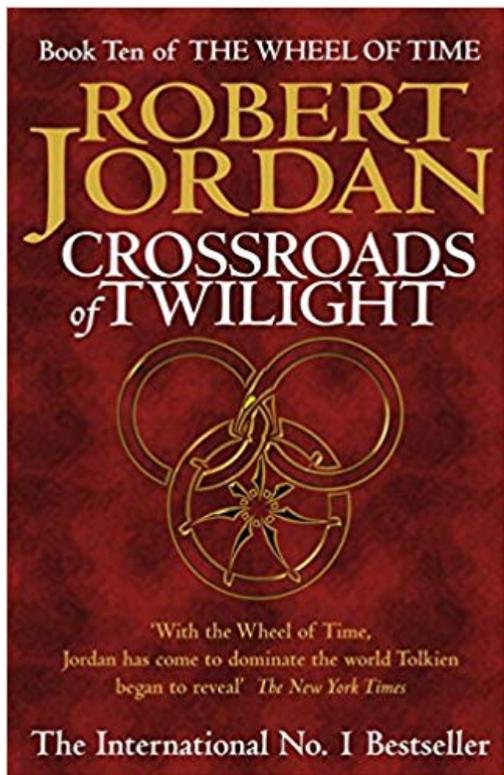


Crossroads of Twilight (The Wheel of Time) by Robert Jordan



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In the tenth book of *The Wheel of Time* from the *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Robert Jordan, the world and the characters stand at a crossroads, and the world approaches twilight, when the power of the Shadow grows stronger. Fleeing from Ebou Dar with the kidnapped Daughter of the Nine Moons, whom he is fated to marry, Mat Cauthon learns that he can neither keep her nor let her go, not in safety for either of them, for both the Shadow and the might of the Seanchan Empire are in deadly pursuit. Perrin Aybara seeks to free his wife, Faile, a captive of the Shaido, but his only hope may be an alliance with the enemy. Can he remain true to his friend Rand and to himself? For his love of Faile, Perrin is willing to sell his soul. At Tar Valon, Egwene al'Vere, the young Amyrlin of the rebel Aes Sedai, lays siege to the heart of Aes Sedai power, but she must win quickly, with as little bloodshed as possible, for unless the Aes Sedai are reunited, only the male Asha'man will remain to defend the world against the Dark One, and nothing can hold the Asha'man themselves back from total power except the Aes Sedai and a unified White Tower. In Andor, Elayne Trakland fights for the Lion Throne that is hers by right, but enemies and Darkfriends surround her, plotting her destruction. If she fails, Andor may fall to the Shadow, and the Dragon Reborn with it. Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn himself, has cleansed the Dark One's taint from the male half of the True Source, and everything has changed. Yet nothing has, for only men who can channel believe that *saidin* is clean again, and a man who can channel is still hated and feared—even one prophesied to save the world. Now, Rand must gamble again, with himself at stake, and he cannot be sure which of his allies are really enemies.



Reviews of the **Crossroads of Twilight (The Wheel of Time)** **by Robert Jordan**

Conjukus

Everyone dithers about.

That is basically the entire plot of this book explained in one short sentence. I have read a lot of books in my day, and have read countless reviews calling a book boring, or giving the accusation that "nothing happens". Usually it is hyperbole, but in this case it is the honest truth. Almost nothing happens in this book. Now, if you read the series up to this point, you know you will read this. But you really don't need to.

If you DO want to save several hours of your life, though, let me spoil the whole book in a few blurbs (and I'm not even worried about offending anyone with spoilers because non of this is ground breaking enough to anger anyone that they were "spoiled"). You can pick up the next volume Knife of Dreams, in which things do finally start moving forward again and not skip a beat.

Perrin- finds the camp Faile is being held at by the Shaido . he dithers about its outskirts, fretting about how he can possibly rescue her. Goes and buys grain in a creepy town (which ironically is about the most exciting chapter this book has. Yes. The most exciting chapter in the whole book is about buying grain). Oh yes, the Seanchan want to talk to him as it ends.

Elaine- dithers about in Caemlyn with a bunch of annoying bickering royals and followers, while feeling hormonal (because she is pregnant). Some outside forces plot against her, but Nothing happens.

Mat- is dithering about while traveling with Luca's circus, gets to know Tuon a little, otherwise nothing happens.

