as frustrating as it is gratifying), those revelations cannot mitigate how completely over I was the Vin/Elend relationship drama.

Part of me feels like it would've been more honest to call this book: I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH, HE'S GOING TO LEAVE ME, WHEN WILL HE LEAVE ME?, HE'S GOING TO LEAVE ME.

Long, I know. Probably one of the *many* reasons they went with something else. But it would have been more accurate than THE WELL OF ASCENSION.

And as I said, this is the second time Sanderson has done this to us.

I'm baffled. This kind of teen-angsty melodrama has no place in adult high fantasy.

NONE.

But, *also* again, a handful of new characters (Zane and Tindwyl) and careful threading of impossible-to-detect-foundations for later plot twists kept it from being a total loss. (view spoiler) <-----If there had been just slightly less drama, those things alone would have made this a strong 4.0 star read for me. BUT. Drama.

Recommended with qualifications. Book 3 is up next, so I'll let you know how it goes.

**8/26/15: BUDDY READ** with my peeps in **Sanctum of Fantasy** .

**My other reviews for this series:**

**Mistborn: The Final Empire (Mistborn, #1)**

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### **Mike (the Paladin) says**

I feel here as if I ought to apologize to my friends who love these books. The first was okay but I found the pacing a bit slow and had a "my interest comes and goes" experience. Sadly if I compare the pacing of the first volume of the series to the pacing in this one (the second volume) the story in volume 1 moved like the wind.

I know that some are very involved here and love these, and I can see why. The characters have depth and you get an "in depth" view of their lives. Not only their lives but their conversations, their internal struggles, their dietary preferences...the kind of clothes they like, on and on and on.

I found myself slowly getting involved in the story but then we'd hit a spot where we had to go through an internal dialogue concerning doubts, paranoia...or possibly psychosis ("no one will ever stay with you, everyone will leave you". This should have been followed by a "bwa-ha-ha" when it popped into Vin's mind).

When I was reading as I said I was mildly interested but when I'd laid the book aside I didn't think about it. I was hard pressed to get back to it there were just things I'd rather read. I finely got "re-interested" about the end of part three as the story of the throne moved on and plots started to come to light only to get thrown back into (view spoiler)

So in the end, two stars for my recognition of the writer's ability and the story telling I can see buried under what seems to me a lot of excess verbiage. If it's your cup of tea enjoy. I doubt I'll finish the trilogy. I mean how many 800+ page tomes do we need? Don't get me wrong, I love a good long epic fantasy, it's just that so often any more, people choose to tell a story in 1000 pages that could be told in 250.

My opinion throughout of course.

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### **Kat O'Keeffe says**

I can't handle how amazing this series is. Brandon Sanderson continues to overwhelm me with his impressive storytelling skills. Just like in *The Final Empire*, the world and the characters and the story were all beyond fantastic. There must be some kind of sorcery involved in how this man weaves together plot threads, because really.

I can't say much more without spoilers, but if you have not yet read this series, **READ IT. SERIOUSLY. READ IT.**

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### **Cait • A Page with a View says**

4.5 stars. Oh man, these books are hard to rate. This was a lot like the first one where I was mildly interested in the beginning, then pretty bored for a good chunk of the book... and then flipping through the last 20% like

I was SO into the brilliant last bit that I ended the book thinking 5 STARS. GREATEST BOOK EVER. Buuuut then I remembered that throughout most of the book I was more like

I don't want to say much about the plot that would spoil this book, but I'll still hide these few plot points in case people haven't read the first book: (view spoiler). There's a whole army at their gates, a ton of awesome battle scenes, and more is revealed about the Deepness and Vin's power. Ok, I basically summarized nothing... SO MUCH HAPPENS in this book. And there are so many characters.

This whole world is just amazingly complex and I love the ideas so much. I don't know if I read too many books lately or why I've stopped having much emotional response to most stories, but this one actually made me tear up still. And then THAT ENDING was all sorts of

Basically the last 10% was so amazing that I need to stop typing this now and go read the third book.

