

the gathering storm brandon sanderson

the gathering storm brandon sanderson is a pivotal installment in the acclaimed Stormlight Archive series, penned by the masterful fantasy author Brandon Sanderson. This novel continues the epic saga set in the richly detailed world of Roshar, weaving together complex characters, intricate magic systems, and a narrative that explores themes of leadership, sacrifice, and human resilience. As part of Sanderson's larger Cosmere universe, The Gathering Storm not only advances the overarching story but also deepens the lore and worldbuilding that fans have come to cherish. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the plot, themes, characters, and significance of The Gathering Storm, providing insights for both new readers and long-time fans.

Overview of The Gathering Storm by Brandon Sanderson

Introduction to the Stormlight Archive Series

The Stormlight Archive is a sprawling epic fantasy series that began with *The Way of Kings* in 2010. Known for its complex characters, detailed magic systems, and expansive world, the series has quickly become a cornerstone of modern fantasy literature. Brandon Sanderson, renowned for his innovative magic mechanics and meticulous storytelling, has crafted a universe where political intrigue, personal growth, and myth intertwine.

Placement of The Gathering Storm in the Series

The Gathering Storm is the fourth book in the series, following *Oathbringer*. It continues to explore the ongoing conflicts on Roshar, including the war against the Parshendi, the political upheavals in Alethkar, and the personal journeys of key characters like Dalinar Kholin, Kaladin Stormblessed, and Shallan Davar. This installment is critical in setting the stage for the concluding volumes and delivering major revelations.

Plot Summary of The Gathering Storm

The novel centers around the escalating conflict between Alethkar and the Parshendi, as well as the internal struggles within the human nations. Dalinar Kholin, now a leading figure in the war effort, grapples with his visions and his duty to unite the disparate factions. Meanwhile, Shallan continues her investigation into her past and her burgeoning powers as a Lightweaver. Kaladin faces personal challenges as he seeks to protect those under his care and confronts his own doubts.

Major plot points include:

1. The alliance-building efforts between Alethkar and other human nations.

2. Dalinar's quest to forge the powerful and dangerous stormform, which could turn the tide of war.
3. Shallan's pursuit of the truth behind her family's secrets and her growing mastery over her abilities.
4. The threat of the Everstorm, a destructive force that heralds the arrival of the destructive Desolation.
5. The revelation of the true nature of the Voidbringers and the history of the Knights Radiant.

Key Themes and Motifs in The Gathering Storm

Brandon Sanderson weaves recurring themes throughout *The Gathering Storm*, enriching the narrative with philosophical depth and emotional resonance.

Leadership and Responsibility

Dalinar's journey exemplifies the burdens of leadership and the importance of moral integrity. His efforts to forge alliances and uphold justice are central to the story's moral fabric.

Hope and Resilience

Despite overwhelming odds, the characters embody resilience, illustrating that hope can be a potent force even in dark times.

Magic and Power

The novel delves deeper into the magic systems of Roshar, such as Surgebinding and the use of stormlight, emphasizing their role in shaping politics and warfare.

Secrets and Truths

Shallan's quest for her past and the uncovering of hidden histories highlight the importance of truth in understanding oneself and one's world.

Major Characters and Their Development

The Gathering Storm features a cast of complex characters whose development drives the narrative forward.

Dalinar Kholin

- Transforms from a ruthless warlord to a wise leader.
- Struggles with visions that challenge his understanding of morality and destiny.
- Seeks to unite the human factions against external threats.

Kaladin Stormblessed

- Continues his role as a protector and leader.
- Confronts his fears and insecurities.
- Discovers new depths to his powers and responsibilities.

Shallan Davar

- Explores her identity as a Lightweaver.
- Unravels family secrets that threaten her stability.
- Gains mastery over her abilities and her past.

Other Notable Characters

- Adolin Kholin: Dalinar's son, navigating political alliances and personal loyalties.
- Jasnah Kholin: Scholar and heretic, uncovering crucial knowledge about the ancient past.
- Venli: Parshendi singer whose perspective provides insight into her culture and the ongoing conflict.

The Magic Systems of Roshar

The series is renowned for its innovative magic systems, and *The Gathering Storm* expands on these concepts.

Surgebinding

A system where individuals bond with spren to manipulate natural forces, such as gravity, friction, or transformation.

Stormlight

A mystical energy source essential for Surgebinding and powering the magic.

