



Tower of Dawn

Sarah J. Maas

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In the next installment of the *New York Times* bestselling *Throne of Glass* series, follow Chaol on his sweeping journey to a distant empire.

Chaol Westfall has always defined himself by his unwavering loyalty, his strength, and his position as the Captain of the Guard. But all of that has changed since the glass castle shattered, since his men were slaughtered, since the King of Adarlan spared him from a killing blow, but left his body broken.

His only shot at recovery lies with the legendary healers of the Torre Cesme in Antica—the stronghold of the southern continent's mighty empire. And with war looming over Dorian and Aelin back home, their survival might lie with Chaol and Nesryn convincing its rulers to ally with them.

But what they discover in Antica will change them both—and be more vital to saving Erilea than they could have imagined.

Tower of Dawn Details

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Author : Sarah J. Maas

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From Reader Review Tower of Dawn for online ebook

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

happy dance because i loved this when i thought i was gonna hate it

Warda says

GODDAMN THIS WAS EPIC! THIS SERIES IS LIFE! SARAH J MAAS IS LIFE! ?

Thanks to my babe Lena for making this reading experience extra amazing! Always going to have fond memories attached to it now! <3

I mean, 5 ? of course! Are we surprised? What else would it be?! SJM, my queen of everything.

I just want to curl up in a ball, stay in a cave somewhere till the last book comes out. Last page? Fuckin **sadistic** move! ?

There's so much that's happening in this overall story of Aelin and her court! (I get so psyched when I say that! Boss woman!) So much that needs resolving and I don't know how Sarah J Maas will wrap it up. Especially with the new revelations brought to light. I mean, can I get a WTF? One thing I can rely on though is that she always delivers for me.

Chaol as a character since the beginning of this series has been one of my favorites. Before my obsession with Rowan or Aelin or Dorian even. He was the one I instantly warmed to and cared for. And his overall character arc from book one till now has been an incredible and healing journey to follow. I adore him! Flaws and all!

I'm so damn happy this turned out to be an actual novel. Chaol needed it. He deserved it. I still get pissy and when I read that people believe, or assume shall we say because that is what they're doing, that Sarah J Maas has no care for Chaol. No, I want to laugh. It's pathetic. Childish. His story would never have worked in Empire of Storms. Simply because, a 1000 page YA fantasy book just doesn't get published. He got the respect and the attention through this book. His own story and journey that completes and adds so much more to what Sarah J Maas has planned for the next book.

I can't wait to see the role of each character. The reunion, people!!!! At times, I felt that the plot was quite... simplistic. For what I thought to be such a complicated matter, the answers or the outcomes for a particular plot line did not completely satisfy me. It's my only qualm. Other than that, this series safely sits alongside my Potter collection as one of my all-time favourite series. Books!

(view spoiler)

PRE-RELEASE RANTS AND THOUGHTS!

Am I the only one that thinks that people are getting way, way, waaaaaaaay to sensitive and emotional about this cover now? It's Chaol's fuckin' face that just missing. That's it. To insinuate that SJM has no care for

HER CHARACTER is so stupid, I don't even know where to begin. We're getting a fully-fledged fuckin' (note: alliteration!) novel, that was meant to be a novella initially. People need to pipe down those emotions! *rolls eyes*

20/06/2017 — WE HAVE THE COVER!! And I'm not psyched about it at all. ? Pretty sure Bloomsbury and Maas's people could've done a better job... Why could they have not just followed the theme of the other books and have Chaol on the cover instead?! ? I don't care what that dumb shield signifies, give me Chaol! ? #frustrated

Not doubting that the story will deliver though!

19/06/2017 — WE ARE GETTING A COVER TOMORROW!!! I AM EMOSH!

Kiki says

**"With you gone, my lord, I... I took the night to visit my parents."
[Chaol] tried not to cringe. A family. [Kadja] had family here, and he'd never bothered to ask--**

You may as well pick up your bows and your quivers, because being shot in the vagina with a poisoned arrow would probably be less painful than reading *one more page* of Chaol's Boring Journey to God Knows Where With Fuck Knows Who Doing Who Fucking Cares. Bonus points for the chapters, many of which I skimmed like no woman has ever skimmed before, detailing Nesryn's Boring Journey to Some Fucking Mountains With Some Dude and The Spider I Vacuumed Up Last Week.

Honest to god, guys, this book was so boring I nearly died reading it. The hell happened? I'm hardly the biggest fan of the one with Feyre and Rhysand and all of their strange chiseled friends, but at least it held my attention. I low key went into cardiac arrest trying to get through this. The kicker is this: both *Empire of Storms* and *Tower of Dawn* were boring and full of fillers. The obvious solution should have been to smooch them together into one book, but... \$\$\$ I guess. That's just kind of sad.

The basic premise is this: Chaol goes to Antica to rally support for Aelin*. Okay, so we can work with that. But what we ended up with was just loads of stuff just straight up stolen from Game of Thrones! I mean, come on - Chaol is Hand of the King! Hand of the King is a title invented by George R. R. Martin. "Hand of the King" was never a title held by any historical figure. It's literally just stolen. There's no getting away from it.

*Aelin is going to be a shit queen. I just can't get past it. Does she know how to manage money or land or diplomacy? Course not! She just enjoys burning people. Get her some wildfire because she's basically just Cersei without all of those sad inbred children and her brother naked in her bed. Yikes!

Before this book, I actually really liked Chaol. I also sympathised with him, given that everyone took him for granted, and he went so far above his pay grade it's not even funny, just to be scorned by all and sundry for running away when an actual demon was trying to shear him in half with otherworldly magic. I still don't get why everyone has this weird attitude to him but I banged on about that for long enough in my review of

Queen of Shadows so I won't bore you all with it now.

