



Theft of Swords

Michael J. Sullivan

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THEY KILLED THE KING. THEY PINNED IT ON TWO MEN. THEY CHOSE POORLY.

There's no ancient evil to defeat or orphan destined for greatness, just unlikely heroes and classic adventure. Royce Melborn, a skilled thief, and his mercenary partner, Hadrian Blackwater, are two enterprising rogues who end up running for their lives when they're framed for the murder of the king. Trapped in a conspiracy that goes beyond the overthrow of a tiny kingdom, their only hope is unraveling an ancient mystery before it's too late.

Theft of Swords Details

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From Reader Review Theft of Swords for online ebook

Mayim de Vries says

Cup of vanilla fantasy anyone? Something light, smart, and funny? Welcome to Riyria!

Before I started my adventure, I thought Riyria is a place and it turned out it's two dashing gentlemen who kept me well entertained. In reality, Riyria means two in elvish and it denotes **a duo of mercenaries who accept only highly specific missions and heists** that require something more than brute strength and killing prowess.

Royce Melborn is your “glass kind of empty” type of guy. He grew up on the streets picking pockets to survive and later made crime and assassination his profession. He escaped an inescapable prison. He sees in the dark. He likes simplifying things by killing people. And has a soft spot for a prostitute.

“Half empty?” Hadrian chuckled. “Was there ever any drink in this glass?”

Hadrian Blackwater is the exact opposite, “glass kind of full” type of guy. Idealist, you might say, with a penchant for honour and suffering from this terrible malady called principles. Hadrian has no equals when it comes to fighting skills, but is an affable and easygoing person.

“See,” Royce said, irritated, “this is the problem with these good deeds of yours; they never end.”

The book starts with our duo being **framed into a royal murder**. Luckily, those who had hoped that Riyria would go down calmly made a grave miscalculation. While it is apparent that there is **a colossal conspiracy involving all major powers**, the whole thing becomes personal and this is how Royce and Hadrian find themselves in the eye of the storm.

To be honest, characterisation keeps to the side of cliche, so does, you might argue, the world building as it **basically is a Tolkienesque spin-off**. Nevertheless, the protagonists are easy to bond with, just likeable in a The Princess Bride kind of way. Similarly, the world building is great; meticulous when it comes to details and nuances, spanning over millennia of history, it features interracial wars, political intrigues, divine conflicts and other fun stuff. There will be traitorous clergy, heroic adolescents forced to assume roles they are not prepared for, brave commoners, dwarves, magical beasts and elven artifacts. In each book, there is a comic relief character, a young protagonist, naive to the extreme, whose comments and actions are a pure delight to those more versed and jaded with the world. Oh, and a wizard of sinister provenance and questionable motifs for whom things go... well, shorthanded, you might say.

Having said this, I need to warn you that **while I enjoyed The Theft of Swords overall, the separate books are uneven**. Book 1, **The Crown of Conspiracy, didn't allow for a single page of boredom**. I wasn't able to find a single flaw there (no that I wasn't looking!); the pacing, the intrigue, the writing, all was perfect. Sadly, **Avempartha is decisively weaker instalment in all respects**. It suffers mostly from **lack of subtlety**. This is the main reason for problems with character development (view spoiler), plot design (view spoiler), and pacing. **When the previous instalment was cleverly written revealing just enough to allow the readers guessing and second-guessing where the whole thing is going, in Avempartha the crumbs meant to feed the readers with bits of intrigue are so thick, you can basically choke on them**. Worst of all, the whole scenes (particularly featuring Arista) are a bit silly and reminded me of *shudder* The Faithful and the Fallen with their **naivety (if not outright childishness!) and disregard or ignorance for and social**

realities and class divisions or the fact that certain people are born and bred into their duties and know and understand the expectations that come with their titles. (view spoiler).

Thus, **the final rating is a compromise between something truly excellent and something that is just average**. Still, I recommend the book particularly if you are fed up with the grimdark novels which are prevalent in contemporary fantasy.

Other Riyria Revelations:

* Rise of Empire: Nyphron Rising & The Emerald Storm (#3-4) ★★★??

* Heir of Novron: Wintertide & Percepliquis (#5-6) ★★★★?

Mary ~Ravager of Tomes~ says

Actual Rating: 2.5 Stars

So *Theft of Swords* is actually a bind up of two novels, *The Crown Conspiracy* and *Avempartha*. It follows the adventures of swords for hire, Royce Melborn and Hadrian Blackwater.

My main struggle with this book is that neither of the stories really delved deep enough for me to invest. Every so often a scene would catch and hold my attention, but it was a bit of a roller coaster on my end.

I feel like I don't *know* Royce or Hadrian hardly at all. Aside from some good comedic moments between the two, I can't really tell you why they're friends with each other.

I also wasn't incredibly fond of the plot for either story. *Avempartha* is the superior of the two, but I believe the element lacking in both is **complexity**.

Theft of Swords is decidedly less elaborate than I prefer my High Fantasy to be. On one hand, it was a nice break to read a lighthearted story, but on the other hand it was tough for me personally to ground myself in this world and feel invested in the outcome.

There are plenty of noticeable fantasy elements in these stories: kings, monsters, wizards, etc., but nothing specifically unique was done with those elements (yet).

Despite my issues with the depth, I believe that **the book was well written and the humor was spot on**. There were some moments that had me giggling out loud!

Near the very end of *Avempartha* there were some hints revealed about the overarching plot of this series, and **right here is where it snagged my attention**.

This is a debut fantasy novel, and also was originally self published. Knowing both of those things, I think Sullivan should be incredibly proud of producing this book. It suffers from the same pitfalls that a lot of debut novels do, it's a little bit "paint-by-numbers" if you will. **But there is no denying the potential here**.

I've been told by many that this story is one that starts out simple and builds up to a magnificent ending, and

so I am excited to continue on with the series and see where it will go!

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

When I first read *The Name of the Wind* a few years ago, I just knew that Patrick Rothfuss would be my favorite fantasy author for the rest of my life. I'm a loyalist; once I hitch my little fan wagon onto a fandom train, I'm there until the end of the line. Even if the quality goes down, even if plot twists in a way that I hate, even if I have to wait years and years between installments, my mama didn't raise no quitter. And I'm definitely not quitting the *Kingkiller Chronicles*. But I have to confess that Rothfuss has been usurped as king of my fantasy-loving heart by Brandon Sanderson, whose creativity and work ethic knows no bounds. Once the throne was taken from him, I felt sure that Rothfuss would at least remain the prince regent, but alas. Now that I've found Michael J. Sullivan, my former favorite may have been relegated to the wings.

