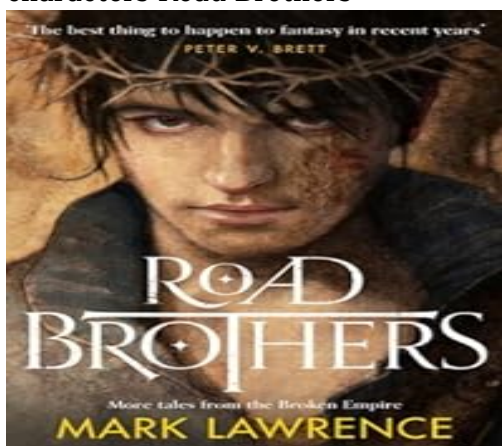


## Road Brothers By Mark Lawrence

The Girl And The Stars and As always you can find this review on my blog The Tattooed Book Geek received a free copy of this book courtesy of the publisher in exchange for an honest review One thing that I find with short story collections is that you can pick up the book read a story go off and do something else and then come back and read another Which of course is true for any book as you pick it back up to continue reading But reading a short story collection isn't like a full length book where each time you come back to it you pick up the story where you left off and have to remember what's gone on before With shorts you get self contained tales and a book that you can jump in and out of as you please reading one or two shorts here and there or as life dictates making the collection easy to read whenever you have a spare moment and this sentiment holds true for Road Brothers It's a book that is infinitely easy to pick up lose yourself in a tale or two told by Lawrence put the book down and then come back to it later when you need another quick fix of escapism and that's just what I did reading Road Brothers over a span of days and dipping in and out as life allowed Road Brothers is a collection of 14 short stories that centre around Jorg Ancrath and his band of brothers from Lawrence's The Broken Empire trilogy with the final short in the collection being about Prince Jalan Kendeth from Lawrence's other trilogy The Red Queen's War Road Brothers was previously released as an e book and contains shorts that have been included in various anthologies As such some readers will already own the e book and/or have read some of the included stories from those other collections This new hardback version includes additional content in the form of some new short stories and footnotes at the end of each story as well as a shiny new paint job in the form of a stunning cover depicting Jorg Ancrath The footnotes themselves are very interesting small asides giving you additional insight into the reason behind the story you've just read and are a fantastic little inclusion by Lawrence The stories found within the pages of Road Brothers are an eclectic mix of tales featuring additional insights shenanigans forays and origins into the characters their lives and their world and I enjoyed them all finding that each held my attention and offered the reader something different Without giving away any spoilers you all know by now that's not my style my favourite stories were Sleeping Beauty featuring Jorg The Weight of Command featuring Jorg Sim and Brother Burlow Select Mode featuring Jorg and the Nuban Mercy featuring Makin A Good Name featuring the Nuban No other Troy featuring Jorg The Secret featuring Sim Escape featuring the Nuban Know Thyself featuring a young Jorg his younger brother William and Father Gomst who I always found to be an intriguing character in The Broken Empire And finally Three is the Charm featuring Jalan Kendeth Lawrence's writing is as good as ever even in the shorter length he knows how to tell a tale and includes great characterisation emotion a dark style of humour and action everything that you could want in a story If you've never read anything by Mark Lawrence before then Road Brothers is very accessible and as a starting point to his work it is a great place to begin The short stories included offer you brief glimpses and snippets into the lives of characters that will make you want to see and read about them in his other works But Why not just start from the beginning anyway? If you do then you are in for an absolute treat as both The Broken Empire and Red Queen's War are utterly fantastic and for me are two of the best fantasy trilogies to be released Red Sister the first book in The Book of the Ancestor trilogy is also an outstanding read If however you are like me have already read all of Lawrence's previous books and are a massive fan of his work then Road Brothers takes on a new meaning ever since my initial foray into the work of Mark Lawrence with Prince of Thorns the first book in his Broken Empire trilogy I've always held an affinity towards Jorg and his band of merry ruffian degenerate riff raff miscreant rabble - yes I'm not sure what that says about me But there was something immediately appealing about them all that just enamoured them to me Jorg himself is such a complex and fascinating character and Grumlow Rike Sim Makin the Nuban Gorgoth et al all add that extra touch to Jorg's story and it transcends just reading about various characters into something deeper It's a snapshot into the lives of characters you already know and love it's akin to visiting with and becoming reacquainted with old friends and I loved every moment I got to spend back in the company of these