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### **Bookdragon Sean says**

I like a story that surprises me, and this series keeps doing it. The ending of the last book was undoubtedly epic. I don't know how Brandon Sanderson does it. It felt like the closing chapter for these characters, but, in reality, it was only the beginning of the series. The Lord Ruler's death could have been the ending, but he was only the surface issue. Indeed, with his death a whole host of problems arose, and none of them are as simple as they appear. This proved that the generic plot of the first book was, in fact, a mere illusion.

Nothing is as straightforward as it looks in this world.

### **The survivors must work together**

The Empire is in complete turmoil. Despite the Lord Ruler's tyranny, he did keep the empire together. With him gone there is no anchor; there is no fear: there is only chaos. Vin and Ellen must attempt to keep the city from descending into complete anarchy. This is no easy task because without the ultimate symbol of power, others will come to take advantage. The threat of three invading armies suddenly dawns on them. They have no real defence; they have no solid army. All they have is their wits and a group of charismatic rogues to save the day. And, if that threat wasn't enough, the shadow of a deeper enemy approaches.

*"That's the point, isn't it? We have to live on, no matter how hard it gets. We'll win in the end."*

The plot turns and alliances twist, factions form and breakdown, whilst more questions are raised as to the origins of the Lord Ruler. What power did he have to keep the people in line? Why is this shadow only approaching now with his demise? Surely, if he kept this evil at bay, he may not have been pure evil? Well, that is what some of the characters begin to realise; they begin to see that his reign of terror may have been for a purpose. And, in this, resides my true reverence of this series. Sanderson has disguised his novels; he made the story initially look basic, in which it harboured the same tired old plot with seen several times since *The Lord of the Rings*. Then, he slowly reveals what is actually happening, and at the same time shocked me to the core.

### **The awesome, awesome, characters**

Although this book is a little slow, in places, it's still fantastic. The character development throughout this series is almost explosive. In this novel Vin has become so much more than she initially was. Her training with Kelsar was merely the beginnings in her exploration of her capabilities; her battle with the Lord Ruler changed her; she has become more powerful and confident; she knows how to wield her powers in new and interesting ways: she knows how to kill, and how to do it well. In this, she has become the leader Kelsar's rogues. She has filled the gap he left behind. And, in addition, what happens to the bookish Ellen, at the end of the novel, changes a lot of things.

*"Elend: I kind of lost track of time..."*

*Breeze: For two hours?*

*Elend: There were books involved."*

He's a little more that the book reading leader of the city now, I'll say no more, but I really didn't see THAT coming. This is such a great series that never fails to surprise me, as soon as I begin to predict the plot I should know that something else entirely is going to happen. But, I'll keep trying anyway.

**"There's always another secret." -Kelsier"**

### **The Mistborn Series**

1. *The Final Empire* - A misty four stars
  2. *The Well of Ascension* - A suprising four stars
  3. *The Hero of Ages* - An awesome four stars
-

## Ginger says

**This series has been AMAZING. Just brilliant!**

I did a BR with my pal ChopinFC. Aaaaand, I turned into Usain Bolt while reading this book. Sorry Rod! ?

Both books have gone in completely different directions and I've enjoyed that so much. Usually the 2nd book in a series is not as strong but that's not the case in *The Well of Ascension*.

I'm so impressed with Brandon Sanderson on this series. He has written a world that is detailed and complicated. It's always on the edge of war, starvation or total collapse from *The Deepness*. A magical, allomancy system that's just so complex and unique.

From political turmoil to betrayals, it's all so well written in these books. I never figure out the plot twists and god damn, I love that!

In the 2nd book, Luthadel is surrounded by enemies, Elend is a weak but idealistic king and winter is coming.

Dun dun dun! \*cue serious music\*

One thing that I've enjoyed in both books is how subtle Sanderson writes about morality. I've enjoyed watching Elend go from an idealistic and weak nobleman to something much more.

Vin is amazing as always and I loved how she struggled with being a Mistborn in this book. Trying to understand her role in Elend's life and whether she's a good person with how often she has to kill assassins. I can't wait to see where Sanderson takes the characters of Elend and Vin in the next book!

