



Fool's Errand

Robin Hobb

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For fifteen years FitzChivalry Farseer has lived in self-imposed exile, assumed to be dead by almost all who once cared about him. But now, into his isolated life, visitors begin to arrive: Fitz's mentor from his assassin days; a hedge-witch who foresees the return of a long-lost love; and the Fool, the former White Prophet, who beckons Fitz to fulfill his destiny.

Then comes the summons he cannot ignore. Prince Dutiful, the young heir to the Farseer throne, has vanished. Fitz, possessed of magical skills both royal and profane, is the only one who can retrieve him in time for his betrothal ceremony, thus sparing the Six Duchies profound political embarrassment . . . or worse. But even Fitz does not suspect the web of treachery that awaits him—or how his loyalties will be tested to the breaking point.

Fool's Errand Details

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From Reader Review Fool's Errand for online ebook

Halima says

I dedicate this review to Nighteyes; a Witted wolf born to rule a pack. Our pack.

After finishing this novel my emotions were just about everywhere. My eyes, were very much sore and undoubtedly red from the constant sobbing. My heart was entirely broken, but healed, but throbbing from the onslaught of loss and some form of a twisted gain?

Hobb is a master storyteller, I can't come close to justifying her novels. They leave me entirely speechless, every time.

You'd think with a series this long, it would *eventually* get tiresome, but with Hobb it never does. Ever. I don't want to delve too much into the storyline; spoilers are something I do loathe (*I had this friend, who promised certain things weren't going to happen in the novel and they did!! Damn you Zomo!*) and so I'm going to discuss my viewpoints on the central characters instead. So without further ado, drum rolls please...

Fitz/Tom

"My dreams were thin, illogical human things now that frayed at a moment's waking. Tears flooded warm under my closed eyelids.

(view spoiler)

Ever since the Farseer trilogy, I have loved Fitz. His character from the beginning promises readers of an exciting and deep narrative voice.

Watching him develop and grow throughout each novel is magical, you very much *become* Fitz. There were so many moments in which I couldn't separate my views from his, as though I was trapped within his situations. I'd genuinely get stressed out even after leaving the novel. It was brilliant!

Starling. *People restrain Halima as she has a hockey bat aggressively pointed towards Starling*

F*cking Starling.

Warning: There will be many profanities within this section, please shield your dainty ears.

F*cking, f*cking, f*cking absolute trollop!!!! I HATE HER SO F*CKING MUCH! JEEEEEEZUS.

Aaaahhhh, I hate, hate, hate her! Heavens please make this the last we see of her SLY, GOOD FOR NOTHING, (view spoiler) A**!

She did not deserve Fitz.

Period.

Women like her were the reasoning behind side walks being made.

STAY IN YOUR LANE STARLING.

There is nothing worse than a ungrateful, ignorant and cruel woman. If a man is heartbroken and has made it quite clear he doesn't want your body *shakes head*

I cannot even...

The Fool

I adore the Fool! *Beloved* that he is, he is lovely. I very much enjoyed learning more about his character and his relationships (view spoiler)

In short, the Fool, Lord Golden, the White Prophet is one of my favourite characters. I am very much looking forward to reading more about him within the trilogy.

And now, to Nighneyes! We are pack.

I love, love, love Nighneyes. He was hilarious and adorable. His viewing of their 'pack' was the sweetest and his loyalty to Fitz never failed to bring tears brimming to my eyes.

Many of my favourite parts within the novel were solely just his quotes, they are the best.

"A few days without me and he's consorting with horses. I might have known."

"Good hunting. I'm going now, my brother."

"Here's the dead wolf. Might as well bury him, all he's fit for is to lie about in a dusty yard and watch chickens he's not permitted to kill..."

(view spoiler)

To close:

Would you recommend this to Fantasy readers? Yes, though be sure to read the Liveship Trilogy first (which is also a very, very good set of novels).