Did Sullivan use words as paint on the canvas of his pages to craft sentences so lovely they made me want to weep? No, he is not Rothfuss. Did he build a world and a magic system so real I suspect I could step inside the book, followed by plot twists that stop my heart and make me scream in shock? No, he is not Sanderson. But that's what is so refreshing about Sullivan; he's not trying to be anyone but himself. He's not trying to reinvent the wheel. If anything, he tries to pack as many fantasy tropes as he can into his novels. He's not trying to do anything new for the genre. What he is trying to do, and what he is succeeding at, is put out something fun and lighthearted in the midst of an overabundance of grim-dark entries into the genre, and he manages to do so without coming across as cheesy in any way.

Theft of Swords was so much fun! Hadrian and Royce had great chemistry. The partners were thieves for hire, with Hadrian serving as the muscle and Royce as the sticky fingers. Usually when partners are the main characters of a story, I have a favorite. But I couldn't choose between Hadrian and Royce. They're both snarky and sassy and good men against their better judgment. There are host of fun side characters as well, my favorites of whom are Ersahaddon, Magnus, and especially Myron; none of whom I want to say much about because I don't want to give anything away. Besides the wonderful characters and sassy dialogue, Sullivan also managed to add a lot of mystery into a fun romp of a fantasy, which I thought was pretty different. He managed to write a really engrossing fantasy in easy to read, everyday English. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves fantasy, and especially to those who sometimes have a hard time focusing on a book. Lack of focus won't be a problem here, for sure. I can't wait to read the rest of the series, and everything else Sullivan puts out!

Katerina says

Two words.

MIND.BLOWING.

“Riyria.
It's elvish for two.”

What happens when a **sarcastic thief/former assassin** and an **idealistic mercenary/brilliant swordsman** get in the way of a **conspiracy for world domination**? **Epic fantasy at its finest**, that's the answer. Include some legends about a **God's heir** who is going to unite the world, a **plotting Church** with a secret agenda, **Elves** who are waiting for the opportune moment to gain their lands back, swordfights, prostitutes, monks, hidden prisons and witches and that's it, you have a **masterpiece** in your hands and a **new favorite author** in Michael J. Sullivan!

“So you want us to escape from this prison, kidnap the king, cross the countryside with him in tow while dodging soldiers who I assume might not accept our side of the story, and go to another secret prison so that he can visit an inmate?”

In the mythical land of Elan, where empires rise and fall, nobles and priests scheme, Elves are mistreated by the humans and witchcraft is a vile thing, a duet of thieves has become a legend. Royce Melborn and Hadrian Blackwater couldn't be more different. Hadrian is the talkative one, who shows compassion and kindness, who wants to do the right thing, something that's not always working for him since he is a mercenary. On the other hand, Royce is cold, sarcastic, calculative and ruthless, he lurks in the shadows and can kill without making a sound. When this bizarre duo was framed for the murder of a king and the only way to save their lives was to keep alive the prince and free a dangerous prisoner, they interfered in a grand conspiracy set to alter the governments and the structure of the realms of Men. And when they were hired to steal a magical sword from an elvish tower while a monster terrorized the nearby village, they got in the way of some very powerful people who did not tolerate such disturbances.

“Royce stared out at the tower in the middle of the river and considered why jobs involving stealing swords were never simple.”

I don't think I can properly praise Michael J. Sullivan. There was not a single moment that I was not hooked in his story, his descriptions were sufficient but not boring, his characters well-painted, the dialogues witty and the banter between Royce and Hadrian excellent and amusing! Everything about these two screamed **badassery**, their past was covered in mystery and secrets we have yet to discover, they were simply perfect. There was no romance, but the women in this novel were not mere tools, despite the low appreciation against their gender, and even the minor characters added some perspective and completed the spectacular world Mr. Sullivan created.

If you are into high fantasy, this is definitely a book you should read. And if you're not, it's an excellent opportunity to dive in the world of magic and epic battles. If I could give *Theft of Swords* more than 5 stars, I would. Because it is *that good*.

Michael says

Those that know me, are aware that I never rate or review my own books. But I do use this space as a way to update you on things that you might find interesting.

Update: 06/19/18 -- *Theft of Swords* was picked by Barnes and Noble's Sci-fi and Fantasy blog as one of their 12 favorite heist stories with a fantasy twist. [Click here](#) to read the full story and see all the picks.

Update: 10/14/16 -- Today only! Theft of Swords (Riyria Revelations #1 & #2) is \$2.99 as part of Amazon's Daily Deal. That's two books for \$1.49 each. [Here is a link to get a copy for yourself.](#) The book has 37,300 4 & 5 star reviews on Amazon, Goodreads, and Audible.com. And, it's part of the Whispersync program, so if you buy the ebook, you can get the audio book deeply discounted as well.

Update: 06/05/16 Theft of Swords was chosen for **Audible's Editor's Choice Sale**. So, until June 13th you can get it for just \$4.95. Besides Theft of Swords there are a lot of other great fantasy titles on sale including:

Adina says

3.5* rounded up because I can. 3* for Crown Conspiracy and 4* for Avempartha

First of all, Royce and Hadrian is not the best duo of thieves from fantasy literature, Locke Lamora and Jean Tannen is. They can get 2nd position. And now that I cleared that out, I can continue with the review.

Royce and Hadrian are a famous duo of thieves that are hired to steal a sword and instead of finding what they were looking for they discover the dead body of a king for whose death they are blamed. In their quest to survive and clean their name they get friendly with the king's son and daughter, rescue a wizard from an unbreakable prison and discover a major plot to change the world's order. That's in the first book. In Avempartha they accidentally agree to help destroy a murderous magical creature and while they are there they have to face again the brewing conspiracy. That's it, very shortly and without too many spoilers.

The characters. Hadrian is a well build warrior who carries three swords and is extremely able to use them. He suffers from a compulsion to do good which usually gets the boys in trouble. Royce, on the other hand is a former assassin and does not have the same charity inclinations although he usually gives in to Hadrian's pleas. He is an excellent door opener, sees perfectly in the dark and is very light on his feet. The perfect thief. Although I had plenty of opportunities to see Hadrian's skills in action I was not so convinced by Royce's. The way he opened some of the doors was merely by chance and not by his powers. I hope the next volumes will show us more of what he can do. I enjoyed the interactions between the two of them but I still prefer Locke and Jean. The other characters were ok but I did not develop too much fondness for any of them, except for the monk.