After *Tower of Dawn*, I'm not sick of Chaol for the same reasons that most people attest to: I've heard a lot of folk saying they hate him now because of the way he treated Nesryn. Nesryn dumped him via a note - actually, nah. I bet it was really a napkin, just thrown down on his dresser. Literally just *Cho, I'm sick of you, don't call me, kthxbye* and that's that. That's like Ye Olde Break Up Text. Truth be told, they were barely together to begin with. But that's not even the crux of the matter: I just hate Nesryn because she's so boring. Words can't even explain how little I care about her. She could have made like me the first 637658386 times I played Minecraft and tried to dig straight down (don't do that!!!!) and ended up in a lava pit, and I wouldn't have given a tiny rat's ass. I cared even less about her than I did about that bit at the beginning of *Fallout*, when you have to pretend to be devastated that your wife got shot and your baby got kidnapped, when really you're just waiting with bated breath to charge into battle #mwi on chems and make sweet gay love to that hot creep Hancock (there's no wrong way to play!).

Speaking of gay... I thought Chaol was queer? Did no one else think that? See, this is another missed opportunity. There's Hasar and Renia, though Hasar is a total arsehole and Renia is this weird wet rag of a character who keeps being referred to ickily as Hasar's "lover". I was feeling it between Chaol and Shen more than I ever felt it between Chaol and Yrene, and this is the problem with SJM: she has this weird ability to unknowingly write pairings with great chemistry, most of which are non-hetero, and then blow a big dumb hole right through it with the same enemies-to-lovers straight romance that we've seen six trillion times before. I always felt that Yrene's story was the least interesting part of *The Assassin's Blade*, and now I've got to sit here and pretend to buy her romance with Chaol? Are you trifling with this?

So one of the biggest problems I had with this book was Yrene, and not because she's the same crap character that we've seen a thousand times before - I've come to expect that. The worst part was that she is the *shittiest healer ever*. The most unprofessional, the most rude, the most entitled. I have a high tolerance for fuckery, especially with high fantasy, but the scene where she allowed those little bitches to tear Chaol down off his horse and then trot him out like a wooden doll, as if, as a disabled person, he's just a thing to be toyed with, turned my fucking stomach. Then, after this, the Healer on High wafts over to Chaol with a sickly wee smile on her face and says, "Welp, that's our Yrene. Don't be mean to her. She's had a hard life." Fuck that. Fuck all of them, for treating Chaol in that way. It was disgusting. And then they have a little argument about it, and it's all forgotten about. Seriously? No. I literally couldn't stop thinking about that. We keep being told that Yrene is so talented and amazing and the next heir to the Torre Cesme, and yet she is still at the stage where she's treating her patients like this? Where the hell is her bedside manner?

(I'm also pretty pissed off about Chaol being healed in the end, and the cop-out with the life bond to Yrene, but that's a given. Why we can't just have a handsome male character with a rounded story arc who is just straight up in a wheelchair, disabled, is a mystery to me. There is no reason why Chaol needed to be magically healed. I'm so sick of this cast of Olympians with their rippling muscles and their perfect swordplay, and this is another reason why it's relevant to note *Game of Thrones*: it has its issues with representation, absolutely, but it is notable in its portrayal of multiple well-rounded and layered disabled characters.)

The trouble is that the setting of Antica was cool...but derivative. The idea was good...but executed badly. This book was full of good ideas that went down the toilet, and I'm kind of pissed off about it, because this is the sixth book, and it certainly wasn't cheap, but it's not the money I'm bitter about. It's the fact that I've committed to this series and these characters, and SJM won't stop butchering them. This series was so, so promising, and I used to love it so passionately, and now it's shite. Not to sound like Disgruntled 4chan Fan #67546453, but how is that fair? Don't build up fans' expectations, then then disrespect the first three

(excellent) books in the series with this piece of nonsense. I know what happened here: A Court of Stuff took up too much time, which left this to be skittered out in a few weeks then hastily edited and printed just to make a bag of Ye Olde Coin. I'm not buying it. Well, I did buy it, the absolute weapon that I am, but you know what I mean.

Needless to say, this did not need to be 660 pages long. It should have been part of EOS, or at the very least, a small boring novella that wasn't required reading. If it had been a novella, we could have swiftly avoided the absolutely abhorrent pro-life thing at the end, which was dizzyingly crap, a total piss-take. Honestly, the final scene with Duva beggars belief. It is shockingly terrible. There's this constant internal battle between Chaol and Yrene, both of them wanting to kill Duva to get rid of the demon in her, but they're like, "no! She's pregnant! What about the child!" Can you GET to fuck? I just... It has to be seen to be believed. Duva is getting thrown around, all of her agency gone, this poor woman forced to kill her own sister, and all Chaol and Yrene are worried about is the fucking unborn mass of cells inside her. "He wouldn't so much as harm Duva, not with that baby in her womb" (610). So he'd have been fine to gut her without it? The only reason he stays his blade is because she's pregnant? It was actually kind of disgusting to read. I hated it. I hated that Duva's own full, cultivated, adult life was seen as expendable, but god forbid the unborn fetus inside her come to harm! That attitude disgusts me. It's literal filth. I can't believe I read this with my own two eyes.

I could bang on and on about this for hours, but let's just say this: the quality of these books has taken a very, very sharp decline. So sharp it could kill a man. Or a woman, except when she's with child. Because only then is her life apparently worth something.

Emily May says

Eh. It was all right. But it's kind of hard to tear apart the personality of a beloved character, turn them into someone whiny and bland, then try to create a whole 672-page book out of their perspective. It wasn't awful, but **many parts were boring**.

I overlook a lot when it comes to Maas. The poor representation of marginalized characters, the frankly creepy obsession with "manhood" and "maleness", the nauseating and repeated descriptions of characters' beauty... but here I thought the story really lacked something. You can sum Tower of Dawn up as **an overlong healing process with a love story**. The romance is predictable, and I'll spoiler tag it but it should come as a surprise to no one that Chaol (view spoiler).

The events of this book occur alongside the events of Empire of Storms, filling in the blanks of Chaol's adventures on the Southern continent. Chaol goes to appeal to the rulers and healers of Antica - for the former to ally with Dorian, and the latter to heal him and help him walk again. Though the powerful healer - Yrene - seems to hate Chaol at first, we know this is a Maas book, so he can only be shirtless so long before she starts falling for him.

A subplot emerges with healers being murdered in crimes that look suspiciously like the actions of the Valg, and yet from the beginning through to the very end of this loonnnggg book, it felt like what it was: a mere distraction between the Chaol and Yrene love/hate flirtations. As the book drew to a close, it was easy to see that Tower of Dawn existed for the sole purpose of creating a new love interest for Chaol and getting him back on his feet. Literally.