Will you carry on reading the trilogy? Who ever asked such a question, most certainly I will.

What else do you advise? Be sure to have tissues and ice cream on the side, it is a rollercoaster of a read.

5 I love Nighneyes for ever and ever stars

My review to the Tawny Man, Book 2

Manju says

I went into this story with zero expectation. My poor heart was still very tender after the beating it got in Assassin's Quest. But then I saw everyone reading one or the other Fitz book and going ga ga over. I kept thinking, "did we read the same Fitz stories?" to find the answer I thought why not give another chance to Fitz, perhaps he did better in this. And oh boy, this book simply blew me away. All my complaints of Fitz being whinny and doing nothing went out of the wind. Ms. Hobb what did you do to Fitz? But am glad whatever you did it worked wonders for me.

So this story picks up after the 15 years of events that took place in Assassin's Quest. Fitz is now Tom Badgerlock and wants to do nothing with Six Duchies. But things get complicated in Six Duchies and Fitz has to return and bring back a runaway prince.

Fitz has come a long way from his days of Assassin's Quest. He is more mature, calmer, and a thinker now. Gone are the days when he used to get angry easily and act in spur of moment. And this new Fitz won my heart even before he solved the mystery of runaway prince and saved the day.

The best aspect of this book for me was relation between Fool and Fitz; and Nighneye and Fitz. While the

former was more like a new journey, had its bumps and ups and down, the latter was like a marriage where words are not required. One look at the other and you know what you want and what he wants, and the other person always comes first.

Hobb's writing is just amazing. She keeps things simple. Her characters are not all powerful with some super awesome powers, they can't fly, they can't read mind, and they can't turn others into cat or dogs. Her characters are akin to human as much as it can be possible in a fantasy world. She would make you feel sad, helpless, angry, and silly through her characters and that's what I loved about her in this book.

Highly recommended.

Stefan Bach says

„Fool?“

„What?“

„You are not *Fool* anymore. What do they call you these days?“

„What does who call me when?“

„I should not call you *Fool* anymore. What do you want me to call you?“

„Ah, what do I want *you* to call me now? I see. An entirely different question. And if I tell you, you would call me by that name?“

„In private only. And only if you wished me to.“

„Ah... Oh, but I would.“

„Then?“

„The name my mother gave me, I give now to you, to call me by in private. Beloved.“

„Fool! I'm serious!“

„And you think I'm not? Well if you cannot call me Beloved then I suppose you should continue to call me 'Fool'.“

And if you still insist we must both take different names now, then I shall call you beloved.

And whenever I call you that, you may call me fool.“

David Sven says

Again, Robin Hobb demonstrates that you don't need to write grimdark to generate realism, high drama, or sinister undertones. Now I love my grimdark as much as Hannibal loves liver *phphph*, but Hobb's realism is expressed in believable characters, complex relationships, detailed worldbuilding...wait wait wait a minute now...what about blood and guts? Yes, there will be blood too, but the joojoo is not in the gore - the joojoo is in the sustained threat of violence - the joojoo is in the way the sense of danger and foreboding creeps up on you and builds and seduces you until you can't help but keep turning pages. You just have to know what is going to happen next. That was my experience anyway.

The story begins at a leisurely pace as we catch up to Fitz in his self-imposed exile some 15 years after the events of the Farseer Trilogy. We get a taste of what a life of peace with his wolf Nighneyes is like. I make it sound boring but it's not. Fitz has been to some interesting places and done some interesting things in those 15 years – including a visit to Bingtown and the Rainwilds which those fans who have read The Liveship Traders series will appreciate. If you've skipped that Trilogy to come straight over to Tawny Man then I

think you are missing out. Most people do it because they want more of the Fool – more Fool you I say – because there is more Fool in Liveships – so technically that would be more Fool to those who read Liveships first? Damn Fool bastard has me talking in circles.