My main issue with the first volume was the writing. To be honest it wasn't that good and some of the plot holes made me cringe. The 2nd volume was better but I still see room for improvement.

The Riyria revelations is the perfect light, entertaining, fantasy series to be read compulsively, maybe in the same time with a harder novel. I will definitely continue with the series as I want to read more about the duo's adventures.

Bradley says

This is a light and fun fantasy that happens to be mostly traditional in that it features kingdoms, elves, betrayals, a wizard and a big bad monster and a broken sword.

And oh, yeah, two lovable rogues, a princess, a prince, and a geek. Um, sorry, I mean monk.

It's really all about the adventure, adventure, adventure.

This book was originally two smaller volumes that was combined into one, and I'm not quite sure that combining them was really the proper way to go about it. Do they really fit together all that well? Sure, in terms of characters, but not really in terms of flowing story. Years pass between the books and the individual adventures are pretty much complete unto themselves. Still, it may not matter that much.

Both are an enjoyable romp, even if it's pretty traditional Sword and Sorcery. So what are the real differences, as opposed to the many, many similarities to the rest of the Traditional Fantasy Adventure? Mostly it's in the elves, superior to humans and also the great losers in a long lost war. Our main surprises revolve around them, too, whether in long-plot or characters, so hold your horses. Or not. There really are too few horses in this Fantasy, and that's a feature, not a bug. :)

This is not gritty and definitely not grimdark, which I happen to think is a good thing. The focus is on the story and the characters and in securing life, limb, and kingdom. :)

The writing is clear and easy. I'm more than willing to continue on with this series to see where it heads.

Alex Farrand says

Theft of Swords is a compilation of two books, *The Crown Conspiracy* and *Avempartha*. In both of the novels the heroes, Hadrian and Royce, were hired to steal a sword, which causes a downward effect of dangerous adventures.

Slow clap

These two novels ended my year on such a high, that I am grateful for Mr. Sullivan's work. I am so glad I didn't find the books I was in search for at Barnes and Nobles, and instead bought this one. The novels were fast paced, adventurous stories, that hooked me in from the first chapter in *The Crown Conspiracy*. At times I stopped breathing during the most intense moments. I liked how Mr. Sullivan kept the sword fight to a minimum, because it really made the fighting scenes amazing. They were also at the level of perfect detail to imagine the whole scene without really thinking too hard. Scenes just seemed to wonderfully flow. YES, some of the names are so hard to pronounce that I made simpler names, or called people by their occupation. Good thing there is a glossary.

The characters were awesome. Not simply, because they have cool skills, like Hadrian with his swords, or Royce with his stealth, but of comedic interactions with one another. Hadrian and Royce couldn't be more opposite in personality. Royce with I hate everyone demeanor and Hadrian wanting to save everyone, but they have a great relationship that keeps them alive. They could be so sarcastic to one another that I couldn't help but laugh. I laughed a lot between the two novels because of the sassy remarks of Royce, and Esrahaddon (the wizard), or even Alric (the king) who was full of himself. My favorite character, even

though the main ones were outstanding, was Myron. He was so innocent. I wanted to coddle him and keep him safe in my pocket. He said some adorable things, which just made me chuckle and made him ten times cuter. He was so afraid for the horses. I was a little upset that Myron wasn't in *Avempartha*. I really hope to see him in the next novel. He is the best. **EVERYONE MUST LOVE HIM!**

The last thing I want to mention that there is a clouded mystery. Sullivan did an impeccable job keeping that mystery just out of reach of your finger tips, and leaves you guessing. He gives you enough information to satisfy your urge to know, but leaves you still wanting more.

So YES I will be reading the whole series, especially because I bought the next two books with my Christmas money. #IamsoexcitedthatIjustcanthandletheanticpation. Read the series and tell me what you think! Check out my blog here: <http://dancingbetweenthecovers.com/re... reading>.

seak says

Theft of Swords is an omnibus of the first two books in the Riyria Revelations, The Crown Conspiracy and Avempartha. It's also somewhat the story of an independently published author turned major publishing success as is nicely explained here by Iceberg Ink.

I have to first confess that this is exactly the type of story I love, so pardon my overlooking of any of the faults.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think of Theft of Swords is that it's "traditional" fantasy. It deals with good guys versus bad guys, questing, and there are even elves, dwarves, and a wise wizard.

But when I really think about it, "traditional" doesn't quite explain it, or really even get close.

Traditional, at least recently (I realize the irony), has come to mean Farmer boy becomes king or even a bloated and long-winded series that will never end.

In that sense, Theft of Swords is anything but "traditional." Even the elves aren't your typical elves, they're considered to be the lowest of the low, slaves even in some parts of this world called Elan. And then again, is it really good versus evil? We're dealing with a couple of thieves as the protagonists, each of whom has killed their fair share.

Then, there's the fact that this is fantasy without all the bloat. Sullivan fills you in as we go without getting bogged down in describing every last thing. The story moves forward and you can't help but get sucked into the narrative. And I haven't even begun to talk about the characters.

Royce and Hadrian. They're a mysterious duo who are much more than they seem and who make up the inexplicable group known as Riyria. The Crown Conspiracy begins with the duo stealing an incriminating letter back from the person they were paid to steal it for in the first place.

Of course, they're not always scoundrels and end up doing the right thing at least most of the time. Add to that their amusing banter and even mockery, they're really hard not to love.

Now that I've sung it's praises a bit, I'll break this omnibus down into the two stories that it contains, starting

with a portion of my review (from almost 2 years ago) of The Crown Conspiracy:

The Crown Conspiracy

There is much to be said about a novel that reads well. I've mentioned this before on my own blog, but a book that keeps you reading ranks high for me. Not only is it entertaining, but you look forward to getting back into the book each and every time you pick it up, if you have the self-control to ever put it down.

Atypical of many current series, The Crown Conspiracy does not contain much in the way of grittiness, yet it remains inventive. With twists and turns, you won't know who to believe. The plot moved quickly and even though some traditional fantasy archetypes show up, it is not in the usual way; including a wizard who provides little in the way of guidance as well as elves that are despised.

