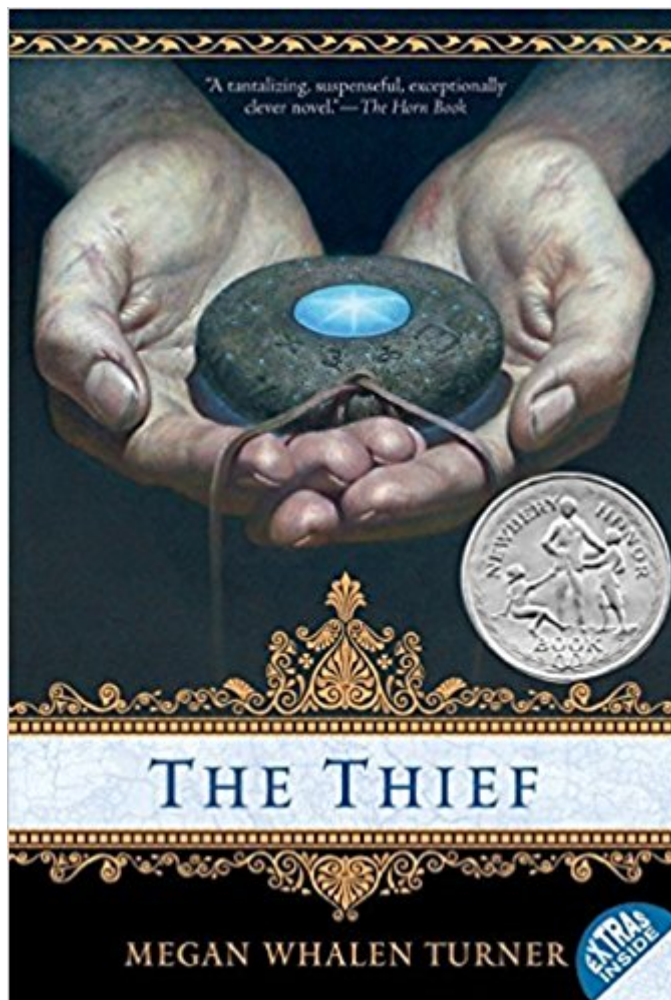


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The Thief (The Queen's Thief, Book 1)



Synopsis

Discover the world of the Queen's Thief New York Times-bestselling author Megan Whalen Turner's entrancing and award-winning Queen's Thief novels bring to life the world of the epics and feature one of the most charismatic and incorrigible characters of fiction, Eugenides the thief. Megan Whalen Turner's Queen's Thief novels are rich with political machinations and intrigue, battles lost and won, dangerous journeys, divine intervention, power, passion, revenge, and deception. Perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo, Marie Lu, Patrick Rothfuss, and George R. R. Martin. Eugenides, the queen's thief, can steal anything—or so he says. When his boasting lands him in prison and the king's magus invites him on a quest to steal a legendary object, he's in no position to refuse. The magus thinks he has the right tool for the job, but Gen has plans of his own. The Queen's Thief novels have been praised by writers, critics, reviewers, and fans, and have been honored with glowing reviews, "best of" citations, and numerous awards, including the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Newbery Honor, the Andre Norton Award shortlist, and the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. Discover and rediscover the stand-alone companions, *The Queen of Attolia*, *The King of Attolia*, and *A Conspiracy of Kings*, all epic novels set in the world of the Queen's Thief. A Newbery Honor Book An ALA Notable Book A YALSA Best Book for Young Adults A Horn Book Fanfare Book A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age A Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book A Junior Library Guild Selection "The Queen's Thief books awe and inspire me. They have the feel of a secret, discovered history of real but forgotten lands. The plot-craft is peerless, the revelations stunning, and the characters flawed, cunning, heartbreaking, exceptional. Megan Whalen Turner's books have a permanent spot on my favorites shelf, with space waiting for more books to come." —Laini Taylor, New York Times-bestselling author of the *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* novels and *Strange the Dreamer* "Unforgettable characters, plot twists that will make your head spin, a world rendered in elegant detail—you will fall in love with every page of these stories. Megan Whalen Turner writes vivid, immersive, heartbreaking fantasy that will leave you desperate to return to Attolia again and again." —Leigh Bardugo, New York Times-bestselling author of *The Grisha Trilogy* and *Six of Crows* "Trust me. Just read it. Then read it again, because it will not be the same river twice." —Lois McMaster Bujold, acclaimed and Hugo Award-winning author of the *Vorkosigan Saga*, the *Chalion Series*, and the *Sharing Knife* series "In addition to its charismatic hero, this story possesses one of the most valuable treasures of all—a twinkling jewel of a surprise ending."

