



Stealing Sorcery

Andrew Rowe

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The immortal sorcerers – three legendary figures that toppled the empire of Xixis. Each has lived for over a hundred years, leaving a powerful legacy in their wake.

But their children do not share their renowned immortality – and when the firstborn son of Edrick Theas is killed, the sorceress Lydia Hastings is called to investigate the murder. When she discovers a sorcerous trail left by a creature of unfathomable power, she quickly realizes she needs outside help. And while Jonan Kestrian – a spy for a rival military power – might not be Lydia's first choice for an ally, she knows that he has the knowledge and skills that she needs.

While Lydia and Jonan trace the assassin's trail, Taelien undergoes the Trials of Unyielding Steel, a series of tests to ensure his entry into the Paladins of Tae'os. As he trains for his trials, Taelien faces his fiercest rival yet – Velas Jaldin, a former member of Orlyn's Queensguard with the power to manipulate motion at her whim. With skills far beyond those of an ordinary soldier, the former Queensguard might be the killer that Lydia seeks – or the assassin's next victim.

Stealing Sorcery Details

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From Reader Review Stealing Sorcery for online ebook

Kristen says

This was a great read, much like the first book in the series. I seem to remember thinking that the first book needed more editing, and I'm glad to say that this one was much much better in that regard. Hooray!

The magic system was once again well thought out, made sense, and was used well. The characters were developed well, didn't all take themselves too seriously, swore a lot (fucking yay!), and I cared what happened to them. Most of them at least. I had a bit of trouble remembering who was who from the first book, aside from Lydia and Taelien (and to a lesser extent Jonan). It's been over a year since I read it, and while I do have a pretty good idea what went down for the most part, the addition of a short summary of the previous book could be helpful for those of us who aren't always inclined to reread previous books in the series. Then again, I could have skimmed at least, but alas, that's not really my thing.

The ending was a bit abrupt, but the main plot was wrapped up by the end of the book, so I suppose I can forgive that just this once. >.>

Anyways, to sum this up with less ramble, this was a fun read and I enjoyed it. After being given the first book for free and really liking it, I was happy to buy the second book (once I realized it existed, my bad for not paying attention). I really liked it, and so will definitely buy the third (and more!).

Todd Ross says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was a ton of fun and I'm really enjoying the writing style from Andrew Rowe.

I did have some criticisms though which is why its getting 3 stars.

1. After the last novel, it felt really weird how this one basically became a magical school novel. That was unexpected and felt like a step backwards or at least like a treading of water compared to the progress made in book 1.
2. There are essentially 2 plots for this novel. The magical school / paladin bootcamp / Combat ACTs plotline, and the guard duty / murder mystery in the city. The way these two plotlines combine near the end of the book wasn't as successful as I would have liked.
3. I sometimes feel like the "voice" of the characters is all the same. they all seem to talk very similarly and somehow every character is in their early 20s? They all act and talk really young even with a ton of life experience, training...

But, the book has a lot going for it as well. its a super breezy enjoyable read. The magic/god system is super cool reminiscent of video games / classic DragonLance / DnD novels. I'm a sucker for magic school plotlines that show competition and power growth. And some basic drip fed mysteries that make me hungry to know more.

Sadly, I probably wouldn't recommend this series to anyone though because the author is currently writing another series and probably won't come back to this one for a few years (if ever), although I really hope he does.

Roman Santoro says

What can I say about the second book of a universe that has me completely hooked...?

This book was amazing, I really enjoyed the stories (I use plural because Taelien, Jonan and Lydia remain on three separate paths for most of the story) and the amazing ending the book had.

As usual I try to see both sides when reviewing:

The "things that really worked" list:

- Solid worldbuilding and storytelling.
- Really "believable" characters (this may have to do with the fact that these characters are played by real life people in a pen&paper rpg)
- The humor of some characters is good to the point of making me chuckle out loud while reading.

The "things to work on" list:

- Although I understand the need to separate the characters on different paths, sometimes the stories felt completely disconnected.
- Some situations may be a little weird or illogical (not mentioning to avoid spoilers).

Overall this book was great! It trapped me from beginning to end and I would definitely recommend it to anyone that enjoys the genre!

Donna says

A solid second book by Andrew Rowe. This book focuses mostly on Taelien becoming a Paladin (and trying to discover more about who he really is) He is joined by Landen and Velas in the trials along with a host of interesting applicants. Meanwhile Lydia and Jonan investigate some high profile murders. All have their own agendas to follow whilst doing their best to help each other.

There are other forces at work that I am sure will be revealed in the next book, especially who the Shrouded One is.

Matthew says

A thoroughly enjoyable read. A second book that can stand alone but gains much from the first book. Greatly enjoyed the magic system and the expansion / discovery of more depth to the magic system. A wider array of characters utilizing skills in rather unique ways also lends a richness to a story when done well, and Mr. Rowe does it well. The general plot of the book is one that could easily become trite or tropey and yet, in Stealing Sorcery, it was handled well and becomes intriguing, captivating. I enjoyed watching the characters grow both maturing as adults and expanding their skill sets. A good mix of interplay among characters

without becoming politics for politics' sake. I think he did an excellent job of balancing the parts of the story and presenting a well crafted tale. For an escapist reader as I tend to be, it was pure enjoyment. The only thing I didn't care for about the book was when it ended. Now, I'm impatiently waiting for book 3.