The pacing was a bit slow in some places but I didn't mind. I looked at it as developing the story, the betrayals and the battle at the end. Wow, the battle at the end with the koloss was just epic.

There's just so much going on with the main characters, the Assembly, secondary characters to the whole story of understanding *The Deepness*.

The end left me with a lot of questions to be answered in book #3. I can't wait to go back to Luthadel and the Dominances.

This book is just packed with TENSION?!!

Rack up the T E N S I O N ! !

I just couldn't put this down.

I fully recommend the first two books of the Mistborn trilogy to anyone - whether or not you're a fantasy genre fan. The books are a joy to read! They're also thought provoking and deep.

Seriously, what are you waiting for? Go pick up this series now and read it!

**DO. IT. NOW!**

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## Chelsea Humphrey says

Please don't hate me, but I just didn't love this one as much as the first. As someone else described, I think it suffered from "Middle Book syndrome", and really that's on me. I almost always struggle with the middle installment of a trilogy, even if I 5 STAR Books 1 and 3. There were things I loved, but it felt like the flow didn't build as well in this one as before. I will say that Sazed's plot line was the crown jewel of this book! I

adore that man and I love his development throughout as well as his struggle coming to grips with what he really believes. Still very excited to read Hero Of Ages and will post a full review after we settle down from our move this weekend!

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## **Regan says**

Sorry in advance about the bad language but....

WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK.

Okay, everyone just read this series, okay? okay.

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## **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

**Re-read on audio and just as awesome the second time! Vin is still my hero! ♥?**

Holy son of a biscuit eater!!! THIS BOOK! I loved it, loved it, loved it! Sanderson tackled most of my feels in this book and YES I cried here and there but most of it was happy crying. My dog even looked at me like I was crazy when I was laughing and crying and yelling YES at certain parts.

**Vin landed softly on the damp cobblestones, watching as the mists began to form around her. They puffed into existence as darkness fell, growing like tangles of translucent vines, twisting and wrapping around one another.**

**The great city of Luthadel was still. Even now, a year after the Lord Ruler's death and the rise of Elend's new free government, the common people stayed in their homes at night. They feared the mists, a tradition that went far deeper than the Lord Ruler's laws.**

**Vin slipped forward quietly, senses alert. Inside herself, as always, she burned tin and pewter. Tin enhanced her senses, making it easier for her to see in the night. Pewter made her body stronger, made her lighter on her feet. These, along with copper--which had the power to hide her use of Allomancy from others who were burning bronze--were metals she left on almost all the time.**

**Some called her paranoid. She thought herself prepared. Either way, the habit had saved her life on numerous occasions.**

I love Vin and she grew so much in this book. She had a very bad life growing up and Kelsier (sob) saved her from all of that and showed her how to be what she is: A Mistborn. (An Allomancer who can burn all of the Allomantic metals) and she became the most powerful Mistborn around.

Elend is the King but he wasn't doing such a great job. He needed to be whipped into shape. I think Tindwyl (a Keeper from Terris) did a wonderful job and getting Elend where he needed to be. I feel Elend figured the rest out on his own and I began to love his character later on in the book.

Tindwyl nodded. "Sazed also mentioned your humility. It could be an asset-assuming you don't let it get in the way. Now, I believe that your Mistborn has returned."

Elend turned toward the side window. The shutter swung open, allowing mist to begin streaming into the room and revealing a crouching, cloaked form.

"How did you know I was here?" Vin asked quietly.

Tindwyl smiled--the first such expression Elend had seen on her face. "Sazed mentioned you as well, child. You and I should speak soon in private, I think."

Vin slipped into the room, drawing mist in behind her, then closed the shutter. She didn't bother to hide her hostility or mistrust as she put herself between Elend and Tindwyl.

"Why are you here?" Vin demanded.

Tindwyl smiled again. "It took your king there several minutes to get to that question, and here you ask it after a few bare moments. You are an interesting couple, I think."

Vin's eyes narrowed.

"Regardless, I should withdraw," Tindwyl said. "We shall speak again, I assume, Your Majesty?"

"Yes, of course." Elend said. "Um. . . is there anything I should begin practicing?"

"Yes," Tindwyl said. "Stop saying um."