But back to the Bastard – Robin Hobb (no I'm not calling her a bastard) still manages to reintroduce us to an older Fitz and catch us up in a way that is interesting despite being slow. Even when Fitz is doing nothing, I still wanted to know what he was going to do next as his old life calls out to him. And the pace and tension keep increasing from there as Chade's old apprentice Assassin is called on to do his duty for his Queen and the Farseer throne. And in Robin Hobb's world, *duty* is spelled "P-A-I-N." So though we know Fitz can't die, seeing the story is told from his POV in the first person, we should know by now that he is never safe. We should know by now that there are worse things that can happen to Fitz than dying and we should know that Robin Hobb does not hold back from inflicting them on our protagonist. Did I just say Robin Hobb isn't a bastard?

5 stars

And now a quick word from our sponsor *Lord Golden*

*Fitz is Dutiful to Fitz' Dutiful
...but what is Dutiful's Duty?
Should Dutiful be Dutiful to Dutiful
...or should Dutiful be Dutiful to Duty?
What so Beautiful seduces Dutiful
...is Duty not Beautiful enough?
Will Fitz's Duty bring Beauty
...or will Fitz' duty be rough*

Psst - Fool says Robin Hobb really is a bastard... bitch... sadist... get off me, I'm the White Prophet and I will be heard. Fool says you should read her next book as soon as possible.

Kaora says

Do not you sense it? A crossroads, a vertex, a vortex. All paths change from here.

This book made my cry. Multiple times.

I don't often cry while reading books. I take a lot. And I might blame it on pregnancy hormones except Hobb made me cry in her last two series Liveship Traders and Farseer Trilogy and when I read those I wasn't pregnant.

But this book again has ruined me. In a good way.

Robin Hobb is the type of author that slowly builds her story. She introduces her character and you live their

daily lives and truly get to know them. Some people may find it boring. But I know it is just the beginning. You begin to develop feelings for her characters. They can be positive feelings, or the most negative feelings you have ever experienced.

The truth , I discovered, is a tree that grows as a man gains access to experience. A child sees the acorn of his daily life , but a man looks back on the oak.

She then spends the remainder of the book turning your opinions on their head as her characters change and evolve in very real ways as events unfold in this fabulous world she has created.

Some speak of the savagery of beasts. I will ever prefer that to the thoughtless contempt some men have toward animals.

It is the work of an amazing author.

She doesn't need to keep your attention with epic battle scenes, but maintains it more subtly with stunning language and unforgettable characters.

Petrik says

A tale of a bond between humans and animals at its finest level.

Fool's Errand is the first book in the *Tawny Man* trilogy—the third out of five subseries within Hobb's *The Realm of the Elderlings* gigantic series—and it is my favorite installment within the entire *RotE* so far. This is seriously a lovely, memorable, and poignant return to the world of Fitz, Nightheyes, and the Fool's journey. Honestly, after the disappointment I had with the last installment of the *Farseer* trilogy, and after the greatness of the *Liveship Traders* trilogy, I didn't expect to find how much I've missed seeing Fitz, the Fool, and Nightheyes together until the moment I flipped the pages of this book.

Fool's Errand takes the readers back to Fitz's journey and I must say I'm absolutely delighted by how captivating this book was got me. Fifteen years have passed since the end of *Assassin's Quest*, FitzChivalry Farseer, now called Tom Badgerlock (a persona/identity he created in order to forget his past and began anew) is living in a self-imposed exile with Nightheyes and Hap. The exile, of course, started to change when familiar faces from Fitz's past came knocking on his door.

“Stop longing. You poison today's ease, reaching always for tomorrow.”

