



A Betrayal in Winter: The Long Price Quartet

By Daniel Abraham

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A Betrayal in Winter: The Long Price Quartet By Daniel Abraham

Daniel Abraham delighted fantasy readers with his brilliant, original, and engaging first novel, *A Shadow in Summer*. Now he has produced an even more powerful sequel, a tragedy as darkly personal and violent as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

As a boy, Otah Machi was exiled from his family, Machi's ruling house. Decades later, he has witnessed and been part of world-changing events. Yet he has never returned to Machi. Now his father--the Khai, or ruler, of Machi--is dying and his eldest brother Biitrah has been assassinated, Otah realizes that he must return to Machi, for reasons not even he understands.

Tradition dictates that the sons of a dying Khai fall upon each other until only one remains to succeed his father. But something even worse is occurring in Machi. The Galts, an expansive empire, has allied with someone in Machi to bring down the ruling house. Otah is accused, the long-missing brother with an all-too-obvious motive for murder.

With the subtlety and wonderful storytelling skill of his first novel, Abraham has created a masterful drama filled with a unique magic, a suspenseful thriller of sexual betrayal, and Machiavellian politics.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set 15 years after the events of 2006's *A Shadow in Summer*, Abraham's clever second novel follows the tribulations of Otah Machi, the sixth son of the Khai Machi. On the demise of the Khai, one son must dispose of all other contenders in order to become the new ruler. Exiled years ago for refusing to become a magic-wielding poet, Otah made his home far from Machi, changed his name to Itani, worked as a laborer and never interfered in affairs of state, hoping to escape the kill-or-be-killed tradition. Now the old Khai's death approaches, and Otah's oldest brother, Bii'trah, has been smothered in his sleep. Whispered rumor—which may have been started by the Galts, an empire desperate to destroy the house of Machi—puts the blame for the murder on Otah. He returns to Machi, grimly acknowledging that he must kill his brothers to save himself. Mystery, love triangles and struggles with magical creatures called *andat* make for a slow-starting but well-rounded story.

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From [Booklist](#)

Setting and characters in the second Long Price Quartet volume are different from those in *A Shadow in Summer* (2006). In Machi, the khai, or lord of the city, is dying. Tradition enjoins his sons to fight one another to the last man, who becomes khai. These sons are reluctant. When they start dying anyway, suspicion falls on Otah, who fled the court years ago and now, in a distant city, is feeling torn. He doesn't want to go home, but his father has ordered one of Otah's few known friends to get him back. Someone in the empire of the Galts is conspiring with someone in Machi to overthrow the latter's ruling house. The world Abraham has created, in which poets who control *andat*s (magical beings composed of thought) constitute an elite in a once-great empire, remains fascinating, not least because there's more of the *andat*s and more intrapolitical bickering here as well as a collection of characters who keep one turning pages.

Murray, Frieda

Review

"*A Shadow in Summer* is a thoroughly engrossing debut novel from a major new fantasist. A poignant human tale of power, heartbreak, and betrayal." --George R.R. Martin

"*A Shadow in Summer* is one of the most elegant and engaging fantasies I've read in years, based on an intriguing, original premise. I eagerly await the remaining volumes in Daniel Abraham's the Long Price Quartet." --Jacqueline Carey

"From the opening lines, *A Shadow in Summer* carries us into an exotic, fantastic, yet utterly convincing world. Bravo! I look forward to the next book in the series." --Morgan Llywelyn

"Reader, be warned: If you open Daniel Abraham's *A Shadow in Summer*, he will lead you into a strange, seductive world of beatings and poets and betrayals, intrigues you do not fully understand and wars you cannot stop and places you are not sure you want to go. Intricate, elegant, and almost hypnotically told, this tale of gods held captive will hold you captive, too." --Connie Willis, Hugo Award-winning author of *To Say Nothing of the Dog*

"In a world of bloated fantasy clones, Abraham's voice is fresh and startlingly new; not only is his worldbuilding original, but the characters who inhabit the universe he's created are both strange and fully

human" --S. M. Sterling on *A Shadow in Summer*

"In addition to the creation of an architecturally-perfect fantasy world filled with a fascinating, highly distinctive set of characters, Daniel Abraham has introduced into fantasy one brilliant, stunning new idea, a magic system in which the Word is made Flesh." --Walter Jon Williams on *A Shadow in Summer*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rita Dubois:

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David Bolds:

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