"Right."

Tindwyl had a lot of work to get the king where he needed to be but she did well.

So many of the characters I loved.

Vin  
Elend  
Sazed  
OreSeur  
Ham  
Dockson  
Clubs  
Spook  
Breeze  
Tindwyl  
Allrianne

Some of them didn't make it in the battles and that is sad but that is the way of the world.

I also really liked Zane but . . . .

\*I loved the characters, I loved the book, I loved everything about it but a few things.\*

**NOW ON TO THE SPOILER PORTION OF THIS BOOK. DO NOT READ BELOW THIS LINE IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THE BOOK!**

Okay lets get down to the nitty gritty. I'm going to be all over the place with this so just bear with me.

Zane is the other mistborn that would visit with Vin and sometimes fight with her. We find out that he is Elend's half-brother. I really liked him and wanted him to be good but he had some major issues cause by their father that is/was a complete jerk. I really hated to see him die but it had to happen. I certainly didn't see it coming.

Elend's father along with two other army's are parked outside the city, they all want to take over Luthadell so they can all have the atium. It's a big time metal that lets mistborns see into others futures and when they are burning it they normally can't be killed. Until Vin proved that wrong!

When Vin killed Straff (Elend and Zane's father) I was freaking out of my mind with joy! I didn't like what happened to the horse but still. It was freaking awesome that she finally took his sorry arse out!

Another camp had king Cett in it and he was just stupid, that's all I got. But his daughter, Allrianne was pretty cool. I liked her.

The last camp had an old friend of Elend as the leader and he had these monster things called Koloss, they were these blue giant things and they were not stable at all. They killed each other as much as they killed other people. He controlled them through money and luck, in the beginning anyway.

Most of the beginning of the book is learning about Vin and Elend, trying to get them where they need to be, learning things from Sazed and Tindwyl, figuring out how to defeat the armies and not knowing where the atium was in the city. They never did find it so it seemed like they were all going to get killed for nothing.

Sazed really surprised me. He was a Keeper but had some issues back home, but he still did his work. But he freaking used all kinds of powers and turned into Hulk Sazed when it was time to fight the Koloss! He was freaking amaze balls! He had sent Vin, Elend and Spook away on a wild goose chase for the well of ascension and Vin had to rush back (pun intended) to help everyone. The town was going to die without her. She was so mad but she understood what Sazed was trying to do. She got there in the nick of time!

**The koloss loomed over Sazed, who still lay half sprawled in the bloody slush, and raised its sword. Over the creature's shoulder, Sazed could see the red sun hanging just above the top of the wall. He focused on that, rather than on the falling sword. He could see the rays of sunlight, like . . . shards of glass in the sky.**

**The sunlight seemed to sparkle, twinkling, coming for him. As if the sun itself were welcoming him. Reaching down to accept his spirit.**

**And so, I die . . .**

**A twinkling droplet of light sparkled in the beam of sunlight, then hit the koloss directly in the back of**

**the skull. The creature grunted, stiffening, dropping it's sword. It collapsed to the side, and Sazed lay, stupefied, on the ground for a moment. Then he looked up at the top of the wall.**

**A small figure stood silhouetted by the sun. Black before the red light, a cloak flapped gently on her back. Sazed blinked. The bit of sparkling light he'd seen. . . it had been a coin. The koloss before him was dead.**

**Vin had returned**

Just typing that scene out gave me chills once again and made me tear up in joy! Vin is bad to the damn bone, there is no doubt about that. At one point after killing hundreds of the monsters, Vin figured out how to control them so that was even more awesome!

I was really sad for Sazed for losing Tindwyl, they had finally admitted their love for each other in a sense and it was so sad to see him go through his grief.

I also hated that Clubs and Dockson had to die but this is what happens. I dread to see how else will die in the next book =(

Oh, I forgot to mention how much I loved OreSeur (Vin's Kandra). Kelsier had given him to her when he died and the kandra have contracts to do what you say. They are slaves basically. They take on forms of humans or animals by eating their bones after they are already dead. They don't kill people themselves. Vin at one point turned OreSeur into a wolfhound. So awesome, but he wasn't happy about being a dog. But he finally got used to it. But then I find out that OreSeur was killed and replaced with Zane's kandra (TenSoon) to spy on Vin. I was crushed, but it turned out that TenSoon wasn't so bad. There is a lot more to it but you can read about it.