This is not your typical epic as has already been mentioned especially when looking at the size of the novels and yet Sullivan is able to make the characters come alive. The relationship between Royce, the thief, and Hadrian, the brawn, is great fun and still provides great mystery. Who are these people and how do they have such talents?

In terms of world-building, there is not an enormous amount, but I thought it fit the story very well. The reader is filled in by characters mostly through dialogue while the plot continues to move forward.

Avempartha

While I heartily enjoyed The Crown Conspiracy, Avempartha was even harder to put down. Here, we have an ancient monster, we find out more about our "heroes," and get a better grasp on the history of the elves and the world of Elan. The narrative starts to expand and we're let in on some BIG things that are yet to come.

The story is continued about a year after The Crown Conspiracy and Royce and Hadrian are called in to help a village that has been ravaged by a monster that has taken residence in the area.

At this same time, the church of Nyphron has been setting its own plan in motion, calling for a secret competition, of which no one even knows the location.

With all the mystery and suspense, there was not a point of view I wasn't dying to read, I'm not joking when I say I couldn't put it down. I did wish, however, that there was more told about the competition, as if we had an inside man competing, but it was understandable with where the author was taking us in the end.

Why Read Theft of Swords?

Theft of Swords is exactly what it purports to be. It's light-hearted fun and it will have you reading your eyes out. The characters, especially Hadrian and Royce, will have you coming back for more.

4 out of 5 Stars

Svetlana says

Lo and behold! I've done it. I've finally read this book. I know it's taken me crazy long to get through it, but tis the life of a slothy slow reader. Theft of Swords was a pretty awesome book and I had so much fun reading it woopppp!

From the very first page I was pulled into the story. But what really made this story so great were the characters. They were my favourite part of this entire thing! I found them to be so compelling and well rounded. Their personalities, traits, likes and dislikes and how they behaved in certain situations really allowed me to get a deeper understanding of the kind of people they were. And forget a book boyfriend, I found myself a book husband lmao. He was always so caring and thoughtful and *fans face* could he swing a sword. I fell in love. It was so much fun being a part of these characters' journey and their adventures. In fact, there were times when I felt like a kid watching an enchanted movie when I imagined the kind of things they had to face and do.

Another thing that made my reading so enjoyable was the dialogue. I thought Michael J. Sullivan was fantastic with his dialogue. The back and forth bickering between the characters and their banter constantly had me grinning and laughing out loud.

This was a brilliantly entertaining read and I'm so excited about continuing on with the next books and seeing what everyone is getting up to!

Michael says

I'm the author of this book, so I'm not going to do a rating but I did want to take just a moment to say a few words about what I was trying to do in this book.

For those who don't know, I wrote all six books in the series before publishing any of them (truth be told when I wrote the books I had no intention on publishing at all). This allowed me to weave threads between the books, but I made sure that each title had its own conflict and resolution. My intention was to start small and end big, with the mysteries deepening and the stakes escalating with each book. Rather than front loading, I purposefully spread the world building and character development across the whole series so there is always something new to learn or discover until the final revelation which concludes the series in a very satisfying fashion.

When picked up by Orbit (the fantasy imprint of big-five Hachette) they released the series as three, two-book omnibus editions which makes for an exceptional value since you get two books for the same price as most single books.

I hope you'll enjoy these first two books in the series, and I'd love to hear what you think about them so please drop me a line at michael (dot) sullivan (dot) dc (at) gmail (dot) com. All feedback is welcomed.

Jonathan Terrington says

This is a brilliant piece of storytelling that any fantasy or action/adventure lover should go and read this. However before I divulge more information in that manner I would like to raise a few points. My first point being about fantasy in general while my second point will be about cliché and storytelling.

Fantasy as a genre in many ways was formed with The Lord of the Rings and then shortly afterwards, as much as people dismiss it, The Sword of Shannara. Subsequent books appeared such as The Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan which added to the sense of epic adventure and mythology fantasy was associated with. However in recent times, it seems as an attempt to escape the overworking of ideas and becoming too stereotypical as works such as Eragon most certainly are that fantasy has decided to go in dark directions. We therefore have the rise of gritty realism such as in A Game of Thrones or the weird fantasy as in Kraken. Some authors do manage to pull off these new gritty and bizarre forms of fantasy for me. For instance I find Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere a fine combination of the gritty and weird but then Gaiman's work is more urban fairytale than epic fantasy.

It appears to me that the movement towards gritty fantasy is due mainly to do with the sense that there are few good original stories in fantasy any-more. The sense that in writing the heroic traditional sword and sorcery epics the writer drifts into cliché and as such could not possibly write anything worth reading. Yet then why is it that writers such as Brandon Sanderson can continue tradition with Mistborn: The Final Empire and The Way of Kings? Why can Patrick Rothfuss break into the market to great critical acclaim with a work in the traditional sense? And the same question could be asked of Blake Charlton and his work. I believe that we as readers need stories where the heroes are heroic, despite possibly facing struggles within themselves, and that we need villains who with all their melodrama are indescribably evil. As such Theft of Swords delivers precisely what I believe fantasy readers need.

Theft of Swords is essentially two books containing two separate stories. I believe the author described his vision as akin to a reading version of tv show episodes. And that is certainly witnessed here. Michael J. Sullivan creates two separate yet overlapping stories that leave the reader wanting more after they are done. I certainly feel led to drop what I'm currently reading and move straight onto the second and third books.

For those who would like a brief synopsis Theft of Swords (I love the resonance of that title) follows two thieves as they attempt (within two stories) to steal two separate swords. Of course our thieves are more than black hearted scoundrels. They are real heroic types who appear to be misunderstood by their medieval society. The reader discovers that their world is one suffering from the collapse of an old empire thousands of years ago and one in which the major religion worships the emperor Novron.

There are plenty of twists (which while detectable are still entertaining), lots of fun banter between the protagonists, several other interesting side characters and several mysteries all of which is tied together with fast paced quality writing. If you're looking for entertainment then this is definitely a place to begin. There is over 600 pages in this volume but if you have the time to just sit and read time will fly as you become intrigued by who the two thieves are within a world of elves, dwarves and men that parallels other fantasy and yet is its own creation. The closest work it reminded me of in tone is another I rather love written for Young Adults and yet equally accessible for adults in The Ranger's Apprentice series which begins with The Ruins of Gorlan.