Perhaps this was **a case of poor timing**; perhaps there was just less tension knowing the last book left us

chronologically after the end of this book's events. We're reading in the past with Tower of Dawn when Empire of Storms left us on such a delicious high, wanting to know what would happen to Aelin. I think it was a bad decision to insert Chaol's 600+ page perspective here, right when Maas has us on an emotional hook. I feel like by the time the next book rolls around, excitement and tension over Aelin's predicament will have waned for me.

Maas has responded to readers, or so it seems, by creating more diverse characters in this book. Many of the secondary characters are POC, and a major side character is queer. Though she still seems genuinely clueless when handling interactions between them, putting emphasis on Yrene's shock when Chaol smiles at the female healers AND *gasp* the male guards. Oh my, gay people! How crazy! And that's not even saying anything about the way Chaol's disability is handled...

Mostly, **it just wasn't that fun**. Either Chaol and Yrene were predictably ogling each other, or else Chaol was concentrating on wiggling his big toe like he's the less badass version of Beatrix Kiddo. It would be more fun if we turned it into a drinking game:

Drink every time Chaol's "manhood" is mentioned.
Drink every time Chaol's eyes "smolder".

But, alas, I am pregnant and therefore disappointingly sober.

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Melanie says

- #0.1) The Assassin and the Pirate Lord ★★★
- #0.2) The Assassin and the Healer ★★
- #0.3) The Assassin and the Desert ★★★★★
- #0.4) The Assassin and the Underworld ★★★★★
- #0.5) The Assassin and the Empire ★★★
- #1.) Throne of Glass ★★★
- #2.) Crown of Midnight ★★★★★
- #3.) Heir of Fire ★★
- #4.) Queen of Shadows ★★
- #5.) Empire of Storms ★★★

“Every step, all of it, had led here. From that keep in the snow-blasted mountains where a man with a face as hard as the rock around them had thrown him into the cold; to that salt mine in Endovier, where an assassin with eyes like wildfire had smirked at him, unbroken despite a year in hell.”

Tower of Dawn is my second favorite book that Sarah J. Maas has ever written! And it is, hands down, the best installment in the *Throne of Glass* series, in my honest opinion. I completely and wholeheartedly loved it. This is easily one of the best books I've read in 2017.

The first part of this review is spoiler free for *Tower of Dawn*, but it does have minor spoilers for the rest of the *Throne of Glass* series!

Also, before I even start this review, I just want to say that I actually think Sarah has been listening to her readers and this book truly proves it. First off, we have a very predominant queer side character, who clearly states this from the beginning and is written very believably and seamlessly. Next, we have a full diverse cast of characters, besides Chaol, in this novel. And lastly, and the thing I was most concerned about going into this book, Sarah respectfully writes about Chaol's disability, without ever making it seem like he must be "fixed" in order to have self-worth. (But please be aware that this review is coming to you from a white, able-bodied woman, so I am not the voice you should be listening to for the last two representations.)

I also think Sarah unfortunately listened to the backlash about her "young adult" books having so much sex in them, because there is totally less sex in this book than in *EoS*, *ACOMAF*, and *ACOWAR*. There is still amazing angst and build up to sex, and there is one actual sex scene, but nothing near as graphic or even as descriptive as her previous works. Me, being the perverted person that I am, was a little disappointed by this, especially with how much I love Chaol.

I should also preface this review by telling those of you who do not know that Chaol is my favorite character in *ToG*, well, besides my queen, Manon Blackbeak! I've never been the biggest fan of Celaena/Aelin, and I think this story (and the rating I gave it) probably really benefited from that.

The last thing I will say before I actually start this long-winded review is that I cannot stress enough how important it is to read *The Assassin and the Healer* novella from the novella bind up, *The Assassin's Blade*, before you read this book!

Tower of Dawn is a story that is running parallel with the events that took place in *Empire of Storms*. While Aelin, Dorian, and the rest of the gang are trying to unite empires and bring them together to fight the greater threat at hand, Chaol and Nesryn left for Antica, located in the southern continent, to convince another strong empire to join them in the battle that is inevitably coming, while also seeing if the healers at the Torre can heal Chaol's paralysis.

Also, the southern continent is way more advanced than Erilea could ever hope to be. Magic is not only thriving here, but it's celebrated. And healing is one of the most prized powers of all. And one of the three points of view in this book, besides Chaol and Nesryn, is a very talented and powerful healer named Yrene Towers.

I would say the point of views are definitely equal seeming between the three, but there are two big story lines going on. The first being Chaol's healing, and how he is hurting a lot more than just physically. Chaol is struggling with his self-worth, but I believe he's also struggling with PTSD. He feels very guilty and that he is to blame for Aelin, Dorian, his family, his guardsmen, and also his disability. This book really showcases and highlights how mental pain and disabilities are just as hard to overcome as physically pain and disabilities, and Chaol for sure learns this lesson in true Chaol fashion: the hard way.

And the second storyline is a big mixture of different ways Chaol and Nesryn are trying to sway the current khagan, Urus, to their cause. Urus has six children and when he passes on one of them will rule, because in this kingdom it is not automatically given to the first-born heir. No one knows who the ruler will be, so this can make siblings rather blood thirsty for one another, and once one is chosen to rule, the others must submit or things can get really bloody. This also makes the task of winning them all over a little difficult for Chaol and Nesryn.

“Your city is the greatest I have ever laid eyes upon, your empire the standard by which all others should be measured. When Morath comes to lay waste to it, who will stand with you if we are all carrion?”

Urus' six children:

- **Arghun** - oldest child and enjoys power in knowledge.
- **Sartaq** - second oldest and commands the Rukhin riders.
- **Hasar** - third oldest and amazingly queer.
- **Kashin** - fourth oldest and most loyal.
- **Duva** - fifth oldest, who is married and carrying the first grandbaby right now.
- **Tumelun** - the baby, and the cause of an underlying mystery.

All of these side characters are very impactful to not only this book, but the greater arching story at hand, too. These characters also put a big emphasis on family for this story, and the amazing lengths we are willing to go for the people we love.