Vin finds the well of ascension in the town. It calls to her. She's not supposed to be there. Sazed tries to stop her but doesn't quite make it. She goes into the well to save Elend's life (her husband, yeah they got married in a quick little ceremony with Sazed while was stitching her up) and she let loose something that wasn't supposed to be let loose on the world. But she saved Elend and turned him into a freaking Mistborn. I mean wow. I can only imagine what's going to happen in the next book!

I'm going to shut up now as I have left a long rambling review of this book. It just thrilled me that much!

Thank you Brandon Sanderson for these characters I love so much!

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

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**April says**

Such a thrilling sequel.

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## Taylor says

*"It's easy to believe in something when you win all the time. The losses are what define a man's faith."*

...

My soul was slain upon finishing this book, and I'm now writing this review from beyond the grave.

You know what I did when I turned the last page of *The Well of Ascension*? Well, I shrieked like a banshee into my pillow first (because I'm a considerate roommate, thank you very much). **I cried. A LOT.** And then, I curled up into a ball on my bed and stared at the wall in silence.

I'm an incoherent mess and it's been over a month since I finished this masterpiece. **How am I supposed to cope with that ending?** My mind is still completely reeling.

*The Well of Ascension* takes place a year after the finale of *The Final Empire*. We follow Vin and Elend as they grapple with the ramifications of the first book. The first installment in the Mistborn series was an epic heist novel, but the sequel was **so different**. This book is a sweeping political fantasy brimming with tension, action, magic, and secrets. **I was enthralled from page one.**

Brandon Sanderson is a **genius** at world building. I'm continuously swept away by his stories. The world of Mistborn is rich, expansive, and so so *so* interesting. Every facet of Scadriel (look up his Cosmere worlds, they're *insane*), from its history to its religions and myths, are intricately structured and grandiose. **I would read an entire textbook on this world.** Truly, Sanderson has a gift at giving the reader little tidbits here and there while keeping up the intrigue and mystery.

I can't wait to find out more. **I have so many thoughts and theories.**

And the **characters**. I thought I liked Vin in the first book, but in here? **Woah.** Vin is a total fucking BADASS. **Dear Lord, she's grown so much.** Vin's character arc throughout this second installment was so great. Her inner struggles, her insecurities, grief, and fears were relatable, and the way she overcame her struggles in this book made her one of my favorite characters in this story. **I truly love Vin.**

I'm also surprised with Elend's character development. I thought he was a bit of a snobby boyscout in *The Final Empire*, and I didn't have particularly strong feelings towards Vin and Elend's relationship.

But in this book? **I loved them together.** It also helped that Elend became a strong, capable leader in this book. **My son is all grown up.** \*sniffles\* And it's all thanks too a new favorite of mine...

Tindwyl. God damn. She's an intellectual badass with the air of a Slytherin and the heart of a Gryffindor. **I love this woman. SO MUCH.** And my favorite character, Sazed, has a history with her and I just wanna swoon. **I love these two.** Sazed is my absolute favorite and I adore them both. **Can I just have an entire book about them?** That would be amazing.

All of the side characters continue to endear me. Breeze, Ham, Clubs and Spook. **I adore this band of criminals turned revolutionaries.** There was even a new character, Zane, that I found to be really

compelling. **I hope to see more of him in the next book.** Even the main antagonist of this story, Lord Venture, was a great villain: deceitful, manipulative, and a frustrating foil to our heroes.

Even though the plot was a bit slower-paced than the previous book, I was never bored with this installment. The political scheming and machinations made for some nail-biting tension, leading to a finale that **blew my fucking mind.** What a **glorious, bloody, batshit crazy ending that was.** SO MUCH HAPPENED.

I'm in awe. And I'm also devastated. And blown away.