This is a work of fiction no one should miss reading if they are looking for a fun entertaining read. Particularly on a wet winter's day (or on a sunny summer's day under the shade of a tree with a snack or two). If you're looking for a work lacking in cliché then I must say that you might have a bone to pick with this. But I believe the author's job is not to be completely original (for is there such a thing as true originality?) here but rather to tell a powerful story. For I believe that the true future for the fantasy genre lies not in becoming darker but rather by taking old heroic tales and telling them better. What good is a dark and gritty adventure when in the end it lacks substance to its story? Good storytelling must always come first and that is what Theft of Swords is: powerful and natural storytelling.

Bibi says

3.5 stars

This was such a fun, fast read.

Theft of Swords has everything a fantasy reader wants: engaging characters, good plot, appropriate world building... **what lets it down is that I was never quite invested in the lives of our 2 male leads, Royce and Hadrian.**

If that wasn't disappointing enough, Sullivan ensured that the male characters were relevant while the women were depicted as either evil or prostitutes. This pulled me out of the story completely.

Further, the scope of the world building was slightly simplistic, falling far short of my ultimate fantasy world flag bearer- Grishaverse (Created by Leigh Bardugo).

On the plus side, there's magic, lol moments with our protagonists, and enough suspense to keep you engaged from start to finish.

The king was assassinated, someone set up Hadrian and Royce, our "mercenaries for hire" as fall guys. Will they survive the treachery?

Orient says

I saw some fangirling/fanboying reviews on GR for this series and I always wondered what was the fuss about. This book was firstly recommended by one of my GR friends, Ivan. Thanks, Ivan :) Lots of people started reading this series and when one of my GR friends and awesome GIF master Craig reminded this book to me, I just thought – why not. Thanks, Craig ;) Also I want to thank the high priestess of Hadrian's temple, aka TS and of course her right hand and great helper, Sarah, for emotional and lovely kicks onto my ass to start the series quicker :) Thank you, ladies :)

I like such kind of books and was eager to start my journey with Riyria Revelations. I went into this book expecting to be blown away or wowed at least. IDK I wasn't, at least not at first and not completely. Yes, it is engaging in plot, yes, it has fab action scenes, yes it has interesting magic. I think it's a funny and enjoyable read. I laughed out loud for more than a couple of times. But there were some parts where I felt unhooked. Mainly because of the characters and some dejavu. I've read a couple of books about elven, dwarves, two thieves BFFs, magical enchanted objects, things. Maybe that's the problem, I unintentionally started comparing this book to The Lies of Locke Lamora, The Lord of the Rings and even The Last Wish. So it ended up like smth I've read earlier, but not really the same.

"Theft of Swords" contains two books in one. The first book ("The Crown Conspiracy") had some issues that

disappointed me, but this must be the type of series that gets better as you read further. I finished the first book (the ending was great!) and to tell the truth, I considered to dive into some other read more because, while I totally loved the story and the two main characters were likable (Hadrian and Royce. They're witty, they're extremely skilled in their field, and they're very good at getting into problems, also solving them.), I found that some felt a bit underdeveloped, not entirely believable (I mean the princess and the Bambi-eyed monk). But as I said earlier it was for the first little bit. The princess got considerably better as a character, gained some flesh to her personality and I ended up quite enjoying her after finishing the second book. That can't be said about the Bambi-eyed monk. He was cute, his funny dialogues made me smile, but it wasn't enough for me. But you know me, I'm a character fan, so I needed more.

The second book ("Avempartha") was faster, also funny, had more yummy fighting, and even a monster (*sends love to Fluffster, I'll miss you :*).

Lol, I planned to grunt and banter that not many people died (yup, Mr. Erikson has spoiled me for long!) but the second book solved that well. Also I must give credit for the unexpected endings. Thank you Mr. Sullivan for that.

It's a funny and light read, but it was not quite a book which makes me squeal with joy. Despite that, I think that Mr. Sullivan is a really skilled writer with great potential. I'll continue with the series as everything got not worse, but better while reading further and I want to know what Royce and Hadrian will make out of it. :)

Petrik says

2.75/5 Stars

Buddy read with my favorites Sarah & Haifa

(This is an unpopular opinion, out of all my friends I'm literally the only one who rate this book lower than 3 so if you're easily offended please don't read this review.)

Don't let my average rating fool you into thinking this is an average series, that's my cumulative rating of the two books included in Theft of Sword and right now, I can't really make a final decision on whether to recommend this series or not yet because of how this six book series stories are structured. My review for each book within Theft of Swords will be combined since I don't want to make this review too long than it already is but before I start my review, I would like to say something that's been bothering me ever since before I start reading the book and that is the horrible cover to this omnibus.

This omnibus has got to be kidding me with its cover, it's in my opinion that out of all the books I have, this is the number 1 worst book cover I have in my possession. The characters in the cover clearly don't match the description mentioned in the book and I'm pretty sure it also doesn't match what's in the author's head. Hadrian is supposed to be BLOND, instead we get a black-hair shaved Christian Bale look-alike in the cover who can't stop staring at the reader. Royce looked like a drug cartel that was given a sword and suddenly transported to a middle of a war. Both of them stare at the reader as if it's our fault they're in the cover, look at it and see if I'm wrong. God, make them stop, I can feel their stare even when I'm typing this. I'll take the

anime fan-art version of Royce & Hadrian compared to the one in this cover any day.

In my opinion, Marc Simonetti should've been the one who do the cover the art to Riyria Revelations, his artworks is perfect for high fantasy series and I'm really glad he's the one doing Age of Myth and its sequel. I'll begin my review after showing these gorgeous arts of the two book inside this omnibus done by him.

Crown Conspiracy

Avempartha

The plots within the first two books are mostly very simple and short. I find the plot of the 1st book a huge struggle to go through as it's super underwhelming. It's too simple, short and it doesn't even come close to the true definition of epic fantasy. I like to think that the first book served as a 300+ pages prologue rather than a complete installment. The 2nd book clearly improved in its plot line delivery and pacing, it's more like a true beginning to the main story itself that deals with The Heir of Novron. **Think of the plot structure like a TV series, within each season there's always one main plot line but to reach there, there's a lot of stories and episodes to go through first. To make it even simpler, think of this series as one huge book divided into six entry.** Even though this kind of structure doesn't work for me as an individual installments in books, it could still work as a series and I really can't wait to see how this all plays out in the end.