Slow paced and slow build as per all Hobb's books, almost the entire first half was spent on Fitz recounting the things he did during the fifteen years' time gap. The second half then focused on the search for Prince Dutiful. Don't worry, this is completely the opposite of the tedious search for Verity in *Assassin's Quest*. In the midst of the search for Dutiful, there was a myriad of characters development and well polished world-building elements to be found. Some readers will probably find this book boring to read, but it certainly wasn't the case for me. I honestly found this book to be an extremely well-written and poignantly beautiful story. The difficulty of coping with the passage of time, the racial prejudice against the Witted, loneliness,

and most of all, animal companionship, are all the main themes of this book. It was utterly a memorable experience due to the characters. The most crucial reason for why I enjoyed reading this one so much was because of the fact that I've seen and known these characters during their younger days. This knowledge made the characters even more real than it already seemed to be; even reading their daily lives has become something of a homecoming and reunion with my real friends.

I don't even know where to begin explaining how outstanding was the character's study for Fitz in this book but let me try to do it briefly. I'm always amazed by how well written Fitz was in *Farseeer* trilogy and Hobb really step up her game with this installment. He's simply a complex and realistic character. Some will hate/love him for it but for me, I found all Fitz's take on loneliness and emptiness something I can relate to perfectly. This will make me sound like a broken record but I honestly don't care, this book has amazing character developments and studies and I'll keep on repeating this in all Hobb's books until there isn't any of them anymore, which I envisioned will be as likely as waiting for snow to fall in my country. Fitz, Nighteyes, and the Fool's friendship have become a treasure I will always remember.

Unlike *Liveship Traders*, *Farseeer* trilogy has even fewer actions and that's still true here, the actions here consisted more or less of two or three skirmishes but that's completely okay. Hobb's strengths are her memorable and well-written characters which keep on getting better and better with each installment because of the subsequent information the readers have collected with each book. This, in my opinion, made up for the lack of action scenes. Plus, as crazy as this will sound, her lovely prose actually keeps on getting better.

The world-building information that has been gathered from the past six books and novella wasn't wasted as there's always something new to find in its lore and magic systems. Know this, you're in for the long game here. In this installment, we get to see more and more intricate explanation on the Wit magic system, the Old Blood, and a few revelations on the purpose of the Fool, specifically the White Prophet and the Catalyst. For your information, I've read the novella *The Wilful Princess and the Piebald Prince* before reading this book and it enhanced my experience of this book. Although the novella's publication year was the year 2013 and this book was first released on the year 2001, it doesn't really matter which one you read first but my recommendation is to read the novella first because the novella actually explained the history of the Piebald Prince and why the Witted became hated in the first place intricately.

“The past is no further away than the last breath you took.”

Fool's Errand is the first full 5 stars rating I bestowed to Robin Hobb's books and hopefully the first of many. This is truly an amazing start to the highly acclaimed *Tawny Man* trilogy; it's my favorite installment within the entire *Realm of the Elderlings* series so far. I'm looking forward to engraving the next two books into my past, hopefully as fond and memorable as how this book has become to me.

Picture: *Fool's Errand* by Koji Suzuki

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Kaitlin says

This is book #1 in the Tawny Man series, which follows on from the events of the Farseer books and the Liveship books. This series relates a lot more to the characters from the initial Farseer books such as Fitz, the Fool and various other characters, both old and new, who are local to Bukkeep. We are told that the main character (first-person again) of Fitz is now 35, so it's about 15 years after the Farsser series.

As we follow Fitz we don't actually know an awful lot about the life he's been leading for the last 15 years. We haven't seen or heard of him since the ending of Farseer, and so a large amount of the beginning sections relate Fitz's tale and what he's doing now. We see he's living with a young boy who he cares for greatly, and we learn some of the daily life chores for his new persona, Tom Badgerlock.

After the initial re-immersion period the actual story kicks in introducing us once more to characters we knew from long ago and many new characters who will also begin to play a new role in the Elderling Realm. Fitz's story starts off slow, but quickly he's drawn to change his pace and take on new challenges and meet new people. The story flies away with itself from that point on.