Other Magical Elements

- Voidbinding: The dark counterpart to Surgebinding used by the antagonists.
- fabrials: Devices that harness stormlight for various effects.

Understanding these systems is crucial for grasping the strategic and thematic elements of the series.

Worldbuilding and Setting

Roshar is a diverse world with unique geography, cultures, and histories.

The Shattered Plains

A central battleground featuring massive chasms and strategic importance.

The Parshendi and Parshmen

Non-human races with distinct cultures and roles in the conflict.

Other Locations

- Kharbranth: A city of scholars and political intrigue.
- Urithiru: The mountain stronghold and hub for the Knights Radiant.
- The Reshi Isles and other distant regions expanding the scope of the universe.

Significance of The Gathering Storm in the Series

The Gathering Storm is pivotal in setting up the climax of The Stormlight Archive. It deepens the lore, introduces new threats, and elevates the stakes for all characters involved.

Major Revelations

- The true history of the Knights Radiant.
- The nature of the Desolations and the origin of the Voidbringers.
- The role of ancient civilizations and their influence on current events.

Impact on the Series' Arc

This installment raises the narrative tension, introduces complex political machinations, and explores the moral dilemmas faced by heroes, pushing the series toward its eventual conclusion.

Reception and Critical Analysis

The Gathering Storm has been praised for its character development, intricate plotting, and expansion of the series' magic system. Fans appreciate Sanderson's ability to balance large-scale battles with intimate character moments.

Fan Perspectives

- Enthusiasts highlight the emotional depth of Dalinar's arc.
- Others admire the strategic complexity of the war efforts.
- Many appreciate the continued worldbuilding and lore expansion.

Critical Reviews

While generally positive, some critics note the dense exposition and complex narrative can be challenging for new readers. However, for dedicated fans, The Gathering Storm offers a rewarding and immersive experience.

Conclusion: Why Read The Gathering Storm?

The Gathering Storm is a must-read for fans of epic fantasy and Brandon Sanderson's works. It continues to build upon the intricate universe established in the earlier books, offering a compelling mix of action, mystery, and philosophical inquiry. Whether you are a seasoned reader or new to the series, this novel provides essential insights into the characters' journeys and the larger cosmic conflicts at play.

Key Takeaways for Readers

- Deepens understanding of Roshar's lore and magic.
- Features pivotal character development.
- Sets the stage for the series' climax.
- Explores themes of leadership, sacrifice, and hope.

Final Thoughts

Brandon Sanderson's *The Gathering Storm* stands as a testament to his mastery of fantasy storytelling. Its rich worldbuilding, complex characters, and thematic depth make it a cornerstone of modern epic fantasy. For anyone interested in a series that combines intricate magic systems with compelling moral dilemmas and epic battles, *The Gathering Storm* is an essential read that promises to leave a lasting impression.

Keywords: *The Gathering Storm* Brandon Sanderson, Stormlight Archive, Roshar, Brandon Sanderson series, epic fantasy, Knights Radiant, Surgebinding, Stormlight, fantasy worldbuilding, Brandon Sanderson books, Stormlight Archive review, Roshar magic system, epic series analysis, Brandon Sanderson novels

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Gathering Storm' by Brandon Sanderson about?

'The Gathering Storm' is the twelfth book in the *Wheel of Time* series, written by Brandon Sanderson after Robert Jordan's death. It continues the story of the fight against the Dark One, focusing on the characters Rand al'Thor, Egwene al'Vere, and others as they prepare for the Last Battle.

How does Brandon Sanderson's writing style influence 'The Gathering Storm'?

Sanderson's writing style brings a fast-paced narrative, detailed magic systems, and strong character development to 'The Gathering Storm,' blending his own voice with Jordan's original world-building to maintain consistency in the series.

What are the major themes explored in 'The Gathering Storm'?

Major themes include leadership and sacrifice, the battle between good and evil, political intrigue, and the importance of unity in the face of impending catastrophe.

How was 'The Gathering Storm' received by fans of the *Wheel of Time* series?

The book was generally well-received, praised for its faithful continuation of the series, compelling character arcs, and Sanderson's ability to honor Robert Jordan's legacy while adding his own touch.

What role does Brandon Sanderson play in completing the *Wheel of*

Time series?

Brandon Sanderson was chosen by Robert Jordan's widow and editors to complete the series after Jordan's passing, writing 'The Gathering Storm' and subsequent books based on Jordan's notes and outlines.