Tower of Dawn not only introduces a vast array of new characters, and it also helps showcase that this book feels like a love letter to being young and finding yourself. Yet also, finding what you truly want in your life. I mean, these characters are all in their early 20s, it's not plausible that they are all going to know what path they want to take, or that they all choose to take the path that was set for them by others. I love that this book realistically depicts that your first love won't always be your last love, and how normal and okay that truly is. Finding yourself, and what you want from this life, is a truly beautiful story in and of itself.

There is a vast amount of world building and character development within these 700 pages, and I truly believe this is such a wonderful addition to this series. Before I get into the spoiler section, I will say that there are **trigger warnings** for talk of suicide, grey area cheating, war themes, and violence. I will also say that the epilogue of this book will probably shatter your soul. Like, is it Fall of 2018 yet? But I loved this and it was such a wonderful and important installment in the *Throne of Glass* series.

The rest of my review is going to contain MAJOR SPOILERS for both ALL the books leading up to this book, and for *Tower of Dawn* itself! Please, do not proceed to read any further unless you have read this book and its predecessors or you wish to be spoiled!

*“The heart he'd offered and had been left to drop on the wooden planks of the river docks.
An assassin who had sailed away and a queen who had returned.”*

Okay, so I think I'm just going to do little (and probably incoherent) paragraph gushes about things and how I felt about certain things in this book, because I just have too many emotions right now!

“No matter the oceans, or mountains, or forests in the way.”

I guess we should probably start off talking about how Sarah J. Maas does what she always does, but somehow always ends up surprising me. I honestly thought this book was going to have a romance about

Chaol and Nesryn, so when she pulled the rug out from under my feet and made it really apparent that Chaol and Nesryn were going to not only not be together, but also have new budding romances with other people, I was completely shocked.

I, personally, never liked Chaol and Nesryn together. I always thought that it was terrible writing on Sarah's part to even force them together. I thought it was so unbelievable and just another way to show how Aelin and Rowan were soulmates, and it just felt bad to me. So, I was beyond elated to see their outcome work out differently than I expected.

“Yrene pushed down on the handle. And Chaol took a step toward her.”

This quote defeated me. When Chaol finally stood up and then walked to Yrene... I was weeping. Like, tears, sniffing, heavy breathing, hell, I was ugly crying, let's be real. This was my favorite moment in this entire book and I was a complete and utter mess.

“You looked at me without an ounce of pity. You saw me. Not the chair or the injury. You saw me. It was the first time I'd felt ... seen. Felt awake, in a long time.”

I loved how Sarah handled Chaol's disability, and how even though he is able to walk a lot of the time, he also isn't completely healed. I was really concerned going into this book, that this was going to be a bad feeling "fix", so an able-bodied Chaol could come back into the main storyline, but instead it truly was a story about Chaol coming to terms with his disability and accepting himself and his life, wheelchair, cane, or standing on his own two feet.

“I might not have battled kings and shattered castles [...] but I am the heir apparent to the Healer on High. Through my own work and suffering and sacrifice. And you're standing right now because of that. People are alive because of that. So I may not be a warrior waving a sword about, may not be worthy of your glorious tales, but at least I save lives—not end them.”

And Yrene is such a amazing character. Seeing her refusing to ever be a victim again, while also teaching lots of young girls how to defend themselves, was one of my favorite plot lines Sarah J Maas has ever written. I loved the tie in with The Assassin and the Healer, and I am very much anticipating the reunion between her and Aelin. Also, Chaol crying over his fate and that piece of paper? Lord, help me.

“I loved you before I ever set eyes on you”

I actually really enjoyed the romance between Nesryn and Sartaq, too, I just was really disappointed that we didn't also get to have a sex scene between them, as horrible as that sounds! Sartaq has some of the most romantic one liners I have ever read in my entire life. Like, he has me swooning from the very beginning, and I can't wait to read more about him and the rest of the Ruk riders. Also, the whole storyline with the Ruks very much reminded me of Valyn's storyline in the Chronicle of the Unhewn Throne, which is one of my favorite series of all time, and I completely loved it. Give me all the warrior birds and their warrior

riders, please.

And Borte, Yeran, Houlun, and Falkan were all amazing side characters, too! And the plot twist with Falkan searching for Lysandra made my entire year. That, too, will be such an amazing reunion that I can't wait to read about.

And Nesryn's storyline was really important to me too. I was very happy she wasn't overshadowed by Chaol and Yrene. I also loved that she acknowledged that she refused to be used and be a rebound to Chaol. As much as I felt bad for Chaol, because of Aelin, Nesryn is the only true victim in this. I'm also happy that she sought out her own happiness, even without knowing that Chaol and Yrene had feelings for each other. I hope young SJM fans read this, and realize they are all worth someone who unconditionally loves them, and an impulsive ride on a Ruk.

*“We fly to war. Much is uncertain ahead. Save for this.” He brushed his mouth against hers.
“Save for what I feel for you. No demon army, no dark queen or king, will change that.”*

I mean, just when I thought we had all the Maeve surprises we were going to get from Empire of Storms, this book comes along and says, “hold my beer!” A Valg Queen? Talk about an amazing plot twist that I didn't see coming from a mile away! Also, the Stygian Spiders are terrifying, and I know their gate guarding is going to come back into play in a super crucial way and they are going to give me the major heebie-jeebies all over again!

Fireheart, the epilogue ending with Aelin... be still, my heart. I honestly cannot wait for this final concluding novel. The ending of Empire of Storms was hard to read, and those two pages just brought back so many emotions.

Overall, if you couldn't guess from this gush of a review, I completely and wholeheartedly loved this. Again, this is my second favorite thing Sarah J. Maas has created, and I have nothing but the highest of hopes for everything she creates and for what she plans to do for the conclusions on this series. Also, she has set up the option for so many spinoffs with all of these amazing side characters she introduced in *Tower of Dawn*, but first they all have to survive this incoming war.

“Maybe you and I will have to learn how to live—if we survive this war.”

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Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

This was a great read, I just think it was waaaay too long and not really entirely necessary. I liked seeing a different perspective on things and being in a new setting following different characters. I loved the way the relationships ended up going, so that was a big plus. Buuut, I just wasn't really entirely wowed. I listened to the audiobook but I think I may read it physically closer to the release date for the next TOG novel, so in a very long time.

