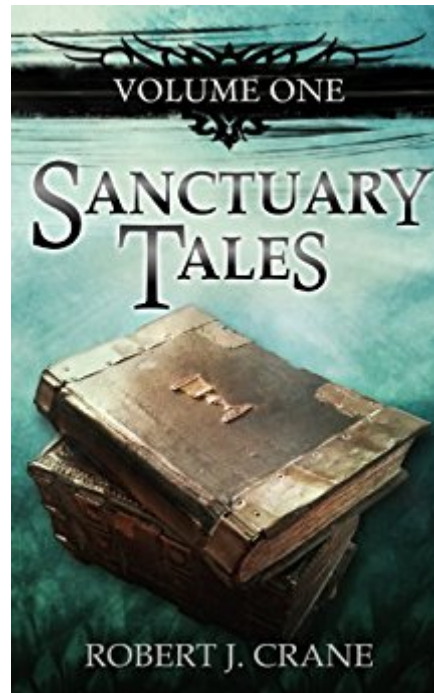




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Sanctuary Tales



Synopsis

The world of Arkaria is a dangerous place, filled with dragons, titans, goblins and other dangers. Those who live in this world are faced with two choices: live an ordinary life or become an adventurer and seek the extraordinary. The guild of Sanctuary is replete with an amazing cast of adventurers, wanderers and rogues. In their pasts linger secrets that define them and shape the course of their lives. For every one of them has a tale, each with something different to show - and even in the most honorable guild of Sanctuary, not everyone is exactly what they seem to be. AUTHOR'S NOTE: This short story collection is best read between Crusader (Volume 4) and Thy Father's Shadow (Volume 4.5). Otherwise it might spoil some surprises.

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Customer Reviews

This collection of stories fills in the gaps left in the major books. In the first story, "Savages", we get the background story of Brevis, the gnome who brought about the schism in Sanctuary and the resulting exodus of about half its members when Orion left. In this story, we also see more of Cyrus'

period of mourning after the death of Narstron, and we get to see the process that took place as Cyrus learned to first trust, and later on, to actually like and respect Vaste, the Troll. The second story, "A Familiar Face", concerns Cyrus, his ex-wife, Imina, and the memory gaps left when someone is killed and resurrected. The third story, "The Last Moments of the Gezhvet" shows us what exactly happened when Narstron was killed, by who and why, and we see that Cyrus was right when he told the Gatekeeper that he knew Narstron died as a warrior. We also learn more about soul rubies, and about who Malpravus is and what his motives and goals are. The Fourth story, "The Greenest Fields" concerns Martaina. We learn how she grew up, as an Iliarad'ouran Elf, one of those who eschewed the more modern ways of the City Elves and eked out a living in the forest. She was one of the last of these, and, as her family is wiped out by the King's guards, she leaves for a life outside of the woods. The fifth story, "A Princess of Sovar", is about Erith Frostmoor, born and orphaned in Sovar. We get to see what society is like there, the stratification and absence of any way for those on the bottom to climb higher. We learn a bit about Terian's father, Amenon Lepos, and see the process for weeding out those with magical ability. We watch while Erith is elevated above her peers, the dregs of society, simply because she has magical ability, and transferred to the Leagues for training. The sixth, and final story, is the most important to us going forward. We learn about Aisling, where she came from, who she is, and why she is outside of Saekaj Sovar. It's the most surprising of all of them, and has enormous implications for the overall series as it continues. As a result of this story, we get to see a lot of Saekaj, and how the upper strata lives. We see inside the Sovereign's palace, meet several principal characters who will feature prominently in the main series, or in Terian's, and finally understand what motivates Aisling in her quest to seduce Cyrus. It's a chilling story. This is a must read addition to the series, but one that shouldn't be read until after Book Four, because of the spoilers it contains. It should be read before Terian's series begins (*Thy Father's Shadow*), which is the more fascinating of these two extra books, simply because it's the beginning of a trilogy, and therefore has much more character development and detail than the short stories are able to have. Buy it. It's a 5 Star addition to the main story.

If you are a fan of the Sanctuary series, you must read this book before *Thy Father's Shadow* and *Master*. This book fills in many of the gaps that were left out in the first three books. I enjoyed the fact that Crane develops the relationships between Cyrus and other important characters in the series, I also like that he wrote from the perspective of characters other than Cyrus in this book. A down point for me was that I found myself wondering about where the individual stories fit into the

timeline of the first three novels, despite the fact that this was mentioned in the title of each chapter. But overall, I enjoyed the book, it took me on a bit of an emotional journey and like all other books in this series, I could not put it down!

I love the sanctuary series for so many reasons but mostly for the characters. They are some of the most realistic and funny characters I have read about. This is probably my new favorite book series.

This set of short stories in the Sanctuary universe is a nice diversion whilst waiting for the next book to be published. Readers should have read through book 4 to better enjoy this series and not spoil anything. In brief, the stories are: Savages: how Cyrus met and befriended the troll Vaste. A Familiar Face: an important thing that Cyrus has forgotten after one of his deaths/resurrections. The Last Moments of the Gezhvet: what really happened to the dwarf Narstron during the first raid of Enterra. The Greenest Fields: how Martaina Proleus grew up in the woods near Pharesia and why she left them to eventually become the greatest ranger in Arkania. A Princess of Sovar: the very humble beginnings of 12 year old Erith Frostmoor in the slums of Sovar. Thieving Ways: Aisling and her service to the Sovereign of Saekaj Sovar.

I absolutely love the Sanctuary Series by Robert Crane, it has me hooked. The best part is that the first few books were free, but that alone was enough to get me on board. I like the style of writing and how it changes from the main character to others around him. The story is set around magic users in an almost knight/castle setting. There are a bunch of loops and turns when you least expect it, which is great since I am always on the edge of my seat reading this wanting more.

Some of the main characters in the Sanctuary series seemed to have interesting backgrounds in the actual series, but explaining them would have taken away from the story itself. This addition explaining characters and their background this way was well done and well placed into the series. Can't wait until the next book comes out.

So as I started reading Crusader, I figured it was the final book of the series. The sanctuary in ruins several years in the future scene at the beginning of every book seemed to have its explanation in book 4 with the place besieged by the dark elven army and all. So I was quite surprised that the book didn't end that way, and immediately went to Robert J. Crane's website to find out what was going on. BTW, book four was already published when I started the series, and I've been reading it

pretty much nonstop for the last few months. I was glad to find out about this little gem--it was like the methodone to help me down from my recent literary addiction, and help be hold off until the next book is released.

I always wondered what sub stories and back plots are left on the cutting room floor during editing. My guess is that these short stories were there, never written, in the authors mind when he created his cast of characters. It's rare for me to want to know more of why a character is who they are after a story, even rarer for me to read short stories.. but this was very entertaining

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