I was wary of returning to Fitz after severely disliking his character and the way he made so many mistakes and blunders in Assassin's Quest (Farseer #3). I found that even though I had really enjoyed Fitz's struggles and character up to that point, he bored me and annoyed me so much in Assassin's Quest I wasn't sure if he was going to be a character I would enjoy reading about anew, luckily my fears were quickly put to rest. As Fitz is so much older and wiser by this book - he has matured and had a life - he makes for a much more likeable character, less inclined to childish mistakes and folly. In the Farseer books we follow a young boy with many secrets, harsh alliances, and different strings attached to him, whilst in Tawny Man, Fitz has had time to reflect on that period of his life and decide that he knows better now.

As for the story itself I felt that this one was much better paced and far more fun than the final Farseer one. Clearly the different approach to writing which Hobb adopted for the Liveship books allowed her to hone her skill and master the pacing and structure of her Fitz storyline too. I felt compelled to read this fast, and see where it was heading. I wanted to immerse myself back into the world, and find out the consequences of the events of the Liveship books and the Farseer books.

Overall my only slight criticism of this book was that, although we learn a lot throughout this book about new and old characters and the magic of this world, I didn't feel that there was as much mystery or anticipation surrounding certain elements of the plot. In the Liveship books we can see hints and ideas which link into Farseer, and whilst that's still sewn throughout this book, I felt that this was more of a set up for the next book of the series than a fully fledged book of its own. I think that the next two books will more than likely incorporate more of the elements of mystery and wonder I am seeking, and hopefully as a whole the trilogy will make its mark next to the Liveship books.

I enjoyed reading this immensely, and I look forward to continuing and finding out more about the state of the Elderling Realm, the opinions of the public on the ending of this book, and finally the new characters who we've been introduced to more in this book. 4*s overall.

Jennifer says

It was a strange transition from the pace of the Liveship Traders to the pace of this trilogy, told (like the Farseer trilogy) entirely in first person from Fitz's perspective. Fitz is a thorough scribe, to say the least, and this is definitely a set-up book (the main plot doesn't begin until 200 pages in). But I appreciated this for its quiet steadiness, and found myself getting surprisingly emotional over passing moments of dialogue and introspection. I absolutely can't wait to read the next two books in this trilogy – I have a feeling they'll build to something phenomenal.

Phee says

I am broken.

My love for Fitz and the Fool is strong as ever, but my heart is broken from the events of this book.

I didn't cry, but I screamed.

Also, Fitz and the Fool... I ship it. So damn hard!

Hanna says

3.75

GAAH! These books frustrate the hell out of me! Absolutely and wholly.

But I love them. The plot. The characters.

I think I hate them like I do because they are so damn realistic. Never the happy ending to anything. Only the harsh and brutal reality.

The main character is brave. And good. Lovable. He is also a fool. A wimp. That makes mistakes. That you yell "WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?" at.

Same for other characters. One moment you scream your head off at them. The next you sit there grinning like an idiot for how smart or good or funny or interesting they are.

Same for the plot. Twisting out of your grasp the very second you think you had it. Turning the absolutely wrong way more times than it turns the right.

See where I'm going? This is the case for everything in the WHOLE FRIKKIN' BOOK! All the books. In the whole series!

Makes me irritated just thinking about it all.

Also makes me want to read it again. It's crazy that I could ever dislike a book so much and still absolutely adore it.

Realistic but brave.

Heartbreaking and brilliant.

READ IT NOW!

Franco Santos says

Entre dolor, soledad y desconsuelo trato de escribir estas líneas para intentar describir lo que me dejó, o más exactamente lo que me sacó, este libro.

Death is not the opposite of life, but the opposite of choice.

Hay historias que están muy bien contadas pero son vacuas, no son capaces de llegar a los corazones de sus lectores; hay otras que transmiten la más potente vorágine pero no tienen gran calidad narrativa. Sin embargo, en las profundidades reposan joyas que cumplen con todas las características que necesita un relato para brillar. *Fool's errand* es una de ellas.