Are there any significant differences in tone or style between Brandon Sanderson's books and Robert Jordan's original Wheel of Time novels?

While Sanderson maintains the series' overall tone and style, some fans note that his storytelling features a more modern pacing and clearer exposition, which can differ from Jordan's more layered and poetic prose.

What are some key plot developments in 'The Gathering Storm'?

Key developments include Rand al'Thor consolidating power, Egwene al'Vere becoming Amyrlin Seat, and the gathering of forces for the final confrontation with the Dark One.

How does 'The Gathering Storm' set the stage for the final books in the Wheel of Time series?

'The Gathering Storm' escalates the conflicts, deepens character relationships, and reveals critical plot points that lead into the series' climax, setting up the final battles and resolutions.

Is 'The Gathering Storm' essential reading for fans of Brandon Sanderson outside the Wheel of Time series?

No, 'The Gathering Storm' is part of the Wheel of Time series, and while Sanderson's work is influential within this context, he has many other original works that are not connected to this series.

Where can I find more information about Brandon Sanderson's contribution to 'The Gathering Storm'?

You can learn more through interviews with Sanderson, official series guides, and fan discussions that detail his role in completing and writing the novel within the Wheel of Time series.

Additional Resources

The Gathering Storm by Brandon Sanderson is a compelling addition to the vast universe of epic fantasy literature, captivating readers with its intricate plot, richly developed characters, and profound themes. As the second book in the Stormlight Archive series, it continues to build upon the foundation laid in the first installment, The Way of Kings, while deepening the series' complex mythos and expanding its scope.

Sanderson's mastery of world-building, combined with his innovative magic systems and compelling narrative style, makes *The Gathering Storm* a must-read for fans of high fantasy and those eager to explore a richly layered universe.

Overview and Context

The Gathering Storm was published in 2013 and is part of the larger Stormlight Archive saga, which promises to be a sprawling epic spanning multiple volumes. Brandon Sanderson, known for his detailed magic systems and intricate plots, takes readers on a journey that intertwines political intrigue, personal growth, and cosmic battles. The book picks up shortly after the events of *The Way of Kings*, with the world of Roshar still reeling from war, political upheaval, and the emergence of powerful new forces.

The novel is set against a backdrop of ongoing conflict and rising chaos, with multiple plotlines converging. Sanderson's skill in balancing character development with expansive world-building shines through as he explores themes of leadership, sacrifice, faith, and the nature of power. The narrative is driven by a large cast of characters, each with their own arcs, motives, and struggles, making it a complex but rewarding read.

Plot Summary and Major Themes

The Convergence of Conflict

The Gathering Storm weaves together several major plotlines:

- The political turmoil in Alethkar and the wider kingdom, with shifts in leadership and power struggles.
- The resurgence of the ancient and powerful forces linked to the Knights Radiant and the mysterious spren.
- The personal journeys of key characters, including Kaladin, Dalinar, and Shallan, as they confront their pasts and their destinies.
- The looming threat of the Voidbringers and the battle to prevent the coming of Desolation.

Major themes explored include:

- Leadership and Responsibility: Dalinar's ongoing struggle to unify his fractured nation and uphold his oath

as a true leader.

- Faith and Doubt: The characters' grappling with their beliefs, especially in the face of mounting chaos.
- The Nature of Power: How individuals wield influence and the consequences of their decisions.
- The Cycle of War: Recurrent conflicts and the possibility of breaking free from destructive patterns.

Plot Highlights

The novel's key events include:

- Dalinar's efforts to unite the highprinces and solidify his authority amidst suspicion and treachery.
- Kaladin's continued journey as a leader among the armies, dealing with the burdens of responsibility and his burgeoning powers.
- Shallan's investigation into her past and her developing abilities as a Lightweaver.
- The revelation of new truths about the history of Roshar and the ancient Knights Radiant.
- The buildup to an impending apocalyptic event, with the characters racing against time to find solutions.

Character Development

Brandon Sanderson excels in creating multidimensional characters whose growth feels organic and compelling. In *The Gathering Storm*, readers witness significant evolution across several key figures.

Dalinar Kholin

Dalinar's arc is perhaps the most prominent. Once known as a brutal warlord, he strives to become a true leader guided by honor and his oaths. His internal conflicts, visions, and doubts are explored deeply, making him one of the most nuanced characters in modern fantasy. His efforts to unite the highprinces and combat the growing threat showcase his resilience and moral complexity.