Michael J Sullivan's writing is very simple and really easy to read. This make the story and world-building aspect of this book really easy to imagine, plus the fact that it borrowed a lot of tropes from classical fantasy make it so much easier to access for everyone. This could be seen as something positive or negative depending on what you're looking for, I'm more in between on this aspect. The positive is I find Elan, the world which is reminiscent of LOTR very easy to imagine and dive into but at the same time, there isn't anything original here, not even the characters.

One of the biggest problem I have with this book also lies within the writings. The narrative is done in a way that felt almost omniscient which means we never get to be inside the head of the POV characters. This made me feel very detached from all the characters, even Royce & Hadrian cause we never get to know their inner feelings and thoughts behind their actions, we only get to see them from an observant perspective. I always love when I could connect with the characters, know what's going on inside their heads, their feelings, truly understand them but sadly the narrative in this book drove me away from that enjoyment and this will take some time getting used to.

Currently, I seriously still have no idea why everyone's raving about Royce & Hadrian being the best duo ever written, not only I've seen these two character more than a hundred times already in the video games I played, them being the main characters certainly doesn't get enough spotlight in the first book. Sure they're almost in every scene but all their background are purposely withhold and all we get is the typical Royce, the reluctant "supposedly badass" hero who always ended up helping his partner Hadrian, a strong fighter with his goody two shoes personality. This make their characteristic really flat and cliche. I find the supposedly fun and funny banter between Royce & Hadrian to be so scarce and when it's there, it's not even interesting. Most of them always end up with Royce complaining about Hadrian's goody two-shoes personality. That's

it. One of the most amusing dialogues for me happened literally in the first chapter of the first book, and that's between Hadrian and a bandit.

“Hadrian shook his head and sighed. “Why do you have to make everything so difficult? They’re probably not bad people—just poor. You know, taking what they need to buy a loaf of bread to feed their family. Can you begrudge them that? Winter is coming and times are hard.” He nodded his head in the direction of the thieves. “Right?”

“I ain’t got no family,” flat-nose replied. “I spend most of my coin on drink.”

“You’re not helping,” Hadrian said.”

For all the talk about them being some kind of legend, we only get to know about their deeds in the past, we never truly see it in actions in the current story except for Hadrian. This case holds true especially for Royce, all he did in the first two books is literally all talk and open doors, he didn't even get to use his knife to fight his enemy, probably once or twice but again, we didn't get to really see it. This make it seems like I should read the prequels first before starting this series. The withholding of information on their background doesn't help either, I predicted Royce's background ever since the beginning of the first book where it's shown he can see in the dark and the first encounter with a (view spoiler), only to be proven right at the end of book two. This makes the withhold of information completely useless to me since it doesn't even hold a surprising or mysterious factor.

I have no idea why the first book focused on Alric so much, at one moment I thought he was the main character but then he appeared in literally only one chapter in Avempartha. What's up with that...?? I have huge praises for two of the side characters in this series, Myron & Esrahaddon, without these two I probably would have struggled so much more in finishing these books. There are a lot of character development potential for Myron and I really can't wait to see more of him in the future, it's a shame though he didn't have any role in book 2. As for Esrahaddon, the manipulative version of Gandalf, there's an abundant amount of interesting mystery to this character and this is the only part where the withholding of information worked in these books for me.

Even with all these negatives and points that don't work for me, most of them lie within the first book. The second book improved on almost every aspect, especially in its world-building and overarching main plot line. Royce & Hadrian have a lot of spotlight, the side characters are interesting and there are more actions this time, the politics and foreshadowing for the greater plotline are also all there which make come to the conclusion, Riyria Revelations is a series that improve with each installment.

Again I must state, all my reviews above are my personal experience and observation of this **installments**, not the series as a whole. I'm not discontinuing this series or Michael J Sullivan's works, as a matter of fact, I'm more intrigued to continue now. The way I see it, Michael created each installment clearly with the conclusion of the whole series in mind. As I mentioned in the beginning of my review, think of this series as 1 huge book divided into 6 part, this means that it will only get better from here as you can see from my ratings for each book.

With the next installment, more withhold information and backgrounds are unraveled, right now, it seems like everything will lead towards and be resolved in the final books which I personally don't mind. **It's a risky thing to do and in my opinion it doesn't work as an individual installments but it's something that would definitely work as a series.** If I have to choose, I prefer a series that begin with a rough beginning but end it with a bang rather than the other way and I hope Riyria Revelations will not disappoint me on its conclusion.

Crown Conspiracy: 2/5

Avempartha: 3.5/5

Theft of Swords: 5.5/10

Haïfa says

***** Full review finally posted! *****

Buddy read with Sarah and Petrik

Riyria is without a doubt one of my favorite series! So unsurprisingly, when two of my besties decided to give it a try, I couldn't resist and I jumped at the chance to re-read it!

My rating hasn't changed since my first read and it's still somewhere between 3.5 and 4 stars (rounded up because I absolutely love the series as a whole and might be a tiny bit biased)

I think I can safely say that **Riyria is definitely the kind of series that gets better with each book!!** I thought that the first time I read it and I completely agree with my younger self on that!!

Sooo, Theft of Swords is divided into 2 books: The Crown Conspiracy and Avempartha.

The Crown Conspiracy may be seen as a long prologue that lays the foundation to the main story. The landscape is defined and the main political and religious powers are introduced. Nevertheless, **the story is quite simple** and unlike most high Fantasy series I read, there is no big villain to overthrow, no impending doom that threatens the realms (yet ?). Even if that's kinda refreshing, my biggest complaint about this first part is that it totally lacked the complexity and epic tropes I usually seek in Fantasy! Yes, there is magic and a fabled wizard, yes there is talk about gods and an epic fallen empire, about elves and dwarves... **But it's just that : talk and myths and History.**

The first time I read this, I just closed the book and was like "Okay... Hum... shall I continue?" And man ! I'm so glad I did! Because, though lacking "epicness" (well I know it's not a real word, but it should be!!), this book (and the series as a whole) introduced me to **an awesome palette of great and lovable characters** ! Hadrian and Royce form an improbable duo. They are fundamentally different, both carry mysterious pasts and they can't stop bantering ! I loved them since the beginning (even when we didn't know much) because I sensed there was much more to them than what Michael hinted at this point. And then there is dear, dear Myron, one of the most adorable and endearing characters ever written in Fantasy! He was so cute, marveling at everything and raving alone with no one to comment at his observations! XD

"There," Hadrian told Royce, "we've got Maribor on our side. Now you can relax."

