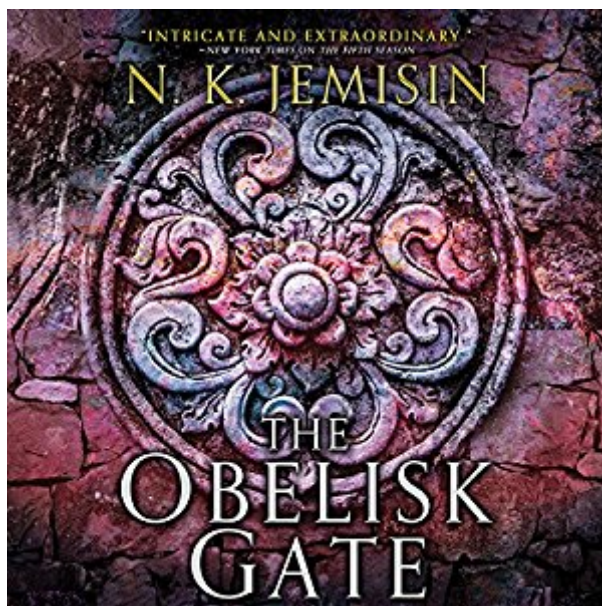


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The Obelisk Gate: The Broken Earth, Book 2



Synopsis

This is the way the world ends, for the last time. The season of endings grows darker, as civilization fades into the long cold night. Essun - once Damaya, once Syenite, now avenger - has found shelter, but not her daughter. Instead there is Alabaster Tenring, destroyer of the world, with a request. But if Essun does what he asks, it would seal the fate of the Stillness forever. Far away, her daughter Nassun is growing in power - and her choices will break the world.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 16, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01K5RQ73Q

Best Sellers Rank: #34 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #50 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic #61 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian

Customer Reviews

If you've read the Fifth Season, you have been waiting on pins and needles for this sequel. If you haven't read The Fifth Season, go do that NOW. Don't worry, we'll wait. The Obelisk Gate further develops the world we began to see in the first book. We learn more about the Fulcrum, the Guardians, the obelisks--and even more importantly--about the lives and motivations of characters we have come to love/hate/fear. Essun, as a woman in her mid forties is not your average protagonist. But she is someone who feels a million times more human and relatable than the cardboard cut out perfect princesses of urban fantasy. She is both powerful and humble, kind and cruel, she makes mistakes and has victories. She is in short, a person. And you can feel her blood, sweat and fears throughout the novel. We finally get to meet Nassun, and understand what is like to be the daughter of such a strong and damaged woman like Essun. We learn more about Hoa. And the dark adversary that Alabaster fights is finally revealed. This is not a novel that suffers from Second Book Syndrome. So much happens and yet nothing feels rushed. Another brilliant entry into an epic and unforgettable series. What the hell am I supposed to do with myself until the next book is

released?

This series is a little different from many that I've read recently. I said in my prior review that it seemed like a Dystopian Fantasy and I believe it is classified as Sci-Fi.

I'm still not sure what it is officially but with some of the revelations in this it appears that this might be a version of Earth in the distant, distant future. I really like the writing in this. The way the PoVs is presented really works for me. There are a few first person PoVs and then there is this other narrative by someone that sounds completely different in the way it is presented. I thought that maybe it is the Stoneeater companion Essun is keeping but then there are moments in this that I think perhaps some of them are Father Earth talking. ***We cannot be permitted to win. So this is a confession, my Essun. I've betrayed you already and I will do it again. You haven't even chosen a side yet, and already I fend off those who would recruit you to their cause. Already I plot your death. It's necessary. But I can at least try my damndest to give your life a meaning that will last till the world ends.***The Obelisk Gate covers both Nassun and Essun's stories. We start off with what happened to Nassun the day that her father killed her baby brother and took her away from her mother. Her story is a little heartbreaking as you learn what Essun did to teach her how to use her magic and the struggles Essun now has to face to stay alive while traveling with her father. It gave the reader great insight into why she would want a parental figure so much that she latched onto the first one that came around at that point in her life. Essun's story is just as engaging as Nassun's and possibly more so since I connected to her in the first book. In the commune she is trying to learn from Alabaster before his imminent demise. You learn that there was a method to his madness and maybe he didn't just want to destroy the world. Perhaps he was trying to move towards saving it and destroying it is just the first step. ***"Using that to channel the power of the Rift should be enough." "To do what?" "For the first time, you hear a note of emotion in her voice: annoyance. "To impose equilibrium on the Earth-Moon system." "What." "Alabaster said the Moon was flung away." "Into a degrading long-ellipsis orbit." "When you stare blankly, she speaks your language again. "It's coming back." "Oh, Earth. Oh, rust. Oh, no. "You want me to catch the Moon?" "There are other dangers of course to be faced. There are Stone Eaters and they have their own agendas including the one that has been following Essun around. There is

