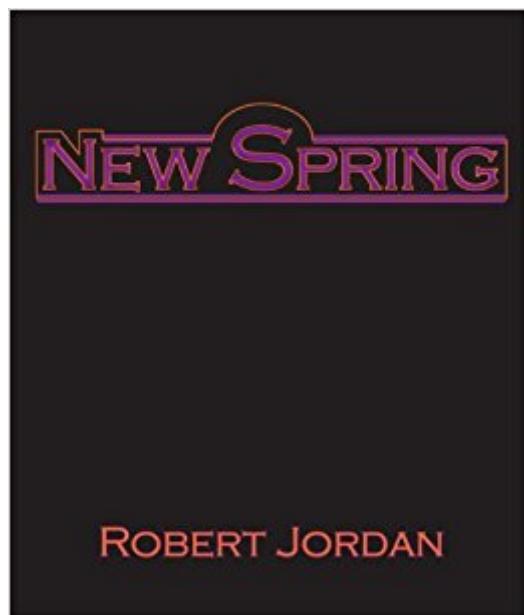


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New Spring: The Novel (Wheel Of Time)



Synopsis

From America's premier fantasy writer---#1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *Crossroads of Twilight*---comes an expanded version of his novella "New Spring," first published in the *Legends* collection. For three days battle has raged in the snow around the great city of Tar Valon. In the city, a Foretelling of the future is uttered. On the slopes of Dragonmount, the immense mountain that looms over the city, is born an infant prophesied to change the world. That child must be found before the forces of the Shadow have an opportunity to kill him. Moiraine Damodred, a young Accepted soon to be raised to Aes Sedai, and Lan Mandragoran, a soldier fighting in the battle, are set on paths that will bind their lives together. But those paths are filled with complications and dangers, for Moiraine, of the Royal House of Cairhien, whose king has just died, and Lan, considered the uncrowned king of a nation long dead, find their lives threatened by the plots of those seeking power. "New Spring" related some of these events, in compressed form; *New Spring: The Novel* tells the whole story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Expanded from a story that first appeared in Robert Silverberg's anthology *Legends* (1998), Jordan's eagerly awaited prequel to *The Wheel of Time*, the first of a projected three, more than lives up to its high expectations. For three days, battle has raged around the city of Tar Valon. In the White Tower two young Accepted attend the Amyrlin Seat and her Keeper as they await word of the outcome. Purely by chance, Moiraine Damodred and Siuan Sanche are on duty when the Keeper

foretells the rebirth of the Dragon, the world's only hope of winning the fight against the Dark One. Written with all the skill that has made Jordan one of the grand masters of fantasy, it's accessible enough for new readers, while the inside information is sure to captivate longtime fans. Far from the coldly self-possessed Aes Sedai who arrives in Emond's Field in *The Eye of the World*, the first *Wheel* book, Moiraine is a fun-loving, prank-playing and naïve Accepted, one who slowly grows into a determined and resourceful character. Even better, the narrative is flush with answers to mysteries only hinted at in *Wheel* (what was the test for Aes Sedai, what was "the Vileness") and with little details aimed at those in the know. Jordan buffs will be especially pleased to find the novel moves quickly, not at the glacial pace of recent books in the saga. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Jordan's best-selling *Wheel of Time* stands at 10 volumes and counting, and now he starts a prequel series by expanding his contribution to *Legends* (1998), an anthology of stories set in the worlds of their authors' novel-series. Basically, the new tale is about how two *Wheel* protagonists--the soldier Lan Mandragoran, claimant to the throne of a kingdom long defunct; and Moiraine of the royal house of Cairhien, an initiate of the sorceresses known as Aes Sedai--met. The momentous event comes early in the search for the infant boy who, grown up, may save the perpetually warring *Wheel* world from the Dark One. It doesn't occur, however, until this book is winding down. The preceding pages, after an opening in which Lan and his command are reprieved from certain death when the enormous army they are about to engage turns and marches away, focus on Moiraine's and her friend Siuan's last days as wanna-be, and first as new-fledged, Aes Sedai. Both take their new status as license to look for the child of destiny, and they have inside dope, thanks to having heard a senior Aes Sedai announce the child's birth with her dying breath. The term padding comes to mind soon and often as New Spring blooms. Perhaps it should have been left a short story, and perhaps only *Wheel of Time* junkies will genuinely enjoy it. Said habitues are by now legion; acquire accordingly. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Spoilers.I thought the story overall was about average quality-wise for the *Wheel of Time* series (albeit in miniaturized form). While I enjoyed the final third better than the first two, both had their pleasures and frustrations. It was a delight watching Siuan and Moiraine's relationship in their progression toward the shawl. The passing of the test in the great oval ring Ter'angreal, however,