Alex says

I thought Stealing Sorcery was much better than the first book in the series, the pacing was on point and the storyline flowed much better than Forging Divinity. If you were on the fence after the first book, I'd suggest continuing.

Tzurky says

Wonderful, once again. Several great new characters are added and characters from the previous book are developed better, as is the world itself and the magic system. The character interactions are the best part but the mystery is nothing to scoff at, either. Very excited to see where this is going!

Michael Wood says

Wonderful Second Act in A (Hopefully) Long Fantasy Swords and Sorcery Tale

Andrew Rowe has given us another masterful S & S fantasy novel, no surprise there. Every one of his fantasy stories has demonstrated his mastery of this form. As usual within the constraints of the form of classic S & S, he pushes at the boundaries with rich, colorful detail, loading his writing with sparkling and definite descriptions.

This installment continues the mystery of an orphan with a fabled sword, raised in an almost-human community. Our protagonist assumes the name of the sword, but knows nothing of his own antecedents. He does not know his family or parents. However, the sword is well known: it is the sword of the god of swords in a commonly accepted religious pantheon. As the young man grows into his sword, questions and enemies (of whom he knows nothing either) swarm about him.

Along the way, our egocentric and violent protagonist, despite himself, is joined by numerous friends and allies -- any of which would be a rich character in a story of him/her own.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: AS A RICH, DETAILED SWORDS AND SORCERY FANTASY TALE.

Rachel says

Talian (the maybe incarnation of the god of war) is trying out for the paladins along with Selis and Landon. (sorry on spelling I listened to this on audio with the amazing narrator Nick Podehl). He is here looking for answers to his upbringing destiny an his sword. His previous travel companions Lydia and Jonen are also around. It centers around the paladins in training trying to win their trials and a mysterious poisonous murder

that occurs. To me there is way too much inner dialogue in this book from almost all characters except Talian. He just does things without thinking for the most part. I found this to be a filler book that didn't drive the plot onward too much. I wanted to know more about the gods and the items bound to people's wills.

Andrei says

An entertaining read, but the abundance of characters coupled with the continuously changing perspective and the lack of distinctive features forced me to refer to the list at the end quite often. Additionally, the battles, while well written, always gave the impression that the protagonists were not up to the challenge posed. Perhaps a deliberate choice, but disappointing nonetheless to see characters that are stated to be powerful yet appear to always end up with grievous injuries, especially after pushing themselves beyond the limits where the sorcery causes permanent damage.

To sum it in a single word, the whole book feels underwhelming, spinning an epic tale of sorcery, battle and intrigue yet delivering only slivers of that.

S.L. Vaden says

Can't wait for the third book in this series.

Matthew says

Finished book 1 and 2 in less than a week. Andrew Rowe is fighting with Brandon Sanderson for best author in my opinion. Best book series would still go to Patrick Rothfuss but Brandon Sanderson and Andrew Rowe seem to be able to write different books in different universes at an incredible pace while never sacrificing the small details.

There needs to be a go-fund me to put a body guard on Andrew Rowe to keep him alive and writing, a go-fund me to get Brandon Sanderson to teach all up and coming fantasy writers, and a go-fund me to lock Patrick Rothfuss in a sweatshop until he finishes a book....

Bart Robbins says

I enjoyed the first book and was hoping this book would be similar. The shift to a magic school plot was a surprise but it did allow the characters to be flushed out more. Overall the stories come together in an adequate way. My major complaint is that somewhere in the second half of the book the characters start cursing in English. I was confused at first because they obviously had their own cursing vocabulary that was suddenly abandoned. Jonan didn't curse the entire last book and suddenly his dialogue is full of f-words? It felt lazy, jarring, and confusing when the author is trying to build a coherent complicated world. The series has some great elements but this book kind of ruined the series for me. Hopefully, Rowe will revise this book to make it better and a better reflection of the world he is trying to establish.

Pegs Hampton says

I very much enjoyed this second book written by Andrew Rowe. A very much detective style story I felt but was very cleverly written and had an abundance of unique characters. I did feel lost as to who some of the characters were at certain stages of the book and had to glance further back to regain my awareness of who it was.

The book focuses quite heavily on thought patterns and idea's that the characters is running through their minds, which I personally feel loses it's edge after some time, but it kept the story flowing well and made a nice match with the detective style story.

I enjoyed the development of Taelien's progress with his sword and I hope to find out just what's going on with that! I felt the other two main characters Jonan and Lydia were portrayed slightly different to the first, but thus made them more vulnerable and more believable as a character.

On a personal note, A particular part of this book did bring some raw emotion, which I haven't felt (and rarely get when reading) since read my very first trilogy of books almost ten years ago. Either way, I was almost unable to put this down (becoming late for work on a couple of occasions) and was a brilliant read.

I would highly suggest this book to anyone with a liking of detective / mythical / sorcery style writing and I can't wait for the next in the set.

Kristobelle says

And now the wait begins...

Till the next installment is released..

Lots of fantastic stuff going on is this series -fantastic characterisation, interpersonal relationships, intrigue, a few great twisty moments.. A massive magic system that is both wonderful, yet a cause of some of the only consternation I had about this book..

Some of the explanatory and expository conversations had between characters pertaining the magic system, were cringe worthily obvious. RPG tutorial-esque in nature... I actually winced at one point..

But! Ultimately forgivable considering the wealth of other goodness...

Really great stuff!

Bring on mid 2017 already...