**I have a feeling the next book will ruin my life.**

I adored this book, if you couldn't already tell. I can't fully convey **how much I love this series, and how truly EPIC it is.** All I can do is scream from the rooftops and recommend these books to *everybody.* I LOVE THEM SO MUCH.

Whelp...I need to get to *The Hero of Ages.* FAST.

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## C.G. Drews says

**I have only one word for this and it is: #nope.** This was the most insufferably tedious book of my life. And duuuude, I loved The Final Empire! It was exciting and had a con artist thing going on and magical wizard people with an epic magic system. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SEQUEL. I went from adoring Sanderson to probably never trying a book by him again.

Excuse me. I kind of need to walk into a brick wall and scream a little because *I am so 100000% done* with this this beast.

### A BRIEF LIST OF WHY I AM AN ANGRY GRAPE:

- **It was frikkin' boring.** And I mean, absolutely desperately boring, to the point where like TWO SCENES ever happened: Elend having long political discussions + Vin punching people. Over and over and over again.
- **Nothing happened in the first 500 pages except TALKING.** #bored
- **Vin turned into a weeping willow.** Like the actual tree. Except at least a tree doesn't spend so much time whining. Where is the epic wizard we had in book 1???? She spent all her time fussing over Elend, disbelieving that he loved her, wishing he could take care of himself...and then when *he did* grow a backbone SHE GOT OFFENDED THAT HE DIDN'T NEED HER ANYMORE.
- **Stahp, please, woman.** Please. I couldn't stand Vin and this breaks my heart because I used to adore her??
- **Elend was a small spot of interest.** He had A+ character development, but he also was a soft little squidgy pudding with a heart of gold and, well, I am not. It was tedious (for me) just reading about him continually being like "OMG I WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE POLITICS OMG WHY ARE THEY REJECTING ME".
- **Pages and pages and pages of tedious meetings.** Like let's discuss politics. Again, and again. Let's come

to no conclusions. Let's all contradict each other for lols. Let's never agree because, again, loooooool.

• **The small bright spot was Zane, a new mistborn character.** Who was "crazy" and like this ANNOYED ME SO MUCH because his only personality trait was that he's "crazy". That's insulting. I don't know if he had schizophrenia (he heard "God" telling him to kill people?) but please stop lumping people with mental illness into this "we have no personality, just craziness" trope because it's harmful. (view spoiler)

• **Did I mention the word TEDIOUS yet?** Because NOTHING was fREAKING HAPPENING.

• **I maybe skimmed.** Fight me.

• **Why didn't the orcs eat everyone?** Oh excuse me, the *koloss*. But still. That would've made everything so much more fun.

• **Also it has the SAME plot as Steelheart.** Okay, granted, this came first, but it bothers me when an author can have two seperate series and they have the same plot?? Book 1: take down an evil overlord. Book 2: have a panic attack because the world can't function economically without evil overlord. Book 3: be a hot mess. (Okay idek if the next Mistborn books will be a hot mess because I will not be eating them.)

• **ALSO IT WAS SO SEXIST.** Elend refuses to spar with Vin so he "doesn't lose to a girl" and therefore lose the last of his dignity. There was only ONE FEMALE (Vin) for the first half of the book, and then the second female was just a servant type anyway. Males everywhere. Males blotting out the sun. God rest their souls (please, like, rest 'em). Vin being given grief for not "dressing like a female" because you can't be feminine in pants, apparently. LIKE THE LIST GOES ON AND I'M SICK OF IT.

• **Why did the fight scenes have to be 9 chapters long??** Because you know what makes a fight scene fun and exciting? WHEN IT MOVES FAST AND IS SHORT AND QUICK. If I have to read another detailed account about how another coin flips in the air, I'm going to flip a table.

• **I am asleep.** Ugh.

**I'M DONE. SO VERY DONE. 5000% DONE.** I have no malice towards anyone who loves this series. GOOD ON YOU. I wish I had to, because I generally adore fantasy. But this, for me, was slow and tediously detailed, the characters were clingy and petulant (I've read books about teenagers who are more mature than these adults), and 700+ pages of people JUST TALKING is enough to make me fling my brain into the sun and go take up herding sheep in iceland instead of reading.

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