Silence can ask all the questions, where the tongue is prone to ask only the wrong one.

No tengo nada más que decir, el daño está fresco y ardiente, la aflicción todavía no termina, ni para los personajes ni para el lector, que inocentemente espera un poco de luz que ilumine la rota y agonizante esperanza que reside en su alma.

The past is no further away than the last breath you took.

Bookdragon Sean says

The characterisation of Fitzchivalry through the series is brilliant. The books are told from the first person entirely; thus the reader witnesses the change in his thoughts as he grows into a man. In this book, he has developed a new persona: Tom Badgerlock. This is set fifteen years after the Red Ship wars and King Verity's reawakening of the Dragons.

Tom Badgerlock is the person Fitzchivalry has evolved into: the one he always wanted to be; he is the man with a simple life, a small farm, a few friends and the close companionship of his loyal wolf. His reaction is unsurprising when his former mentor and friend comes seeking his help: reluctance. Prince Dutiful, heir to the Farseer throne, has gone missing. Nobody seems to know why. He is suspected of having the Wit and is known to have an undeveloped grasp of the Skill. Tom Badgerlock doesn't want to go back to being the tool of the Farseer throne, their Assassin. Who can blame him? He wants to be free.

Slow, but excellent

Few authors of the fantasy genre, if any, could write a book in which the first third of it is essentially the protagonist living in a hut looking back on his youth as he weighs up the decisions of the future. In this Robin Hobb's style is remarkable. The internal conflict of Fitz really spoke to me. Fitz has earned his rest but at the same time he is the only person who can bring stability to the realm: he must go back to Buckkeep and the role of his youth.

The novel is very well paced and probably the most apprehension evoking I've read in fantasy; the author knows how to draw the plot out, revealing more information at exactly the right time. The plot could have

been over and done with, in three hundred pages or so, but that would not have achieved the same effect. The emotions of Fitz, his fears and worries, all play a pivotal role in establishing the suspense of the plot and only through his vivid characterisation do we, as the reader, understand the meaning behind his decisions.

Wonderful Magic

A theme has been established through the book, through the use of animals, almost defining the author's style. The thoughts of animals have been brought to life; their personalities exhibit their animalistic traits. For example, the cat's snobbish nature and vainglorious attitude to itself is captured in the thoughts it sends to Tom Badgerlock. This is my favourite aspect of the series: the Wit magic. It is a wonderful idea. The relationship between Fitz and Nighteyes is very touching. Their bond, along with the Fool's closeness to them, is very deep. They are almost one person as their wit bond has rubbed off characteristics onto each other. The Wolf thinks like a human and the Man acts like a wolf. I liked this development and how it becomes tested as Nighteyes ages quicker than Fitz.

Robin Hobb is one of my favourite fantasy novelists, third only to Tolkien and Susanna Clarke, her books define the modern fantasy genre, thus they're a must read for any fantasy enthusiast.

Diana Stormblessed says

When I say I couldn't put it down, I mean I couldn't put it down. This 661 page book took me about 24 hours to finish. I listened to it on audio and I couldn't disconnect myself. I listened during my commute, during work, during cooking, during putting my kids to bed. It was so great to reconnect with old characters and watch how they have matured. This book is set almost 15 years after Assassin's Quest. Fitz is no longer whiny and misguided. The Fool is no longer mean spirited. Additionally, I think Robin Hobb's writing abilities get better and better with each book. I loved Assassin's Apprentice, but this one was just loads above and beyond that one. I loved everything about this book and can't wait to read the next one.

Em says

This is my third time of reading this series and it still remains my absolute favourite! Fitz, Fool and of course Nighteyes are absolute heroes and can do no wrong in my eyes.

Wishful thinking below, but who cares and I may get my wish come true in the new series, you never know!

Hanne says

[and Nighteyes dies. It was 500 pages in the making and still I was shocked (hide spoiler)]

