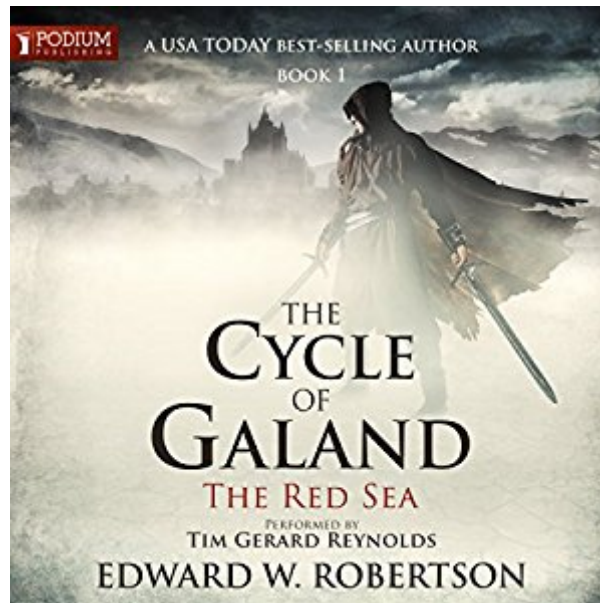




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The Red Sea: The Cycle Of Galand, Book 1



Synopsis

When Dante Galand was just a boy, his father, Larsin, sailed away to make his fortune. And never returned. Since then, Dante has become a great sorcerer. A ruler. A destroyer of kings. And he's just learned that his father is living on a forbidden island at the edge of the known world. Where he's dying of a mysterious plague. In the company of his friend, the swordsman Blays, Dante travels to the island. There, his magic can do nothing for his father. As Dante and Blays quest for a cure - beset by strange beasts, angry spirits, and violent coastal raiders known as the Tauren - Dante falls sick, too. To save his father and himself, he'll have to rediscover the island's long-lost magic. But the hunt for its secrets leads Dante on a crash course with the Tauren - and island-wide civil war. And as he's away, an old threat begins to move against his homeland. Set in a USA Today best-selling world, The Red Sea is the first in a trilogy of warfare, sorcery, and friendship through the darkest times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When a Trilogy is just not enough, and readers are demanding or (in my case) begging , for more, then you are probably reading Edward W Robertson! The Red Sea is a continuation of The Cycle of Arawn, featuring Dante and Blays. The story is fast and introduces a myriad of places, events, people, and magic that will not fail to capture you. The most enjoyable part for me when reading EWR books is getting to 'know' his characters. He has the talent to develop and become who he is writing about, and this translates into his writing such diverse and complex characters that the

reader gets to know them, almost intimately I would say. I have read all of his books (that I know of) and they are as different and as interesting as his characters are. Waiting for more...

I'll keep this review real simple. There are three major points of note for anyone considering this book in my opinion: Let's get the biggest one out of the way first shall we? If you haven't read the Cycle of Arawn then you are missing pretty much all of the backstory and about 90% of the character development for the two main characters if you start with this book. Can you do it? Sure. It will basically make sense to you. But it would be like eating with your nose pinched shut. No real flavor and you probably won't care for it. The second item of note is the breakneck speed things happen in this book. I mean, seriously, wow! I was tired from just reading about the stuff that happened. You would think that that would make this book seem like a speed read, wouldn't you? Not so, apparently. I was genuinely thinking we have to be nearing the end, but then saw that I was only halfway through the book. I've got to give the author props there. That's pretty impressive considering I've been reading fantasy for probably 20 years and can tell you when certain authors stopped and started sections of a book just by the way it reads, and I didn't know where I was in this book until the very end. The third item of note is the lies. The story is pretty much predicated on lies people tell. I can't go into the details without spoilers. But suffice it to say that while most all books have people who tell lies in them, this one really takes it to the next level. It's novel I have to admit. But, I think the author was actually going for some jaw dropping moments in the book and they fell just short for me. The sum of all that left me feeling that I wasn't as invested in the MCs as I would have liked to have been at the end (I think the jaw droppers would have worked on me if I had been). I was about as invested as I would have been with your typical young adult novel (e.g. curious but otherwise apathetic). I believe it was the speed from point #2. I think the author sacrificed character building in favor of speed (plot wise) and lost my investment in them in the process. All that being said, this really is more of the same from the Cycle of Arawn. It's book 4 in the series if you like (different problems, and different supporting characters, but same basic story otherwise). If you liked that series, and think another of it sounds good then you won't be disappointed. Personally, I liked the Cycle but feel this one isn't quite as good. I'll very likely buy the second in the this series in a few weeks though. The plot lines he has laid with this one has me curious where the story will go from here. And since this one was only mildly less worthwhile than the Cycle, it's worth the handful of dollars to scratch that itch. 4 stars because despite my lack of character investment he has hooked me for the sequel and I did still find it a generally worthwhile read.

EXCELLANT read. Normally after reading books that are in a set I'm disappointing however that is NOT the case in this situation. The Red Sea is just as well written as it predecessor, The Cycle of Arawn. It carries some of our beloved characters over and gives new angles to them. It also introduces new adventures to be coming in future books.

Ed rocks. Always. If you haven't read any of his works then you're missing out on something truly spectacular. I'm just thankful he's young - and I wish him a long life - that simply means more time for the rest of us to enjoy what I hope to be a grand tome of wondrous imagination. "The Red Sea" is no exception. If this is your first glimpse of Robertson, I'd recommend starting with "The Cycle of Arawn" first, or perhaps "The Breakers" series. None disappoint.

I'll admit that I'm a huge fan of Robertson's Breakers series, but when I bought this novel, I had totally forget he had another series out. By the time I got to the end of the novel, I'd realized I'd purchased his related trilogy, The Cycle of Arawn, in the past and never read it. Score! Even if you aren't familiar with Dante and Blays, you can fully enjoy this novel without reading the previous trilogy (although reading them all in order is probably best). In fact, I'm now reading The White Tree from The Cycle of Arawn trilogy, and it's even more interesting because I know these characters already. The Red Sea is full of twists and turns, some I saw coming and some I did not, and I thoroughly enjoyed the action. Sometimes I felt Winden's character fell a little flat, but overall, I had a blast reading this journey and cannot wait to see what happens next! Robertson has quickly become one of my favorite authors. His worlds are clearly described, his plots are riveting, and his literary descriptions and vocabulary selection are superior to other novels (coming from someone who loves a good literary device and appreciated his initial description of the monkeys on the island). Highly recommended!

I would assume you are not looking at this trilogy unless you have read The Cycle of Arawn and enjoyed it. I read Arawn first and I enjoyed it, even though I did have several small criticisms I found the trilogy to be fun and the characters to be the kind you can connect with and enjoy time in their world with them. The Red Sea felt like Robertson read all of my criticisms about The Cycle of Arawn and then jumped into writing the next chapter of this world's story while making sure to fix the things I complained about in the earlier work. What I am trying to say is it had the same fun and enjoyable feel but without the negatives. I really enjoyed myself and I won't hesitate to pick up the rest of the

trilogy as well other works from this author.

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