

“Throne of Glass” Review

Title: “Throne of Glass”, book one

Author: Sarah J. Maas

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: 3.5/5

Throne of Glass is the first book in the series of the same name, by author Sarah J. Maas. Main character Celaena Sardothien is feared throughout the kingdom of Adarlan as its most deadly assassin. Having spent the last year in a slave labour camp for her crimes, she is dragged before the ruthless king to participate in a deadly contest with twenty-three other warriors and killers, competing for the chance to serve as the King’s Champion and gain her eventual freedom. But as competitors begin to turn up dead in the castle, Celaena realizes something much darker is at work, and things much bigger than her freedom are at stake.

There’s a lot of things to like in this book. Maas’s world building is intriguing. The kingdom of Adarlan is only one of several, and the relations between the kingdoms definitely comes into play. This book remains set in Adarlan however, leaving readers to wait until later books to experience the true history and depth Maas put into her world.

Maas’s characters are what really shine in this novel though. Celaena is a protagonist that keeps the reader interested in her. She’s a kick-butt, sarcastic, take-charge leading lady, but not entirely what readers have come to expect from an assassin. Maas allows her protagonist to keep a soft side and her own personality, which rounds out Celaena’s character in a way that tends to get overlooked- she’s someone you *want* to stand behind, despite being an assassin. Her backstory is hinted at in this novel, but not revealed- trust me though, the wait is more than worth it.

Even secondary characters are given distinct personalities and relationships with each other. Throughout the series every character develops and changes in ways that make them even more interesting. Maas certainly takes the ‘plot driven by characters’ approach in her writing, rather than the somewhat stale ‘characters driven by plot’.

The pace of the book is fast, not leaving readers bored. Maas maintains a good balance, interspersing prose with witty dialogue. It reads smoothly and transitions well from one scene to another, avoiding awkward transitions that take the reader out of the story.

It does, however, fall prey to a couple clichés- namely the somewhat overdone love triangle. But since it remains a subplot and doesn’t become a pivotal point or get dwelt on extensively, I found it easy enough to forgive.

My main complaint is that the novel serves mostly as an introduction to the rest of the series. Readers aren’t given much information pertaining to the main story arc of the series, which is a shame- the main arc is truly a fantastic story. Once I read the other books of the series, this first novel began to feel almost irrelevant in some ways- it serves more as a way to start the plot of the series, rather than

being *part* of the plot. Still, it lays the groundwork and, in true Maas fashion, small moments and characters that are initially overlooked by the reader become pivotal in later books.

Overall, *Throne of Glass* is a compelling, fun read that keeps the reader engaged and leads into a truly phenomenal series.