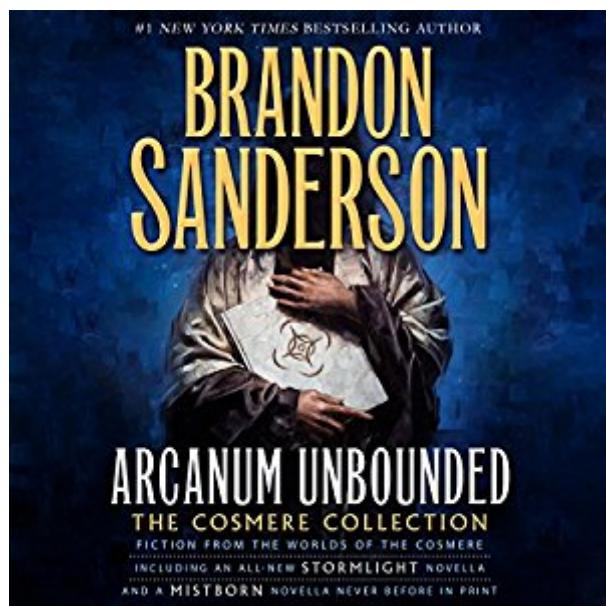


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Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection



Synopsis

An all-new Stormlight Archive novella is the crown jewel of Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection, the first audiobook of short fiction by New York Times best-selling author Brandon Sanderson. The collection includes eight works in all. The first seven are "The Hope of Elantris" (Elantris), "The Eleventh Metal" (Mistborn), "The Emperor's Soul" (Elantris), "Allomancer Jak and the Pits of Eltania, Episodes 28 through 30" (Mistborn), "Shadows for Silence in the Forests of Hell" (Threnody), "Sixth of Dusk" (First of the Sun), and "Mistborn: Secret History" (Mistborn). Originally published on Tor.com and other websites, or published by the author, these wonderful tales convey the expanse of the Shardworlds and tell exciting tales of adventure Sanderson fans have come to expect, including the Hugo Award-winning novella The Emperor's Soul. Arcanum Unbounded also contains a currently untitled Stormlight Archive novella that appears in this audiobook for the first time anywhere.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 22 hours and 31 minutes

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Customer Reviews

Weighing in at 672 pages, Brandon Sanderson's first short fiction collection not only pulls together various short stories and novellas from across his Cosmere, but organizes them by Shardworlds, complete with essays and illustrations on each. Arcanum Unbounded is a collection that would no doubt be daunting to a new reader, but which rewards the faithful with an even deeper understanding of his creations. The collection opens with a pair of stories set in the world of Elantris, with "The Emperor's Soul" serving as a standalone tale, and

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “The Hope of ElantrisÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •taking place following the original novel. Soul was the one story in the collection I had read before, and it was just as fascinating the second time around. As for Hope, it will have to wait until I read the source material, since it contains major spoilers. Not surprisingly for his longest series to date, Mistborn gets three entries here.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “The Eleventh MetalÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •was a pleasant surprise, being a prequel to the series with my favorite character, Kelsier. As odd as it was to see him so early in his career, it was also interesting to get some more insights into his tortured past. ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “Allomancer Jak and the Pits of Eltania, Episodes 28 through 30ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •was, by far, the most entertaining story in the collection. Written as a pulp adventure tale, what really makes it work is all the footnotes from the fictional editor who is forced to publish such nonsense.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “Mistborn: Secret HistoryÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •brings us back to Kelsier, following the events of the first Mistborn novel. It was an interesting story, with some entertaining moments, but I've never been a fan of stripping a character of his powers and taking him out of his element.ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “White Sand” was a fascinating treat, offering up a sample of the graphic novel on which it's based (which is awesome all on its own), and then pairing it with the short story from which it originated. “Shadows for Silence in the Forests of HellÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •is another standalone story set in its own world, and probably the darkest piece in the collection. It's a story of haunted forests, human cruelty, painful secrets, and the undying thirst for revenge. As far as the new material here is concerned, this was probably my favorite. Ironically, the next entry -

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã “Sixth of DuskÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã •- was the only story that didn't work for me. I can't put my finger on what was wrong with it, but the story just never grabbed me. The self-professed crown jewel of the collection, “Edgedancer,” is an all-new Stormlight Archive novella that I am pleased to say was everything I was looking for. It's a great story that gives us a peek at another part of the world, and which looks at the magic of the world from a younger, less experienced perspective. It's a story that blends sorrow, awe, and humor in equal measure, revisiting the character of Lift, who first appeared in Words of Radiance. Even if you've read some of the material before, the packaging of Arcanum Unbounded makes it a must read. Each section of the book has an illustration of the solar system in which it takes place, with the character of Khriss (who has written the Ars Arcanum at the end of each novel) providing a short essay on the world. Each story gets an illustration to introduce it, along with a Postscript from Sanderson, explaining how it fits into the Cosmere, why it's important, and how it came about. While it's not a good place to start for new readers, it's definitely a treat for fans.

Sanderson is best known for writing HUGE fantasy novels. Brandon Sanderson is a born winner. It seems everything he tries his hand at is a home run! That is the case with this collection of shorts. I had already read every entry here with the exception of the new Stormlight Archive story Edgedancer. Stormlight is already my favorite series running right now. Will just say I have read the current books a couple of times. :) Edgedancer is great. It runs 40 thousand words. It is about roughly about 10 percent the length of one of the main novels. The main character of it is Lift, who you will have met in one of the interludes of Words of Radiance. Her story here serves many purposes. First and foremost, it is just a heck of a lot of fun. Next it expands on the world that this series takes place on. Last it is a good primer for book 3. Helping curb my appetite for Oathbringer along was worth the price of admission. If you liked Lift's awesomeness in WoR then rest assured this will not disappoint. That isn't the only reason to buy this book. The other stories contained are incredible. My personal favorite is The Emporer's Soul. It is one of my favorite pieces of fiction of all time! Thanks for reading my review! If you have any questions on my review or the contents of the novel please post me a comment.

Aimed directly at voracious Sanderson readers, this collection fills in gaps from all over the Cosmere. It combines excellent short stories in a number of his Cosmere worlds with descriptions of the systems and some background that helps you understand how the worlds relate. If you have never read Sanderson before, I would recommend starting elsewhere - Warbreaker or Mistborn: The Final Empire. But come back to this one later, once you have been pulled in, and you won't regret it. If you follow Sanderson's work closely, the odds are you have already read a number of these short stories. The only truly new one, Edgedancer, is quite good. A stormlight novella, but in a different tone than the others, as it focuses on Lift, a character who tries to live life... differently. Mistborn: A secret history is also excellent, but don't read it until finishing the original Mistborn trilogy, massive spoilers. And the excerpt from the White Sand graphic novels has me excited to get to those; I don't normally do a lot of graphic novels, but this one seems like it will be excellent. The hardback is beautifully done; well illustrated, attractive, and solid. Gave a copy to my brother, made a great Christmas present. I have also listed to the Audible audiobook, and while the content is just as good I was not a huge fan of the narrators. Kramer and Reading alternate sections based on the gender of the primary character being focused on in that story (or part of the story). They each do significant sections at a time, but the change of pace was more jarring than helpful for me. Overall, an excellent addition to your Sanderson collection. Don't hesitate if you enjoy his work.

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