

mistborn the secret history

Mistborn: The Secret History is a unique novella in the expansive Mistborn universe created by Brandon Sanderson. Released in 2016, this work serves as a companion piece to the original Mistborn trilogy and provides readers with a deeper understanding of the events that transpired during and after the series. It introduces new characters, explores existing ones, and delves into the intricacies of the world that Sanderson has crafted. This article will explore the storyline, themes, and implications of *Mistborn: The Secret History*, as well as its significance within the broader context of the Mistborn series.

Overview of Mistborn: The Secret History

Mistborn: The Secret History is set within the same universe as the original Mistborn trilogy but takes place primarily after the events of the first trilogy. The novella focuses on Kelsier, a beloved character from the original series, who becomes a central figure in this narrative. The story reveals Kelsier's experiences in the Cognitive Realm and his attempts to influence the events of the physical world after his death.

The novella is structured to provide a more profound exploration of the cosmere, Sanderson's interconnected universe, which comprises numerous series and novels. It is essential to note that while the novella can be read independently, a certain level of familiarity with the Mistborn series enhances the reading experience.

Plot Summary

The plot of *Mistborn: The Secret History* can be summarized as follows:

- Kelsier's Journey:** After his death, Kelsier finds himself in the Cognitive Realm, a plane of existence that exists parallel to the physical world. Here, he encounters various beings and learns more about the nature of the universe. His realization that he can still influence the world drives him to seek ways to connect with the living.
- Interaction with Preservation:** Kelsier's journey leads him to interact with Preservation, one of the two foundational forces in the Mistborn universe. This interaction provides Kelsier with insights into the balance of power between Preservation and Ruin, revealing the stakes involved in the ongoing struggle between these forces.
- Influencing the Living:** Throughout the novella, Kelsier attempts to guide and influence several key characters, including Vin and Elend. His efforts are marked by a blend of frustration and determination as he navigates the limitations of his new existence.
- The Role of the Cognitive Realm:** The novella delves into the concepts of the Cognitive Realm, exploring its implications for the nature of reality, identity, and the afterlife. Kelsier's understanding of this realm shapes his interactions and decisions as he attempts to impact the physical world.

5. Conclusion and Set-Up for Future Stories: The novella concludes with Kelsier establishing a new role for himself in the universe, setting the stage for future events in the Mistborn series and the cosmere as a whole.

Thematic Exploration

Mistborn: The Secret History is rich with themes that resonate throughout Sanderson's work. Some of the most prominent themes include:

Life, Death, and the Afterlife

The novella raises profound questions about the nature of existence beyond physical death. Kelsier's experiences in the Cognitive Realm prompt readers to consider what it means to live and to die, as well as how one's actions in life can continue to resonate after death. The exploration of Kelsier's struggle emphasizes the importance of legacy and the impact of one's choices.

Power and Influence

Kelsier's journey illustrates the complexities of power—both in life and death. As he attempts to influence the living, the novella explores the ethical implications of his actions. This theme resonates with the broader Mistborn series, where the struggle for power and control is a central narrative element.

Identity and Memory

The Cognitive Realm serves as a metaphor for memory and identity. Kelsier's interactions with other characters and his attempts to influence them highlight how memories shape who we are and how we perceive the world. The novella raises questions about what constitutes identity when one exists outside the physical realm.

Character Development

Mistborn: The Secret History is notable for its character development, particularly for Kelsier. While he is a pivotal character in the original trilogy, the novella allows readers to see a different side of him. Some key aspects of character development include:

- **Kelsier's Growth:** The novella showcases Kelsier's evolution from a rebellious leader to a more introspective character who grapples with his own limitations and the consequences of his actions.
- **Interactions with Other Characters:** Kelsier's attempts to influence Vin and Elend provide insight into their characters and further develop their arcs. Through Kelsier's eyes, readers gain a deeper appreciation

for their struggles and triumphs.

- **New Characters:** The introduction of new characters in the Cognitive Realm adds depth to the narrative, allowing for exploration of different perspectives within the Mistborn universe.

Significance within the Mistborn Universe

Mistborn: The Secret History serves several critical purposes within the Mistborn universe:

Expanding the Lore

The novella enriches the lore of the Mistborn universe by providing insights into the Cognitive Realm and the fundamental forces of Preservation and Ruin. This expansion is crucial for readers who wish to understand the broader cosmere and the interconnectedness of Sanderson's works.

Setting the Stage for Future Stories

By establishing Kelsier's new role and his interactions with other characters, the novella sets the stage for future developments in the Mistborn series. It teases potential plotlines and character arcs that could be explored in subsequent books, particularly in the context of the second and third Mistborn trilogies.

Enhancing Reader Engagement

For fans of the original Mistborn trilogy, the novella provides a chance to reconnect with beloved characters and explore new dimensions of their stories. It enhances reader engagement by allowing them to reflect on the themes of legacy, power, and identity while deepening their understanding of the universe.

Conclusion

Mistborn: The Secret History is a compelling addition to the Mistborn series, offering a unique perspective on familiar characters while expanding the lore of Sanderson's universe. Through Kelsier's journey in the Cognitive Realm, readers are invited to contemplate profound themes related to life, death, and the nature of existence. The novella not only enriches the narrative of the Mistborn series but also serves as a bridge to future stories within the cosmere. For both new readers and long-time fans, Mistborn: The Secret History is an essential and thought-provoking read that enhances the overall experience of the Mistborn saga.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of 'Mistborn: Secret History'?

'Mistborn: Secret History' explores the events occurring in the Mistborn universe from the perspective of Kelsier after his death, detailing his experiences in the Cognitive Realm and his influence on key events throughout the series.

How does 'Mistborn: Secret History' fit into the overall Mistborn series?

It serves as a companion novella to the original Mistborn trilogy, providing additional context, character development, and insights into the lore, particularly about Kelsier and the world of Scadrial.

What new characters or entities are introduced in 'Mistborn: Secret History'?

The novella introduces several new characters and entities from the Cognitive Realm, including the concept of 'shades' and interactions with other notable figures from the Cosmere, enhancing the depth of the existing lore.

How does Kelsier's character evolve in 'Mistborn: Secret History'?

Kelsier's character evolves as he grapples with his identity after death, his motivations for influencing the living, and his understanding of the broader implications of his actions within the Cosmere.

What themes are explored in 'Mistborn: Secret History'?

The novella explores themes of sacrifice, legacy, the nature of heroism, and the consequences of power, while also delving into philosophical questions about life and death in the context of the Cosmere.

Are there any significant revelations about the Cosmere in 'Mistborn: Secret History'?

Yes, the novella reveals important connections between the Mistborn series and other works in the Cosmere, including insights into the nature of Investiture and the overarching narrative that ties different worlds together.

How does 'Mistborn: Secret History' enhance the reader's understanding of the original trilogy?

It enhances understanding by providing deeper insights into Kelsier's motivations and actions, clarifying certain plot points, and revealing hidden connections that enrich the narrative of the original trilogy.

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