was a bit of a letdown. But the story became even more engaging as we watched the fledgling Aes Sedai begin their real education outside the Tower with Cadsuane's sage insight into Moiraine's youthfully ignorant impetuousness playing itself out. Always the prankster, Moiraine's juvenile deeds in the Tower laid the necessary groundwork for her interactions with Lan on the road to Chachin, where I finally felt that I was beginning to see the Moiraine I was familiar with in the rest of the WoT series. New Spring completes Moiraine's and Siuan's character arcs by showing us where they came from. It makes where they are going and what happens to them so much more important and fruitful. We also spend enough time in and around the White Tower to know how the rest of the world sort of revolves around it. Now if only those chapters that added nothing to the story other than the purchase of a dress or the name of yet another inn and its owner had been edited out. The ending flew by at breakneck speed, which was quite a change in pace from the rest of the story, but not out of character with other books where the harrowing conclusion usually only occupies the final chapter and/or epilogue. The character of Lan wasn't developed as much as one could have hoped, but for such a reticent fellow who believed the past belonged only to the man and those who shared it with him, perhaps it was enough. The one place where it hurt the story, however, was in the moment of Lan's bonding. What was he thinking when he made his vow? What did he really think about this strange, diminutive woman? Did he believe that becoming her Warder was a suitable way to wage his war with the Blight or was it his way of running from the duty that was heavier than a mountain? Or something else entirely? And what about his "luck"? That he came out of the Blight is one thing, or that he survived a fight he should have lost is another, but to have walked (no, RAN) away from that fall in the palace . . . The fact he was a target of the Black Ajah from the beginning through Ryne confirms what Moiraine directly mentions: there seems to be a connection between Lan and luck. But what does that mean? Lan can't channel. He's no Ta'veren. Hopefully there is something more to all this that gets revealed later on in the series. While I can understand Siuan and Moiraine jumping at Aes Sedai shadows and seeing Black Ajah everywhere, I still don't understand why Moiraine felt so convinced that Merean had to be either Black Ajah or one of Tamra's searchers. Because she showed up in two of the same cities that Moiraine was visiting? Because she said Larelle changed her mind about going to Chachin? None of that make sense at all. Perhaps it was part of her sophomoric thinking (like believing Cadsuane to be Black) and her inability to see past her own purposes in Chachin, but her thinking prior to the events that revealed Merean's true nature wasn't explained clearly enough. When I first read through the WoT series, beginning with Eye of the World, I loved that the story began in the middle of nowhere and we got to see things through the eyes of naïve young adults with no concept of what awaited them in the

larger world. And I was very willing to discover along with them what that entailed. However, I felt betrayed when Robert Jordan suddenly introduced two people groups that would overtake and overrun the story I was reading. I disliked them immediately because the way the story had been written, they intruded where they didn't belong. It would be like hearing about the people in Shara and how there's been some interaction with them and then suddenly it's the people of Shara who decide the fate of the world. Who are these Shara people again? Why do they matter to this story? However, New Spring brought one of those two groups to the forefront at the very beginning so that we know the importance they will have later in the story. For me, this changes the entire way I view the WoT and what happens in it. And it is only after reading New Spring that I realize what it meant in Knife of Dreams when Nynaeve raised the Golden Crane in the Borderlands--another element that makes this story essential. The most important thing about the very beginning of a story is excitement. You need a story that pulls you in so hard, you can't get away. As it stands, I don't think I would tell my friends to begin reading the series with New Spring. It isn't powerful enough on its own to introduce and support the entire series. A better hook with more action and suspense would have been getting to see Lews Therin and the Companions sealing the Bore, going instantly insane, and destroying the world. Then enter the plot about the Dragon being reborn and the quest to find the child. Will this child be different? Will he avoid the errors of his past incarnation with the help of these characters--if they can find him? Well, the Jordan weaves as the Jordan wills. And this book will have to do... perhaps as an appendix to book one.

One of the best-realized fantasy worlds in my extensive reading experience. Jordan's narrative style, aptly continued by Sanderson, is both compelling and amusing. Each of the primary characters is fully developed and engages the reader, and even the minor characters are more than just "extras" in this epic tale.

This was a fun prequel. Full of intrigue and excitement. I would recommend this to anyone who has already read or is planning to start the wheel of time series.

"New Spring" is a prequel to Robert Jordan's "Wheel of Time" series, and I would only recommend it to fans of the series. I would also suggest reading it in published order or after completing the series. If you read the novel in published order, it will further build some suspicions of which sisters are Black Ajah, and it will give a deeper appreciation of Lan, Moraine, and Siuan. Since I read it after finishing the series, I already knew what would play out for each of these characters, but I still

enjoyed getting back in touch with the epic saga. In comparing this book to Jordan's other novels, I thought it was a bit slow, and a notch below the first six books; however it was better than his middle books in the series. Overall, I enjoyed the book, and learning a bit more about the years leading up to Rand's birth, and the Dark One's plans to bring everything down.

Not as compelling as some of the earlier Robert Jordan novels - he's clearly trying to wrap things up - but it does add some perspective on the Aiel War, the Borderlands, and the Black Ajah that adds somewhat to the overall story. The main characters, (Sui'an, Moraine, and Lan - obviously the main purpose for Jordan writing the novel), aren't as compelling as they were in the original set.. and after reading it, I'm not sure that having this back story actually adds to the overall experience or detracts from it. It certainly didn't reveal anything unexpected or unique.

Excellent quality. Excellent price. Excellent seller. I would definitely buy from this seller again!

This is a great book, and the first in a wonderful series. There is a massive fan base for this series and for good reason. It has an original story line, large cast of well drawn and individual characters, and nice twists and turns. This book itself is a prequel that came out later, but is very good, and gives you some background on some of the characters you always wondered about. It also helps to answer some questions along the way. Great plot.

Having read most of the original series, and accidentally allowing life from allowing me to finish, I thought it would be nice to begin the series again starting with this one. This book clearly opens readers to Robert Jordans world of Aes Sedai, Warders, and the Black Ajah. The background on the Aes Sedai was amazing. I wish I could read more of this preseries! I want to know exactly what Lan, Mouraune, and San do.

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