"Actually," Myron said sheepishly, "I was praying for the horses. But I will pray for you as well," he added hastily.

Source: <http://minwind.deviantart.com/art/Riy...>

Something I also loved about this read too was Michael's **prose and humor**. The writing was really fluid and I enjoyed the easy read and laughed so hard at some of the dialogues and situations.

The second book, **Avempartha** improved a lot in terms of plot and characterization imo! In this part, **myths are taking more shape and the scope of the story is broadened**, as more is at stake and interesting Fantasy elements are introduced ! We get to know more about Hadrian and Royce as they encounter new faces (Thrace is such a great female addition!!) and meet again with some of the first book's characters. I understand Petrik and Sarah's complaints though as the story and actions are quite soft at this point and we hear a lot about the lead duo's badassery (in the past) but don't see much of it, *for now* ! ;)

Anyway, this second book was more engaging and hinted at a grander and more complex story and I was really happy to see more facets of Royce in this one! While Hadrian is genuinely kindhearted and caring and looking for a noble purpose in life (imagine him like a giant teddy bear ! Well a teddy bear carrying 3 swords, that is!), Royce is sinister, somber, grumpy, clever and sarcastic and I absolutely love the contrast between the two partners !

Source: <http://federicomusetti.deviantart.com...>

Conclusion

Theft of swords can be seen as a big introduction to the series. The plot is very simple and the characters are well outlined but lack depth, background and introspection at this point. I know this first book can be disappointing (I wasn't completely thrilled at first, even if I overall enjoyed the read) but if I may give an advice: please carry on with the whole series ! Because only at the last page of the last book will you see the whole big picture and all the elements of the puzzle will fall into place! And believe me, it will be worth the journey ! :D

Evgeny says

I was lucky, I guess. I came back to reading fantasy after a long hiatus, and this was the first book I picked up. To make a long story short, I like the book to the point I had to choose between reading a couple of more pages and getting a little more sleep at night. I would not say it grabs you right away, but it kind of grows on you.

A little more details. Two main characters and interaction between them are well written and very interesting, and none of the major characters are boring (I am looking at you, George R. R. Martin). The dialog is good, as well. The story looks fresh after endless "a reluctant/unsuspecting nobody is destined to save the world" fantasy cliches. It is by no means Lord of the Rings, but it does not pretend to be one.

In conclusion, I highly recommend this book as entertaining and fun read.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

UPDATE: \$2.99 on Kindle US 7-20-17.

The two books in this tome are AMAZE BALLS!

Book 1 - The Crown of Conspiracy

I fell in love with Hadrian Blackwater and Royce Melborn right off the bat. They are moseying along to get to their destination and they are over taken by a few bandits of sorts. And Hadrian and Royce have this conversation with themselves and with the bandits. Said bandits are a little confused at the relaxed manner of the Riyria men. But . . . once they find out who Hadrian and Royce are, they are beside themselves trying to get things cleared out for them to pass on their way with no trouble.

Oh, to have written that whole part of the book in my review of this first book. ?

So this jerk sets up Hadrian and Royce into stealing a sword from the king. They said it was all easy since said jerk had already moved the sword to a hidden place. I mean come on, who would fall for that AND they didn't want to do something short notice. They like to plan for a bit, but they did it anyway and all hell breaks loose!

Anyhoo, so they scale the castle, get in and look for the sword and lo and behold, the king has been stabbed and the men are trapped and then of course framed.

Note: There is a little b•stard of a dwarf that needs to get his!

Moving on, so Royce and Hadrian are in the dungeons to be tortured and killed.
fjsdgadoghadoigaoihgaiodfdioshgaiga <--- that was me cussing!

But the sweet princess, Arista saves them, sets them free and tells them they have to kidnap her brother, Alric, who put them in the dungeons to be killed to begin with. It's all cray but I love it.

So they drag Alric off and finally tell him all that is going on. Of course Alric is very angry thinking someone killed his father and wants to kill him and is worried for his sister. But Alric's sister wanted him to go to a secret prison and see a wizard there named Esrahaddon. But lets backtrack for a minute.

Along the way they stop at an abbey but they find out it has been burned to the ground and the monk, Myron is there all alone trying to rebuild the library by re-writing all of the books.

I fell right in love with Myron. He is sweet and funny and omg he has never left the abbey since he was four-years-old. He had never pet or ridden a horse, never seen a woman, never seen anything. Period. They talked Myron into going with them and the new king, Alric said he would give him a job. Poor Myron didn't want to go, he was scared but they finally talked him into it. And he was amazed at the world outside. It was so sweet.

Now back to the prison. Royce finally figures out how to get into the hidden prison, they meet Esrahaddon who is 900 ish years old. Against their better judgement they set him free. And now I wonder what he is going to end up doing to the world when we get back around to him.

After all of this, the gang head over to see Count Pickering and tell him what all happened. The count says he will side with the new king, Alric and starts gathering his forces. But they get word that Alric's sister is going to be put to death for treason and is being called a witch. I mean she did learn some stuff from Esrahaddon but so far she's a good person and it's the evil uncle that wants them all dead so he can rule. Jerk!

Count Pickering's peeps aren't all going to get there in time so Alric sends Royce and Hadrian ahead to save Arista (which they do) ha, it's so awesome and funny.

Let's just say some peeps are beheaded and things are set right (for now)

Oh and they leave a little message on the wall of a jerk that was going to side with the evil uncle.

Book 2 - Avempartha

Holy sh*t balls! I loved this freaking book!

Okay, so it's like a couple of years later . . . if I read that right.

Hadrian and Royce are out to seek revenge on the man that almost got them killed, but circumstances changed that and they end up following a girl (Thrake) back to her home in Dahlgren. She's afraid for her father because a creature - that turns out to be a Gilarabrywn - is killing everyone in their little town. Some of Thrake's other family members have been killed and she can't get her father to leave.

In this book we only have Alric in the beginning of the book when he makes Arista the Ambassador of Melengar. She has to go and deal with some jerks. And the old Bishop Saldur who is a snake and was for their uncle in the first story, is still in the second book being a jerk. Oh, I hope someday he gets his!

And, Magnus the dwarf that I thought very badly of in the first book, he made up for it in this second book. I fell in love with him. And I love the banter between him and Royce!