Khurram says

I bow down to Sarah J Maas' story telling. I have not liked Chaol since the second half of the Crown of Midnight. Also with the last book finishing with Aelin in such a precarious position I personally did not want to wait an extra year to find out what happened to her.

However SJM knows best, every issue I had with Chaol was address in this book. Also if this book would have come out after the next the final book this story would have had the prequel curse where I would have known everything that was going to happen.

I admit I was thinking about Aelin through this book, so I was glad to see her make appearances (only as mentions throughout). This is a great story tying up threads from former books and novellas. I think the "nothing is coincidence" is featured and shown perfectly in this book.

This is a great story about redemption, character development/growth, using left over bits from the other stories to make a great story, and characters finding their own place. Once again it the it is a great credit to SJM's storytelling skills that she wrote such a great book essentially just the side characters, and made them shine. Especially Nesryn who definitely deserved better then just being Chaol's backup (in more ways then one). There is also great description about the mental aspect of physical injury recovery, and how much of the process is mental. Anger, frustration, and guilt can be as detrimental to a person's recovery as the cause of the physical injury itself.

As much as I hate to admit it these characters would not have had a chance to shine like this if Aelin was in this book. If possible this book has increased my anticipation for the next book even more. I can't wait for the final book of this great series. I am expecting all out WAR, and one hell of a retribution beat downs to all the Vargs.

Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says

4.5 Stars. For those of you who don't know, I had the opportunity to moderate Sarah's Raleigh event last night. In addition to that, I spent some time with her talking about her inspiration and the way she approached the **disability representation**. I have a lot to share, so bear with me here. You can also view this post on my blog [HERE](#).

First of all, I've seen a lot of unfair accusations thrown her way. I'm not here to defend everything, and everyone's experience will be different, so please keep that in mind as you read this review. Also please remember that discussion is great, but please keep it kind and civil!

And also, I want to give a big shout out to Sarah and the team at Bloomsbury for taking care of me and making me feel so welcome! I can't say enough positive things about my experience. You guys are amazing.

Moving on!

New Culture with the Southern Continents

One of the highlights of my evening was getting to ask Sarah about her inspiration for the Southern Continents. Her answer actually really surprised me, and I'm excited to pass it along. Sarah mentioned she spent a long time reading and researching Ghengis Kahn, and spent a long time in front of the audience describing how he ran his empire. Despite being seen as a 'villainous' figure in history, his empire was founded on the acceptance of all religions. She talked a lot about how he valued education and reading and such. I've seen people throw the 'culture appropriation without research' accusation at Sarah, but she credits Ghengis Kahn in the end of her book, and it was really neat to hear about the time and effort she spent studying him.

Also, Chaol is the only white person in the whole book (unless I'm missing something), and the new cultures and characters were such a breath of fresh air. A majority of the book is spent world building and the development of new characters that will play vital roles in the next installment. I can't speak to the accuracy of how these characters are represented, but I really loved how strong and courageous they are. I don't want to go into too much detail, but the Southern Continents are lead by the khagan and his royal family. The new princes and princesses are all SO cool, and they easily became my favorite characters. There are also ruk riders which I won't touch too much on, but holy crap, they are going to bring a whole new level of epic to the series.

Chaol + Disability Representation (spoilers in the last paragraph)

This is such a touchy subject, and I was debating whether or not to share my feelings towards the matter. But *breathes heavily* here we go. As you can see by my photos, I have some experience with being in a chair. Some days I am able to walk, but more often than not, I simply don't have the strength to stand, or I'm too dizzy or sick due to the disease I'm battling. So my experience isn't the same as others in the disabled community, and I'm speaking for myself and my personal experiences here. But I do know pain. I know what it's like to be unable to move for days at a time, to be brushed aside or seen as less of a person.

I was nervous to see how this would be handled. As you know from Queen of Shadows, Chaol lost the use of his legs. He can't move them or even feel them. He's in a wheelchair. Yep, you heard me... **A fantasy hero in a wheelchair.**

He begins the journey as very resentful and upset and it takes him a long time to come to terms with what has happened to him not only physically, but emotionally. A lot of people accuse his character of being 'ruined' and trampled on. I disagree. His attitude and outlook are totally and completely (and painfully) relatable to me personally. I hate having to rely on others. I hate not being able to get up and take care of myself. It's so difficult to not see myself as 'less' of a person because I'm not always able to do simple things. The first time I was in a wheelchair in public, well... it came as a bit of a shock to me. It's almost like being invisible, or like you have some type of contagious disease. People either give you sad looks or avoid looking at you altogether. You're skipped in line, tripped over, and ignored in many cases. (There's so much more I could add to this but I'm going to refrain for now.)

I'm generally positive, but on the hard days, it really is difficult. It's easy to fall into the 'I'm useless' or 'I don't understand why this happened to me' pit of despair. As you read through Chaol's emotional path to healing, keep in mind that these are feelings people battle every single day. Not to mention, Sarah goes IN DEPTH about the actual physical struggles of Chaol's movements (more on this below.)

"He knew—Chaol realized the guard knew just how it felt to have the chair touched, moved, without

being asked."

I had the chance to talk to Sarah about this face to face. I told her I finished, and I thanked her for how she handled Chaol. Guys, she broke down in tears in front of me. I've never seen this type of dedication from an author to a disabled character in a fantasy novel. She shared how she spent months with sensitivity reader(s), and a little bit about her journey writing Chaol this way, and why she chose to end it the way she did. I can't even begin to describe to you all what it meant to see this in a book, to read his journey and how raw and honest it was. The accuracy and detail was astounding. Sarah went above and beyond.

"He could still speak with dignity and command whether he stood on his feet or was laid flat on his back. The chair was no prison, nothing that made him lesser."

