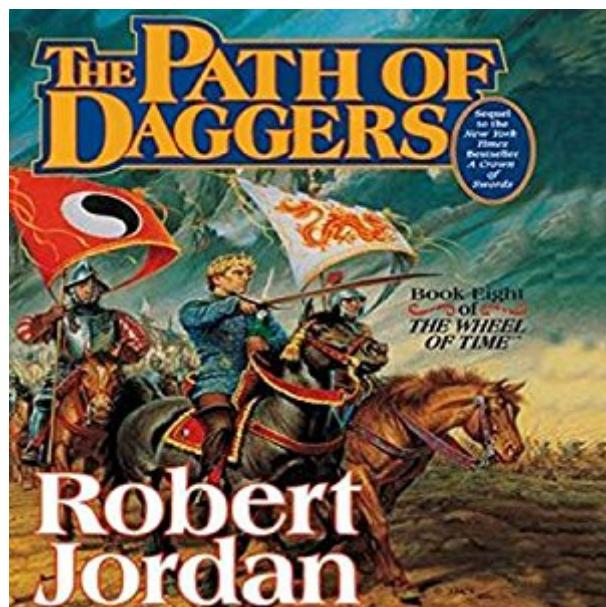


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# Path Of Daggers: Book Eight Of The Wheel Of Time



## Synopsis

For millions of fans around the globe, the wait is over. Sequel to the international blockbuster bestseller *A Crown of Swords*, this epic volume continues one of history's greatest fictional journeys and the most extraordinary work of American fantasy ever published--*The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and worldwide bestselling series--*The Wheel of Time*. The phenomenal tale that is mesmerizing a generation of readers now continues. The Seanchan invasion force is in possession of Ebou Dar. Nynaeve, Elayne, and Aviendha head for Caemlyn and Elayne's rightful throne, but on the way they discover an enemy much worse than the Seanchan. In Illian, Rand vows to throw the Seanchan back as he did once before. But signs of madness are appearing among the Asha'man. In Ghealdan, Perrin faces the intrigues of Whitecloaks, Seanchan invaders, the scattered Shaido Aiel, and the Prophet himself. Perrin's beloved wife, Faile, may pay with her life, and Perrin himself may have to destroy his soul to save her. Meanwhile the rebel Aes Sedai under their young Amyrlin, Egwene al'Vere, face an army that intends to keep them away from the White Tower. But Egwene is determined to unseat the usurper Elaida and reunite the Aes Sedai. She does not yet understand the price that others--and she herself--will pay. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An amazing transformation came over me while reading this book. No, I did not turn into a lizard or a bird. Never before have I experienced such an enormous swing in my state of mind while reading

a book. No classic has moved me so much. No works of Hume, nor Kant, nor even Harry Potter's chambermaid have driven in me such a force of wild-eyed realization as compared with this amazing collection of words. I will do my best to describe the story, without boxing your ears or tugging my braid. The story starts like all of Jordan's stories do, which is to say that an avalanche of words were used to describe such mundane things as grass and horse eye lashes. Nevertheless, Jordan's indispensable and uncanny knack for stringing words together kept me in the game. I had read the first seven books in the series and knew what I was up against. This was nothing. A hundred, two hundred, or even fifty thousand words to describe yet another immature dialog between a pair of immature people wedged in an altogether immature scenario would never get me down. But as time wore on, it started to wear on me. Like water over a rock, my meddle started to wan, slowly washing away with the sands of the wheel of time. I began zoning out, unable to focus on the words on the page before me, finding myself having read an entire paragraph with no recollection of having done so. I wondered, am I really taking an SAT test? All my previous training seemed to have left me. My eyes were failing me, my brain quitting. I was aghast. This series of books that had heretofore been as straight in it's narrative as a pentangle was bogging down more than I thought even possible. I was losing interest. The flame was going out. But I dug deep.

There has been a fair bit of controversy surrounding The Path of Daggers, mostly centering on how many readers (including myself) felt that the book was incomplete and the ending rushed. Indeed, if you look at the typeface (hardcover), it's quite a bit larger than the previous books, indicating that POD has far less words than they do despite a similar number of printed pages. Also, between books 7 and POD, RJ wrote a novella 'New Spring' (which is quite good, and takes place before book 1) for an anthology (Legends) and contributed a great deal to 'The World of Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time' (a encyclopedia-like book on the series up thru book 7, and also quite good, except for the art work; and a questionable move in itself since the series isn't even done yet.) So RJ had a lot on his plate while attempting to complete POD, and my feeling has always been that he felt a lot of pressure to put out a new book, and so he cut short the manuscript to relieve some of that pressure. Not a lot happens in POD; most of the book sets up events to come in the next volume. That doesn't mean there weren't some interesting developments, but most readers' disappointment with the book can be summed up in 2 words: Where's Mat? PLOTTING: There are 4 main plot threads. Perrin's thread gets the least amount of play, which is disappointing, especially with what the jacket blurb hints at. After about 10 or so pages of the Sea Folk women arguing at the Aes Sedai and Vice Versa, I got seriously bored, although the unravelling Traveling thread was

quite exciting. There was a lot of build-up for Egwene's 'coup', but the payoff seemed pretty weak. I mean, all she had to do was declare war?

I started this series before i could shave:3 kids1 wifecollege4 jobs2 major moves, and a bit of hair loss later, i'm still reading about Rand, Matt and Perrin (and 312,456 other characters that i've filed away under "i hate that i have to remember you and your blasted, nonsensical name. especially since you'll probably not pop up again in the story untill book 17, and by that time you will share the same syntax, syllable length and letter configuration as 457 other characters of similar importance introduced since. In addition to not remebering who you are and why you suddenly interrupted an Aes Sedai tea party complete with serenity, dignified reserve and calm surface chatter about ice peppers from Saldea, i have to read a 7 page description of your feelings about the said Aes Sedai's choice of tea." And while that appears to be a long mental file to keep characters confined in, you should actually try reading these books and keep every freaking character straight!) I once watched a PBS special about cab drivers in London. Doctors had discovered that there is a part of our brain that stores the necessary details we need to travel about our little corner of the world. For London cabbies, who have to recall VAST amounts of detail in a city that seems to have been designed by drunken Lugarders, this part of their brain was COSIDERABLY larger than average. So much so that when compared side by side to that of a "normal" brain, i gasped at the difference. Then something occured to me that had me quickly regaining a sense of serenity; i realized that this portion of my brain must now fill up my entire skull due to the amount of detail necessary to keep up with the story. Jordan himself must have two seperate heads just to store all that detail in.

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