We find out some revelations about Royce! YESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS! I knew it too! I'm not saying a word, just yeah, I'm looking forward to some cool things going on in the next books. And we find out a few more things about Hadrian. OMG, I love them both! I can't help it.

The wizard, Esrahaddon, who now goes by, Esra Haddon, is in the same little town. I actually like him a lot, unless he does something bad in the next books. I never did mention that he had his hands cut off a billion hundred years ago! He's still got some mojo though. And don't you love the play on his name :-D

At one point, Arista ends up at this little town too. They are all up in a castle above it and are having some games on who can defeat the Gilarabrywn. And of course there is some dumb set up with the evil peeps.

Oh and some of the Pickering boys are back and I just love them. Mauvin is my favorite. I keep hoping something will happen with him and Arista but she just sees him as a brother.

Royce, Esra, Hadrian and even ole Magnus are trying to get into the tower to get this sword because it's the only way to kill the Gilarabrywn. Well, all kinds of things go right and wrong there.

Some people die that I wish didn't die. I cried during some parts, for sadness and for the awesomeness.

And me thinks there be elves in those woods . . .

I love this book, Theft of Swords! I love the characters, even the evil ones are written perfectly. I love the world, I love every little thing!!!! Accept I want Millie to come back, for those of you that know who Millie is. . .

I look forward to continuing on in this world. ♥

. . .

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

?Luna? says

Full review now up!

3.5/5 ★★★

Buddy read with these gangsters; Oppa & Breadstick.

So first thing I noticed after purchasing theft of swords, was the **hideous cover..** Yuck! I hate it. Seriously the description in the book of what Royce & Hadrian look like is nothing like the cover, for one Hadrian is a gorgeous blondie, why for the love of God does he **look like a bald cretin** on the cover? Seriously the cover did leave a sour taste in my mouth. Apart from the ugly cover i also hated the name of the book, "Theft of Swords" its just so un creative and blah. So basically in this one book you get two different stories "The Crown Conspiracy" & "Avempartha" which ironically are both much better names then the actual title that was chosen. Anyway I didn't hate reading this book it was well written and had a good plot, it just had so many issues, like for one the strange POV that it is told in. My friend Petrik said it is omniscient third person POV. Okay don't get me wrong i did end up getting used to the POV it just struck me as strange and annoying. It was seriously like reading a script for a movie, there was 0 emotion. But what I hated most about this POV is it prevented me from having insta-love for the characters, I didn't no what they were thinking or feeling, so it felt cold to me and I can't possibly love characters if I can't dissect their mind.

In my personal opinion the main characters were kinda lame in the beginning I just didn't understand the bromance, they spoke a lot about things that happened in the past to give them a badass reputation, *like hello am I missing something?* Seriously where even was the bromance or badassery? **Also don't do what I did and start your Riverya journey with Theft of Sword**, I suggest reading the prequel first, so you actually **understand** the bromance.

In the plot there was 0 action, I'm blood thirsty and there's no blood. Like I literally didn't see any **badassery** from either of the two Main Characters in The Crown Conspiracy or any good proper fights in either book *snorts* *boring*,

I feel book two did pick up the pace and was more interesting but it was still just cliche and abit boring. I was patiently waiting through a whole book to be wowed and I wasn't once. Yep not once..

Differently not a favorite. And to be honest I couldn't give a shit about the 'bromance', I didn't really get their 'inside' jokes either. It is nowhere near as good as Wax and Wayne (Mistborn era 2) bromance for me.

But it was a good book, I did smile while reading it and loved two of the background characters.

The idea of two unlikely heroes saving the day, a thief and a trained killer, was one of my favorite aspects of the story.

The Crown Conspiracy didn't interest me until the last few chapters and I got a taste of some action (finally), also it was pretty much focused on Alric and **I did not like Alric.**

The plot was about Hadrian and Royce being framed for the King's murder then escaping and kidnapping Alric the heir to the throne and they go on an adventure. Sounds awesome but my personal opinion is it was pretty boring.

So to my surprise I liked **Avempartha**, I literally had so much fun reading it, the banter improved in the story as well as plot pacing. It had a very typical fantasy plot with a monster and a extremely cliche ending, but it was hilarious. The handless wizard made me laugh, *'If this hast been done to language, I fear to know the fate of all else.'*

Royce really grew on me, I loved finding out about his past! He is so cool and smart. I love how he is always grumpy one of my favorite parts *"I hate dwarves."*

Arista was a favorite from the start, I love strong females. I also did start to like Hadrian he is just a bit soft for my liking, honestly for a big badass mercenary with a killer past, he was pretty boring. I just wanted him to **bash someone** and prove how good he was with weapons like his reputation says, sad to say it folks, there was no badassery from this guy. The only part I really enjoyed was when he was teaching weapons to a certain someone. I did however find Hadrian to be quite funny at times and I can relate to being pretty dopey and accident prone, one of my favorite parts, *"You might want to clear it some. A single stone can ruin a night's sleep. I ought to know; it seems whenever I sleep outside, I always end up with a stone under the small of my back."*

This is me also and this is why I hate camping.

Time to talk about my favorites,

Myron, seriously I LOVE HIM. He was so funny, I swear I only continued reading book one because of him and the things he would say. So basically Myron is a forgotten child who was sent to a monastery. He hasn't ever really been outside, cries over burnt books (totally relatable If there was a house fire here I would grab my son and my books.) he has also never seen a horse or a woman before. So as you can imagine he was an interesting travel partner. One of my favorite parts, *"This is a beautiful place," Myron declared, his eyes darting about the room. "There is so much going on, so many conversations. Speaking at meals wasn't allowed at the abbey, so it was always deathly silent. Of course, we got around that rule by using sign language. It used to drive the abbot crazy because we were supposed to be focusing on Maribor, but there are times when you but there are times when you simply have to ask someone to pass the salt."*

He is talking about a pub lol.

I will continue reading this series as I'm interested in seeing how it will progresses. I have been told the books improve with each one so I'm excited to find out. I recommend this to people who are not looking for a blood bath and instead would prefer a nice fantasy read with a HEA ending. Also there is no swearing and basically no violence, this could be a great introduction into Fantasy for younger readers (15+).

If these were two separate books I would have rated as follows;

The Crown Conspiracy - 3/5

Avempartha - 4/5

Emily (Books with Emily Fox) says

(3.5) A fun escapist fantasy. Will continue the series!