(**Spoilers in this paragraph alone**). But what meant the most was how Sarah chose to end his journey of healing. A large focus of it was on coming to terms with what happened, forgiving himself, and his outlook on his own worthiness and value. The central message is reflected over and over. **You are not less, you are not less, you are not less.** So for those of you who want to know, Chaol does indeed have his legs restored, only to have his spine broken again at the end of the novel. All his physical healing and battling were for not. But his emotional journey was complete. The man he becomes at the end of the novel is one that I respect and adore. His emotional journey is on par with ACOMAF and Heir of Fire. And I want to add one thing based on some comments I've seen. Just because he is able to walk with aid at the end of the novel (that aid being a person) does not mean he does not still have a disability. Having aid is nothing to be ashamed of, whether it's a medicine, a walker, a person, or whatever. The point is, he can't do it on his own, but he is able to do things with help.

"And I am as much of a man in that chair, or with that cane, as I am standing on my feet."

"Chaol was right. Whether he stood or limped or sat ... it did not change him. Who he was."

So here is my request of the book community. Please do not blindly label this book as ableist. If you have gone through these experiences yourself, your voice is important whether it's positive or negative in regards to Chaol's story, but for me personally (as well as another dear friend of mine), it was a really big deal. This is one of the most powerful emotional journeys and story of healing I've ever read in a book, and the message brought me to tears.

"He supposed he'd learned that strength could be hidden beneath the most unlikely faces."

"The trauma of any injury requires some internal reflection during the healing and aftermath."

As you might have guessed, Yrene Towers (from the Throne of Glass novella) makes a reappearance! She's another main voice in the novel, and her story is quite the emotional one. Sarah mentioned Yrene is lightly inspired by her grandmother, who is her hero. I'm not going to go into the whole story, but Sarah broke down in tears on stage as she shared the story of her family and her grandmother as a Holocaust survivor, and how after being tossed from place to place, she ended up in the United States and the effect seeing the Statue of Liberty had on her. Anyway, what I loved most about Yrene is she's a different type of strong. She may not be the 'badass' fighter, but her compassion was astounding. Her emotional journey is hand in hand with Chaol, and I absolutely adored their dynamic.

"If he had not broken, then she would not break—not in seeing him as anything but what he was. What he'd served."

We also follow Nesryn and she has her own unique journey & story throughout the book. I literally can't say ANYTHING without spoilers but I love love loved it. She went from side character to fierce attention-grabbing female here, and this woman had me screaming out loud.

Now since I've practically typed a novel in this review, I'm going to leave the rest to highlights:

- New ships! (And probably my favorite series ship omg)
- The royal family is literally THE BEST
- Representation of all kinds
- New prince (Sartaq) is hands down my fav
- Yrene pushing the princess in the pool
- HOLY CRAP SERIES PLOT TWIST (you really can't skip this book, guys. VITAL information here)
- The first half is quite slow with the world building, but the last half really picks up with heart-pounding action
- Ruk Riders. (Winky face here)
- Borte. Hasar. I have crushes on them both
- The horse named Butterfly LOL
- Library cats are a thing
- The sexual content was very tame compared to her last few books, in case anyone is wondering. There is only one page if I'm remembering correctly, and if you want to avoid it, let me know and I'll get you the page #.
- The last chapter... I did not expect that. Sarah how dare...

And some other fun facts Sarah answered during the interview:

- Nox will be making a reappearance in the future! (She thinks it's funny how much fans ask about him)
- If Aelin & Co had a band, they would be called 'Boss Bitches' (lol) and Rowan + Aedion would be the backup rappers
- If Rowan had a twitter handle, it would be generic and he would never use it, but Aedion would post at him just to annoy him
- Aelin would be the queen of selfies
- Advice to writers – never give up!
(I'll add more as I remember them!)

Overall, I really loved it. There were large portions of world building that slowed down the pacing, so go into this expecting a different type of book. Sarah really excels when she writes stories of emotional healing. I really appreciated so many aspects of Tower of Dawn and it will remain dear to my heart. I'm honored to have had the chance to talk to her face to face, to get to know the woman behind the book – the woman who went out of her way to befriend me amidst a big event with swarms of people, to share her story and why she wrote it that way.

Lastly, I attribute much of my own emotional healing through faith and my relationship with Christ, and while this story isn't a religious one, Sarah was 100% right about the emphasis on outlook and forgiving yourself/others. I just loved all the positive reinforcement and encouragement in this book. So I leave you

with this: Everyone makes mistakes and everyone can improve, and what you do going forward shows your true character. And no matter who you are or what you are going through, no matter what you are physically capable of doing or not doing, you are valuable.

Pre Review:

I'm actually hoping he doesn't get healed. Having a disability rep in this series would be pretty incredible. Imagine Chaol overcoming and kicking ass despite it.

My Blog ~ Instagram ~ Twitter ~ Etsy

Cait • A Page with a View says

All major spoilers are hidden!

"You may look at me with resentment Yrene Towers, and I will not blame you for it. But believe me when I say there is no one in Erilea who loathes me more than I do myself."

I went into this without a ton of expectations but am really glad this book happened now! I was curious to see how Chaol's story would unfold, but also a bit wary that his character growth would be tied to his current disability being cured. I'll talk more about that in a bit, but I thought everything worked really well in the end! I just love how much character development Maas takes the time to put into her stories because everything becomes 1000x more realistic and emotional. The story *does* take a bit to get moving, though, and I wasn't totally into it until about 1/4 of the way through. So hang in there...

Also, this didn't really feel like "Chaol's book" to me because Nesryn and Yrene both have equally important stories and POVs. (Aaaand there's one more POV at the end that made me SO EMOTIONAL for all of 2 pages). **So you don't necessarily need to read The Assassin's Blade before this, but I'd absolutely recommend reading this before the final Throne of Glass book.** This isn't some side story. So many important things are revealed!

This story is basically a journey of finding hope and healing in different ways for so many characters. Chaol and Nesryn head to the southern continent to ask the khaganate to fight in the upcoming war and try to find someone to help Chaol be able to walk again after his spinal injury in Queen of Shadows. The Khagan has several children who are competing to be named his heir, two of whom become amazing new characters. Sartaq is a son who commands the rukhin (an aerial cavalry of archers who fly on giant birds and are going to be so badass if/when they meet up with The Thirteen). He takes Nesryn off on a bunch of adventures to see her homeland and their story has some pretty awesome moments. (Ok I wasn't exactly as into it as I wanted to be, but was still decently invested).