brothers It was also an utter joy to get a brief glimpse and foray into Jalan's life and read a short about him that was in all honesty a typically Jalanese tale too Regardless of whether you are an old or new reader to the work of Lawrence there's a lot to like in Road Brothers and it is a worthy addition to any fantasy fans bookshelf With Road Brothers it was an absolute pleasure to once again read about and visit Jorg and his brothers Mark Lawrence I loved this like I've never loved a short story collection before What is there to say? "Every good story tells at least one lie and holds a secret at its heart" Reviewing a bunch of short stories is always difficult especially when your followers are the kind that will check out your reviews to help them choose what to pick up next instead of looking for a second opinion about something they have already read Road Brothers is a collection of short stories that take place before and during the events of The Broken Empire Although they are great if you want to revisit that world they are obviously not a good starting point Therefore you can read and enjoy them without spoiling yourself only after you've finished the main trilogy Now if you've finished and liked the main trilogy you don't really need me to tell you that you must read this right? Well I guess some of you may think that it simply isn't worth reading That it doesn't add anything to the story Now if you think that I don't want to say that you're wrong but you're so fucking wrong They call me a monster and if it were untrue the weight of my crimes would pin me to the ground I have maimed and I have murdered and if this mountain stood but a little higher I would cut the angels from their heaven I care less for accusations than for the rain that soaks me that runs down every limb I spit both from my lips Judgment has always left a sour taste The Broken Empire among other things had a wonderful cast Although it was Jorg's story through and through the other characters and especially Jorg's band of brothers had their own important role to play Unfortunately there wasn't enough time for them to shine which is what they do in Road Brothers We get to see parts of the story from their own perspective learn about their motives and see the real characters behind the masks of toughened thieves and soldiers Some people think that writing a short story is easier than writing a full novel but this isn't the case In the space of a few pages you have to provide a background a motive a fast pace and importantly to write an enjoyable story Mark not only does all of those things but he ties them together with his unique and mesmerizing prose All in all Road Brothers is an excellent collection of short stories that every fan of The Broken Empire should read but be prepared for the feels You can read all of my reviews over on Mark Lawrence An absolutely marvellous collection of stories that fleshes out the Broken Empire beautifully It was not only great reading about Jorg and the Nuban who is my favourite but getting glimpses of Snorri's dad witches and Rike willing to wait for some looting made it a full experience and one like the rest of Mark's books I'll treasure Mark Lawrence This is the new Road Brothers UK paperback to be released in June 2020 with new cover by Jason Chan Follow Jorg and his friends individually and in small groups across the Broken Empire and see the events that shaped them Contains the short stories A Rescue Sleeping Beauty Bad Seed The Nature of the Beast The Weight of Command Select Mode Mercy A Good Name Choices No Other Troy The Secret Escape Know Thyself Three is the Charm With brief footnotes That's footnotes people if you've read all of them vote on which are your favourites Mark Lawrence A kiss had woken me and I'd found as we so often do that the world had moved on without me And that's the riddle of existence for you When to move and when to stay Dwell too long and we become the prisoner of our dreams or someone else's Move too fast live without pause and you'll miss it all your whole life a blur of doing Good lives are built of moments of times when we step back and truly see The dream and the dreamer There's the rub Does the dream ever let go? Aren't we all only sleepwalking into old age just waiting waiting waiting for that kiss? I've been putting off reading this after I preordered it because I didn't want to be done fully done with the Broken Empire universe It's no secret that I am a massive fan of Mark Lawrence his brilliant writing You've probably heard me raving from the rooftops at one point or another Road Brothers consisted of fourteen stories focuses on the glorious misfit motley crew from the world of the Broken Empire To revisit my beloved Jorg throughout various timelines again is worth getting this book alone Throw in other memorable characters their perspectives damn We have ourselves uite the adventure With this we are able to explore in depth the diverse cast of characters including

background characters from the trilogy I don't find myself reading a ton of short fiction just because I prefer to get lost within the intricacies of a longer tale. Inevitably short stories tend to come up well short for me. Road Brothers was one exception however. These supplemental stories are fan fucking tastic. There was such a seamless transition from story to story. Plus this has footnotes I love. Some footnotes. Getting a glimpse inside Lawrence's thoughts added to my enjoyment for sure. The in your face yet beautiful prose from Mark Lawrence across all of his books is incomparable. I haven't read anyone that has mastered that juxtaposition quite as uniquely as he does. There were some especially gut punchy brutal passages within these pages. The quote I highlighted up above for instance SO BLOODY STUNNING. I always find reviewing a collection of short stories difficult yet here I am blathering on WHY AM I LIKE THIS?? It's hard not to gush over this mesmerizing world. If you've already read loved the Broken Empire trilogy then this is a must. Jorg his brothers are waiting. Mark Lawrence. Feels good to catch up with old fiends. Mark Lawrence. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Broken Empire changed and saved my life. This book allowed me to explore that landscape once again and not just through the eyes of our beloved Jorg Ancrath. This book shows us the magic Mark Lawrence can do with his short and smooth prose especially in short stories. I hope for another collection of short stories in the future. Mark Lawrence 14 x 5 stars. The ultimate read if you are fan of The Broken Empire. Mark Lawrence 5 stars. I really should have read this straight after the other books in this Broken Empire universe but it's still a fantastic collection of short stories. It's very dark and violent like the books but it works and works really well. The setting and world building are fantastic as always especially the first story as it's a cracker. The characters are great and we get a real collection of them and their backstories which is fantastic. Jorg is quite the conundrum as always but is just so fascinating. Love hate doesn't even come close but he's enthralling maybe even so in this which is saying something. I loved the Red Kent and Nubian stories too as they just explained so so much. It's very very short but a fantastic addition to the Broken Empire universe. I also love the author's own notes at the end of each story. Highly recommended but it probably works best if you've read Broken Empire before. Not essential but you might get out of it. Mark Lawrence. Another excellent book by Mark Lawrence. I missed Jorg and the brothers. Worth reading. Mark Lawrence. A volume of short stories by the bestselling author of THE BROKEN EMPIRE series. Mark Lawrence. This is a collection of fourteen stories of murder mayhem pathos and philosophy all set in the world of the Broken Empire. Within these pages you will find tales of men such as Red Kent Sir Makin Rike Burlow and the Nuban telling of their origins and the events that forged them. There is Jorg himself striding the page as a child of six as a teenage wanderer and as a young king. And then there is a tale about Prince Jalan Kendeth - liar cheat womaniser and coward. To the new reader welcome to a lawless world where wit and sword are the most useful weapons and danger lurks as much in candle lit palaces as in dark alleys and dense woodland. To those who have already journeyed with Jorg we hope you will enjoy renewing old acquaintances with your favourite characters. Road Brothers.



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