Pros:

- Rich internal monologues provide insight into his struggles.
- His development from a warrior to a wise leader adds depth.
- The exploration of his visions and their implications deepens the mythos.

Cons:

- Sometimes his introspection can slow pacing.
- His storyline may seem dense for readers seeking fast action.

Kaladin Stormblessed

Kaladin's journey from a broken soldier to a leader among the soldiers and a Windrunner continues to be compelling. His struggles with depression, self-doubt, and newfound powers resonate strongly. His relationships with other characters, especially his bonds with his spren Syl and his men, add emotional weight to his arc.

Pros:

- Deeply personal and emotionally resonant.
- Demonstrates themes of resilience and hope.
- Exciting action scenes showcasing his Windrunner abilities.

Cons:

- Some readers may find his internal battles repetitive.
- His storyline occasionally overlaps with other plot threads, reducing focus.

Shallan Davar

Shallan's character arc is marked by her quest for identity and mastery of her Lightweaving powers. Her investigation into her past and her interactions with her other personas provide psychological depth. Her development from a timid scholar to a confident individual is well-crafted.

Pros:

- Complex psychological portrayal.
- Reveals important truths about Roshar's history.
- Her magic development adds intrigue.

Cons:

- Some may find her internal dialogues lengthy.
- Her storyline can feel overshadowed by more action-oriented plots.

World-Building and Magic System

Sanderson's world-building is meticulous, with a detailed history, cultures, and religions that make Roshar feel alive and immersive. The magic system, based on the Surges and the Spren, is one of the most innovative in fantasy literature.

Surge Powers and Knights Radiant

The Knights Radiant and their Surges form the backbone of the magic system:

- Adhesion: The power to bind objects or people.
- Gravitation: Manipulating gravity.
- Division: Destruction of matter.
- Progression: Healing and growth.
- Illumination: Creating light and illusions.
- Transportation: Moving across distances instantly.
- Windweaving: Manipulating wind and storms.

Sanderson's explanation of how these powers work, combined with the lore surrounding the Knights Radiant, adds depth and realism.

Features:

- Unique magic with clear rules.
- Magic's integration into society and culture.
- Thematic ties to the series' exploration of honor and responsibility.

Pros:

- Creative and well-explained magic system.
- Enhances the plot and character development.

Cons:

- The complexity may overwhelm new readers.
- Some magical concepts are revisited multiple times, which may slow pacing.

Writing Style and Pacing

Sanderson's prose is accessible yet descriptive, balancing detailed world-building with character-driven storytelling. His pacing is generally steady, with moments of intense action punctuated by introspective passages. The narrative often shifts focus among multiple characters, which can be challenging but ultimately enriches the story.

Strengths:

- Clear, engaging writing style.
- Skillful handling of multiple viewpoints.
- Well-placed action sequences and emotional beats.

Weaknesses:

- The multi-POV structure may feel disjointed at times.
- Certain subplots can feel prolonged or secondary.

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Deep, immersive world-building with rich lore.
- Innovative and consistent magic system.
- Strong character development with emotional depth.
- Thought-provoking themes about leadership, faith, and morality.
- Skillful blending of political intrigue, action, and introspection.

Cons:

- Dense and complex, potentially challenging for newcomers.
- Pacing can fluctuate due to multiple plotlines.
- Some character arcs may feel slow or overly introspective.
- The series' scope requires commitment, which might be daunting for casual readers.

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

The Gathering Storm exemplifies Brandon Sanderson's talent for crafting epic fantasy that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally engaging. It continues to expand the Stormlight Archive universe with intricate plots, profound themes, and memorable characters. While its complexity may pose a challenge for some readers, those willing to invest in its rich tapestry will find a rewarding experience filled with wonder, suspense, and philosophical reflection.

For fans of detailed world-building, innovative magic, and character-driven stories, The Gathering Storm is a standout installment that elevates the series to new heights. It not only advances the overarching narrative but also deepens the themes of honor, leadership, and hope—making it a vital read in modern fantasy literature. Whether you're a seasoned Sanderson fan or new to the series, this book offers a compelling journey through a world on the brink of collapse and the heroes striving to save it.

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Oziewicz and Farah Mendlesohn. The second part of the book provides an interesting comprehensive taxonomy of its own, based on the notion of supragenological types of literature, first introduced by Andrzej Zgorzelski.

the gathering storm brandon sanderson: The Fallon Trilogy Robert Jordan, 2018-05-08
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