Yrene Towers (the healer from The Assassin's Blade) is also there working as a powerful healer. She's been teaching other girls the self-defense that Celaena taught her and still carries her note. Yrene learned to take control of her life, but still has to face the trauma of her past and heal emotionally etc. She agrees to try to heal the man who commanded Adarlan's soldiers even though she despises what he did while serving the

king. The story really gets moving when they find out there's a Valg demon on the southern continent and it's hunting Yrene because of REASONS.

Meanwhile Chaol has been stewing in self-hatred and guilt over everything that's happened in the past few books, soooo he's got some stuff to work through. He was painfully honorable and loyal to a fault, which blinded him to who/what he was really serving: a *"man controlled by a demon king hell-bent on turning this world into a feast for his hordes."* Anyone Chaol had tried to help ended up suffering. All of the men he was responsible for ended up being tortured and hung from the castle gates. He had run and left Dorian to face the king. Everything he had ever planned for or wanted is now gone.

But before Yrene can even address the injury to his spine they have to get through the residual valg demon stuff that's there. That thing keeps trying to drag him down into the darkness by showing him everyone he left and failed (kind of like when the valg possessed Dorian), so he has to confront all of that in order to let Yrene get through to work on his spine.

Chaol's healing felt a lot like Aelin's story in Heir of Fire with how she had to really break and face everything she was before she could rebuild herself and move forward with a purpose. He has to choose whether to stay in that darkness and give it power or to forgive himself and "fill it with better things." This whole part was SO powerful. I don't even know where to begin with the quotes, so I'll just say I think a ton of people will be able to relate to Chaol's journey. There were some truly inspiring & relatable insights I'm just super grateful for. I was also glad he had a chance to let himself process *everything* with Aelin... and seeing his total devotion to Dorian was so sweet.

Basically, the story hit every part of the healing that was necessary to get Chaol's character mentally back in the same fight as everyone else. In the previous books he was a confused, lost character who was starting to not fit in with the flow of the rest of the story for me because he wasn't sure what he was *for*. Now he's an equal player in the war to come and has a clear purpose. Chaol learns to find a new way through life and his entire take on his "disability" is transformed along with his self-worth/image. **(So, no, this isn't a manual of how someone *should* view a disability right from the start, but rather what felt like a flawed human's realistic struggle to come to terms with one of many sudden changes in his life and identity).**

(view spoiler)

Random things I loved:

- almost every character is a POC
- more insights into events from previous books (like the King of Adarlan's actions)
- most characters are in their twenties
- every single character isn't straight or super attractive
- seeing a broader worldview with news from other locations
- I was getting a lot of Game of Thrones vibes at times, which made it even more fun. Empire of Storms was super LOTR for me and I loved that.
- learning more fae history
- how the "get up" thing came back to Chaol
- ALL THE SHIPS. so many ships omg

I just really loved how the story took the time to really get into some history and worldbuilding that strengthened the series SO MUCH. I mean, all of the stuff with the wyrdgates and keys and Valg princes was interesting before, but never seemed totally cohesive to me. It felt like there was some piece missing before the final battle could be properly established, so this book was totally what I needed. Now the war has weight, context, and a solid threat with history yay. I actually kind of screamed out loud at 81% because that was a brilliant shift in the direction of this series.

Maas said she put in a ton of time with sensitivity readers to make sure her rep in this book was solid and you can *feel* how much care and effort she put into this. I'm curious to hear from others who use wheelchairs and have read this story. Everyone's experience is different (so this obviously this won't be universally applicable and I'm not speaking for anyone else but myself), but I *really* related to Chaol's mindset and the whole evolution he went through there. I've been relying on a wheelchair for several years now and can only stand occasionally, so it was just incredibly inspiring to see a character I admire go through something so similar (ok Lyme attacking the nervous system & joints is a bit different BUT you know what I mean). I really can't articulate how much I connected with some scenes... I have read so many fantasy books and have *never* found a central character like this. I was super hesitant (and somewhat skeptical) going into this book, but just want to hug it now. I think Maas has always done an amazing job writing raw healing journeys and I'm SO grateful Chaol's story went in the direction it did!!

In the end, this was a powerful story of several characters finding themselves, hope, and *a future to fight for* as they prepare for the war. I mostly appreciated that this book did so much to help set the stage for the next book. Some of the events here definitely felt like padding for a novella that was turned into a full length novel, so this isn't my favorite Throne of Glass book. But I still enjoyed it and wish there could be a few more books with these new characters and locations! I loved them all and cannot wait to see all of the fan art you talented bookworms create. <3

PS: check out Brittney's review for some really great insights!

emi says

6.28.17 update:

Apparently this book is goign to be 700 pages.

It is gonna take me so long to read this urgh

That just means more time where someone might see me with reading this hideously covered book

RIP this book is going to be the death of me. I don't wanna be associated with something so ugly.

6.20.17 update:

lol this cover is so fugly

hahhahahhahaha

it

so

ugly

we're in 2017 not 1997 rip

i thought we as a society have progressed past ugly covers

i mean if this was a novel about that ass turd r*w*an then i'd understand but it's not ~~thank god, we already~~
~~have wayyyy to much r*w*an as it is~~

#ChaolWestfallDeservesBetter #OhChaolNo

(also who the eff is Nesryn I don't remember her at all)

(no one is answering this question properly I am still lost who the eff is Nesryn?????)

(haha I give up. I'm never gonna remember her)

Caitlin says

Fuck rereading this book HURT MY HEART

Original review:

I. Am. In. Tears.

I was originally not at all excited for this book but then I reread the entire series and I was HYPED. This book didn't let me down at all. Not one bit. I'm shook to the max by how much I utterly love this book. I was in no way ready for everything that happened in this book and I'm blown away by all of the twists and turns that occurred.

We all knew that Chaol's job was to get healed as well as raise an army. Honestly, the way Chaol's healing took place was so utterly raw and incredible. I think it was absolutely perfect where he ended up and I don't think Sarah could have done any better than this. This book is incredible perfection and I am in love.

As someone who didn't like Chaol and slowly grew to like him in my reread, I would like to say that I love Chaol. That is all.

