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Illidan: World Of Warcraft



Synopsis

Behind the legend stands an individual hungry for justice and vengeance - as the adventure, intrigue, and heroism of World of Warcraft rise to a new level. You are not prepared. Illidan Stormrage is one of the most powerful beings ever to walk the lands of Azeroth. He is also one of the least understood. Behind his legend, beneath his enigmatic mission, lies a brilliant mind whose machinations are comprehended by few - and trusted by even fewer. Illidan's righteous reign of justice and vengeance has begun. Long ago, the night elf sorcerer Illidan infiltrated the demonic Burning Legion to ward off its invasion of Azeroth. Instead of hailing him as a hero, his own kind branded him the Betrayer, questioning his intentions after he appeared to aid the demon lords. For 10,000 years he languished in prison - vilified, isolated, but never forgetting his purpose. Now the Legion has returned, and there is only one champion who can truly stand against it. Released from his bonds, Illidan prepares for the final confrontation in the alien realm of Outland, gathering an army of grotesque fel orcs, serpentine naga, cunning blood elves, and twisted demon hunters to his side. He alone knows what deeply hidden motives guide his hand; he alone understands the price that must be paid to defeat the enemies of creation. Yet as before, he is assailed by those who see his schemes as a cynical quest for power, including the night elf Maiev Shadowsong, his former jailor. Warden Shadowsong and her Watchers have pursued the Betrayer to Outland to exact retribution for his crimes, and she will not rest until Illidan is in her custody...or in his grave.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a review of William King's novel "Illidan: World of Warcraft". Relative to other Warcraft books, the writing is like Shakespeare, IMO. The story is told from the points of view of Maiev, Akama, a night elf Illidari student demon hunter named Vandel, and Illidan himself. The characterizations of Illidan and Maiev are very well-done. King paints them both as obsessive, rage-filled, egomaniacal jerks who will pay any price to obtain the outcome they desire -- near mirror images of each other, in fact. However neither of them are presented as being outright evil -- just very flawed. Also relative to other Warcraft books, it's explicitly gory and violent, but again IMO, that befits a book about Illidan. If a book about him were to be glossed over, it would feel silly. The sections depicting the training of the student Illidari demon hunters are especially graphic. Do not be eating your lunch while reading these parts. As far as characterization of Illidan goes, I feel that he has been given a lot more depth -- something that this character always had the potential for given the right author to bring it out. While our old "ends justifies the means" power-seeking creep is still there (no doubt about that), he is portrayed as still possessing solid core morality deep down and the ability to feel empathy for other living things. He's willing to cast aside the rules of right and wrong as he needs to and he rationalizes it away as being for the greater good/the ends justifies the means, but there's still some genuine regret there.

I've read a few WoW books before, and they're generally a light, decent read, something that doesn't require too much of you, and conversely, that you don't get too invested in either. I didn't know much of Illidan besides what I've gleaned from playing WoW on and off for years. He was the black sheep/antihero of the Alliance. He was the third wheel, and he doubted our preparedness. This book isn't Illidan's biography. There's nothing about his childhood, barely even anything about the thousands of years before and during his imprisonment. This is about a relatively tiny period of time, six years to be exact, where Illidan Stormrage rules the Black Temple... until he doesn't. I thought it was really interesting to see the other side. The Black Temple is still a scary, evocative place, 40-odd levels later. It truly houses an army, but I'd never before wondered what the army was for - what Illidan had been planning before we kicked in the doors. We learn his plans here. We learn why it matters so much to him, and what he's willing or capable of doing to achieve them (not a spoiler: pretty much anything). We learn to... kind of agree with him? Illidan is a lot more complex than the games were able to portray. So is Akama. They're both capable of heroism and atrocity, and it was great to see nuance - the world of Warcraft is usually a lot more black and white between its heroes and villains, but ironically, it's also the kind of unique place that creates people like Illidan. When you fight the bad guys for so long and you see what they're capable of, there are going to be some really

hard decisions to make. King does a beautiful job juxtaposing Illidan and Maiev.

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