the growing tension in the Comm between the Orogenes and Stills and even more outside of the Comm as food becomes scarce and other Comms have decided to try and invade for food and supplies. Then there is also the interesting wildlife changes that include some animals hibernating while others have different deadly instinctual habits during a season. One of the most interesting things for me in this book was getting a little more insight into the Guardians and what makes them what they are. Shaffa's part in this book with some explanations of the Guardians are given was especially inventive and creepy. But his relationship with Nassun is equal parts beautiful and terrible. I'm so worried for what is going to happen in that dynamic in The Stone Sky.***He loses so much else, though. Understand: The Schaffa that we have known thus far, the Schaffa whom Damaya learned to fear and Syenite learned to defy, is now dead. What remains is a man with a habit of smiling, a warped paternal instinct, and a rage that is not wholly his own driving everything he does from this point on.***This was a really good follow up to The Fifth Season and has one of the more interesting concepts I've read recently. I'm really excited to the conclusion to this trilogy in The Stone Sky.

This book feels less like a sequel and more like a direct continuation of the first book. Which, as a fan of the first book, is great. The narrative ambiguity is mostly gone however, so if that was your primary interest in this series, you may not like this one as much. I just love the Broken Earth setting, it's highly evocative of both Dune and Patternmaster. And there's just something really resonant about immersing yourself in a setting where the world is constantly ending, even as the world right now feels pretty apocalyptic. It's hopeful, in a strange way. I look forward to reading more of this author's work while I wait for the 3rd entry to be published.

SPOILERS BELOW. LOOK AWAY NOW. SPOILERS. Love the book. Love the storyline. Definitely worthy of 4 stars on my scale of enjoyable reads. The only thing I'm confused about is that it seems that both the gray stone eater and Hoa want the moon back. And that's what Alabaster wanted. So why are they fighting one another? The gray stone eater originally said that he didn't want to open the obelisk gate. Then it says he does want it open. It also said that he wants the Season to go on forever so humans can die off. So why would he want the moon back? This part is VERY CONFUSING. From chapter 18: Hoa warns Essun that the gray one wants the obelisk gate opened for his own reasons. Not to end the seasons and bring the moon back. From chapter 16: They ask what the gray stone eater

wants. “He wants to make sure the Obelisk Gate is never opened again.” “The what?” Ykka asks. But you’re leaning your head back against the wall, floored and horrified and wondering. Of course. Alabaster. What easier way to wipe out people who depend on food and sunlight to survive than to simply let this Season wear on until they are extinct? Leaving nothing but the stone eaters to inherit the darkening Earth. And to make sure it happens, kill the only person with the power to end it. And from the final chapter: “The path that the Moon naturally follows. Instead of letting it pass again, lost and wandering, bring it home. Father Earth’s been missing it. Bring it straight here and let them have a reunion.” “It will be a terrible thing,” Steel says softly, nearly in her ear because he’s moved closer to her. “It will end the Seasons. It will end every season. And yet what you’re feeling right now, you need never feel again. No one will ever suffer again.” So Nassun turns then, to Steel, and says, “Tell me how to bring the Moon home.” “Isn’t this all very confusing? Confusing but worthy of 4 stars

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