• Publishers Weekly (starred review) "To miss this thief's story would be a crime."
• Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review) "A literary journey that enriches both its characters and readers before it is over."
• Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "A tantalizing, suspenseful, exceptionally clever novel."
• The Horn Book (starred review)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A king orders a young thief to carry out a near-impossible heist under threat of death. "In addition to its charismatic hero, this story possesses one of the most valuable treasures of all?a twinkling jewel of a surprise ending," said PW of this 1997 Newbery Honor book. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6 Up? Things are not what they seem in this story of wit, adventure, and philosophy. Gen, an accomplished thief incarcerated for stealing the king's seal, is dragged from his cell by the king's magus, who is on a quest. The prize is Hamiathes's Gift, said to be a creation of the gods that confers the right of rule on the wearer. During the quest, the magus and Gen take turns telling the youngest member of their party myths about the Eddisian god of thieves. Turner does a phenomenal job of creating real people to range through her well-plotted, evenly paced story. No one is entirely evil or completely perfect. Gen is totally human in his lack of discipline, seeming lack of heroism, and need for sleep and food. The magus makes the transition from smug, superior scholar to decent guy in a believable fashion. Turner also does a neat job of puncturing lots of little

prejudices. There are many deft lessons in this story. As absorbing as it is, the best part lies in the surprise ending. Though it is foreshadowed throughout, it is not obvious?its impact is more like morning sunlight than a lightning bolt. This book is sure to be a hot item with adventure and fantasy lovers, and YAs who like snide, quick-tempered, softhearted heroes will love Gen.?Patricia A. Dollisch, DeKalb County Public Library, Decatur, GACopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I recently read an article written by fantasy author Rachel Dunne in which she answered this question: What books do you wish you could read again for the first time? It's a great question, asking a reader to remember past feelings of awe and joy upon discovering a character destined to become beloved, or a plot with unexpected but perfectly aligned puzzle pieces, or a uniquely imagined world. For me, the book that evokes these emotions best is *The Thief*. *The Thief* is simply my favorite book of all time. Here's why.

- #1 I have a crush on Eugenides, the smartest guy in the room. It takes the smartest writer in the room to pull that off.
- #2 The series inspired me to start writing my own created world fiction, with special inspiration coming from Turner's switch from 1st person POV in *The Thief* to 3rd person limited POV in the next books.
- #3 I reread the initial trilogy in the series twice a year. It's not an intentional plan. It just turns out that several times a year, when I am between books and ask myself what I'm in the mood to read, this book pops into my head. It's kind of like indulging in a favorite dessert. Of course, once you've read *The Thief*, you must immediately read *The Queen of Attolia* and *The King of Attolia*. I envy all first-time readers the experience!

It is so difficult to review this book because it is an excellent read, but to really delve into why it is excellent might detract from the experience for new readers! And I really think it helped going into this story with little expectations. It does take a bit of time for the story to pick up, but I did find the author's descriptions of the world and of the lives of these people so vivid as to be completely fascinating, and I enjoyed all the details. I think this story has a perfect blend of character development, plot and world building. All three support each other so well to tell the story. Just when it is necessary to know more about a character, the information is dropped in - as well as the information concerning the beliefs and politics of the world, and the purpose of the story. The plot does seem aimless at times in the beginning, but I enjoyed how everything was made clear as things that were hinted or briefly mentioned in the beginning became important. The story builds very well as we get to know more about the characters and their motivations. Gen is such a fun

character - wry, unrepentant, and very cocksure - he narrates the book and keeps the flow of the story entertaining with his observations of his fellow travelers. Everybody it seems has secrets in this book, and it really felt like I was there on this journey of discovery with these characters as I continued to read. The writing, the characters and the world building - with it's influences of Greek mythology - all felt real and striking. I think when it comes to a book of this kind of fantasy, there is an expectation of real emotional poignancy. And there were a couple emotional moments in this book that could have been very affecting, but the plot moved too quickly to dwell on it. That made this story lighter fantasy fare - which is nice to read sometimes because it is just pure entertainment. This is a fantastic adventure tale with some surprising twists and great characters. And I've heard that the second book "The Queen of Attolia" is much better, so I'm really looking forward to finding out why!

My adolescent daughter, who LOVES YA fantasy, found this book boring. I then picked it up. I am about half way through and keep wondering, why is the author spending so much time describing how the characters descend a gorge? Or what they ate? Or what their cloaks looks like? It's pretty good description but it doesn't GO anywhere and there is so much of it! Ugh. Boring is right. And it won an award? How did that happen?

This book started out promising, but quickly began to decline. The mythology and world building are interesting and somewhat compelling, but the characterization is so poorly done I had trouble making myself care about Gen even when he gets stabbed. There is way too much telling what happened, and too little actual description of events. I got three quarters of the way through this book and could not force myself to read more.

One of the best books I've read in awhile. Definitely one of the best written. The characters are engaging from the beginning and Ms Turner allows you to get to know them like you would in real life - little "peeks" into their emotions, morale and motives until they've become your friends. The plot was intriguing and I look forward to more books in this series.

I guess this could be called "fantasy" as it's set in an invented world with a teensy bit of magic/gods thrown in, but it's almost like historical fiction in that it tells the story of a trio of countries which need to band together to resist a greater threat, with a host of fascinating, evolving characters. This first book is from the perspective of the young thief Gen, who's the heart of the series, and the

subsequent books pull back to allow a wider perspective on the world and other characters. Each book is quite different but I enjoyed them all. At this point I'm willing to read anything Megan Whalen Turner writes. Amazing books, buy them all immediately!

There's a lot to love about this book. Gen is a hilarious main character, and a fantastic example of an unreliable narrator. I knew a twist was coming, and was pleasantly surprised that my guess was wrong. The writing itself is stellar, as is the mythology and the world. The only reason I went with four stars instead of five is because, though it's necessary for the second half of the book, the first half is slow and uneventful. It's well done, but it basically amounts to a lot of walking and talking. Had I not known to expect a twist, I might have DNFed the book. However, my complaint likely says more about me as a reader than the book itself. In the end, I'm happy to have finished it, and can't wait to read the next in the series.

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