Kainat ?HUFFLEPUFF & PROUD? says

Since the USA version doesn't come with a warning, here it is.

**This book contains mature content.
Not suitable for younger readers.**

Just took a peek at the quotes, most of them seem to be about "how great and frightening Aelin is" and how revolting & cringe-worthy Rowan's love is. Um, are they even in this book? I might be mistaken but i was led to believe this was Chaol's book?

HOLY SMOKES!

G.R.R.M, is that . . . is that you, my man?

This is going to be a full sized book now? YICKS! Is it just me or SJM is turning into Cassandra Clare? Get ready for some horribly written pages after pages of "nothing worked below his waist except the velvet-wrapped steel." Or is it his tower this time? Either way, i think I'll pass.

Andreea Pop says

Edit: Will my book slump ever go away? Maybe. Perhaps. Slow progress. But this book was a step in the right direction. Loved this with all my heart and couldn't stop reading. Maas, again, applause for you.

(Don't know if I'll have a review for this one. I hate to promise and not provide and life is hectic. I just stress myself a lot about it, hope you don't mind. But this one is highly, highly recommended!)

Never been on Team Chaol. My precious cinnamon roll, Dorian Havilliard, stole my heart from the beginning. But I've always wondered: **HOW ON EARTH CAN ANYONE NOT LOVE CHAOL?!?! Not for his relationship with Celaena, but just for who he is. Selfless, loyal, kind, courageous. I don't know about you, but the fact that he lost his shit in QoS (which was acceptable since he went against *everything* he believed in his whole life), the fact that he was flawed like any other human being only brought him closer to perfection.**

So, no. I'm not sad that we get his book instead of the final novel. He deserves the recognition. SJM described this book as HoF (my favorite ToG installment) but for Chaol. It's gonna be a journey of healing and revelations and finding yourself again. PLUS THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT OMG. Plus Yrene Towers!! And NESRYN. It's gonna be amazing.

SEPTEMBER CANNOT ARRIVE FAST ENOUGH.

Candace says

'Tower of Dawn' was one of my most anticipated books of the year. I absolutely could not wait to get my hands on it. I am a goner for this series!

After the way things left off at the end of the fifth book, I was sure that this book would pick up where it had ended. I expected to dive right back into Celaena's current predicament and have a front row seat as she managed to battle her way out of captivity. That didn't happen.

This book was not the book that I thought I'd be getting. That isn't to say that it was a let down though, it wasn't. It just wasn't at all what I was expecting.

'Tower of Dawn' explores an entirely different aspect of this complex story. This book focuses on Chaol and his exploration of the Southern Continent. Not what I anticipated...but still fantastic.

Let me be upfront about the fact that I was not the biggest fan of Chaol. In fact, over the past few books I had grown to detest him. He is a character that went from being a favorite of mine to one that I loathed. I wasn't sure that there would ever be any redemption for him.

Incredibly, Sarah J. Maas has managed to work Chaol back into my good graces with this book. I wouldn't have believed it was possible, but she made it happen. This book showed a softer, more vulnerable side of Chaol. I even felt bad for him at times. Little by little, I found myself warming back up to him and understanding why he did some of the things that he did before.

Horribly wounded, Chaol and Nesryn seek out the legendary healers of Torre Cesme in Antica. If anyone can cure Chaol of his paralysis, they will be found here. However, his mission is two-fold. He hopes to also gain additional support for the campaign in the North.

Begrudgingly, Yrene is tasked with healing Chaol. It will be her greatest achievement, if she can overcome her deep-rooted hatred for Chaol and the kingdom that he represents. Yrene suffered greatly as a result of the King that Chaol fought for. She's faced with an ethical dilemma of epic proportions.

The two eventually strike up an unlikely friendship. While the memory of what Chaol represents is never far from Yrene's mind, she finds herself seeing him as more man and less monster as time passes. Their relationship grows slowly and steadily, each trying to hold back their feelings until it eventually becomes impossible.

As Chaol begins to heal, he starts questioning what he really wants. He feels remorse and shame for some of his past actions. With Yrene, he finds forgiveness and revived humanity.

Of course, it wouldn't be a 'Throne of Glass' book if there wasn't plenty of danger and action. There was no shortage of adventure and heart-stopping situations. Expect a strong dose of the supernatural. Around every turn was the possibility of destruction as this battle between good and evil continues.

My only disappointment was that I was dying to pick up where the last book left off. Unfortunately, I am still

in the dark, along with a million other readers. Aside from a few very brief mentions at the very end of this book, Celaena, Rowan and Dorian are noticeably absent from this book. We'll all have to wait for the next one to get our questions answered.

Even so, I found myself completely lost in this book. It was worth every minute. I listened to the Audible edition and it was fabulous. Honestly, if I weren't so bitter about the fact that I'm still left in the dark about Celaena's fate, I'd probably say this was a 5-star read. I spent a lot of time waiting for her to make an appearance before finally realizing that it wasn't going to happen and just enjoying the beauty of this book for what it was.

Check out more of my reviews at www.bookaddicthaven.com

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)

I was waiting on my special copies to get here. Yes, I got two.

This is my signed edition from Barnes and Noble with some extras at the back.

The one from Target has the special art inside.

Sooooooooooooooooooooo, I was going to give this 4 stars but it made the 5 stars because I have a new love and that would be Sartaq =) I really wish they would have had more scenes with him and Nesryn. I want to read more about them. But there is still the war so there is that and I love their Ruks!

I wasn't a fan of Chaol after someone was killed in another book and he... well it doesn't matter. I enjoyed this book about him good enough. I'm glad I read Assassin's Blade before this because some peeps were in this book.

I loved Yrene soooooooooooooo much too. She's a healer that was asked to help Chaol. It was a rough road with that because of things....

We find out some revelations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! REVELATIONS! REVELATIONS! I love screaming that in a book. I didn't see that coming at all and now I'm worried about the last book. =(They better all live because it's going to me messed up with some wickedness.

There are some great characters in this book but it centers around Chaol, Yrene, Nesryn and Sartaq. But all of the other characters are great except for the evil ones but that is a given!

There was a happy ending and not so happy ending because of things to come. I did mention I'm worried

right?

Mel ♥