Rand- gets like 2 mere chapters here after cleansing saidin in the last book which should be an earth-shattering thing, but almost no acknowledgement is given in this book. Basically just spends time lying low, dithering about, and brooding as usual on how hard he needs to be. Nothing happens.

Egwene and the aes sedai- they dither about outside of Tar Valon, trying to figure out what to do to take the White Tower with minimal bloodshed. The other Aes Sedai are all as horrible and condescending as usual. Nothing happens until the very end, when she is suddenly kidnapped (which is basically the only real thing that happens in this book that moves the plot forward- but no joke, this happens suddenly in the last pages of the book and ends here. Its not like its well written, or an

exciting sequence- it just happens suddenly. And the book ends.

Previous books have usually ended with a big Rand chapter where he does something huge and world changing- conquers a nation, attacks a forsaken, big battle, etc. Nothing like that happens here.

like this which is a mi

Now its not all bad. These are still the characters you know and love (or not). They are richly written, and in the end, you do get to spend more time with them, and their wants, worries, and aspirations. I'll give two stars for this. But nothing happens. If you go into a book and expect it to have a clear plot- beginning, middle, and end, if you will, you don't find it here. Even a book middle part of a long series, generally at least has some kind of unique theme, adventure, set of events, or a particular adversary that it deals with which makes it a unique story. There is nothing of the sort here. Quite simply... Everyone Dithers About. The End.

So there you have it- Crossroads of Twilight. Nothing happens. Everyone dithers about. Enjoy.

Frei

I have to agree with one reviewer who said he encouraged Jordan to keep writing, as a book of this sheer ineptitude had engendered some of the finest reviews he'd ever read. I wish CoT had done half the job of keeping me up late reading that these reviews have done. When readers as erudite, thoughtful and downright funny as these say your book is bad, it just is. End of story. And my God, is this book bad.

I do have a couple of comments to those few brave souls still trying to defend Jordan:

1.) Transition book? What the hell is a transition book? Transition paragraph, yeah. Transition chapter, OK. But since when does anyone need to, let alone have the right to, write a transition novel? Or maybe I'm wrong. I'm sure the Lord of the Rings could have been greatly improved by wedging 400 pages of "character development" between Two Towers and Return of the King. This innovative literary device will no doubt be creeping its way into community college creative writing classes any day now.

2.) Speaking of character development - you can't have development without action of some kind. No, it doesn't have to involve swords or battle or Forsaken, but it does have to involve something more than a character kicking back and contemplating events. Characters develop by reacting to external events and each other. Sitting in place thinking is just that - sitting in place. The only thing it develops is extreme boredom in the reader.

Despite my warnings, my younger brother will no doubt launch into CoT as soon as I hand it over to him. He, like most long-time Wheel of Time readers, simply can't believe it can be as bad as those of us who've gone before say. After he's finished, and we've commiserated a bit, I'm going to ask for it back. Then I'll do something I've never done before, never considered doing before, heck, have never even heard of before. I'm going to pack the book in a box and mail it to Tor, with a nice little sticky attached that informs them that not only will I never buy another Jordan book, I'll be reluctant to buy any book Tor puts out.

I still eagerly anticipate the next book, however - not so that I can read it, but so I can see where it debuts on the NY Times Bestseller list. Five? 10? Not at all? Now that will be entertaining. We Constant Readers (to borrow Stephen King's term) may be loyal, but we're not stupid. I hope.

Shan

If you've read the previous books you know what you're getting with Robert Jordan. You know his long winded style, his description of every single person in the room with lengthy backstory and usually involved in the story later on as well. Marvelously intricate and the world he creates is as deep as the ocean and well described. And you love it if you are here at book ten. You know that but this book is Robert Jordan 'dripping like honey in a snowstorm' with his words and story, a muddled mess beyond the usual level of slow development you are used to. Do you want to know what everyone in the entire story thinks about Rand cleansing the male half of the source? You're going to

find out with long rambling tangents as we follow every character in the book and their reaction to what could have been the most exciting highlight of the book but which seems to wander along. But you are going to go ahead and plod on in like I did. I don't blame Robert Jordan, he was sick by this time I think. The audible is really the way to go with this book. I go through both the electronic version and audio with Robert Jordan because it's really a rewarding experience. The words, the descriptions, the characters are ones you want to soak in every word and enjoy but here the story really plods along and drags and when you get to the end you feel like you didn't get a proper ending. So it's poor all around. But still, there's still the next book and hopefully we'll get some closure with the next.

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