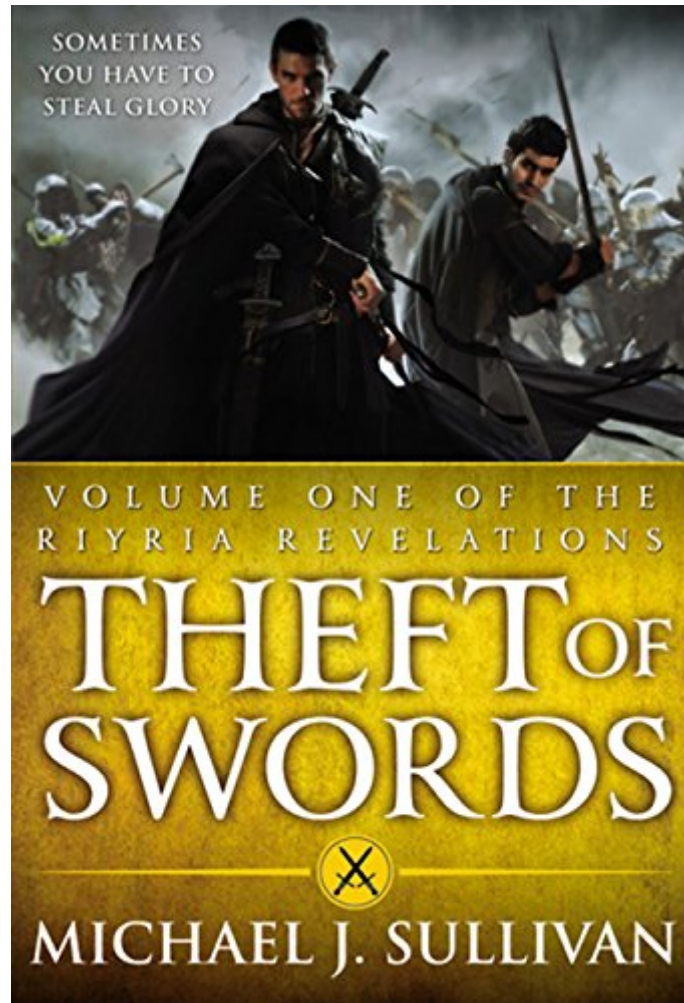


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Theft Of Swords (Riyria Revelations Box Set Book 1)



Synopsis

*** #1 Kindle Best Seller: Epic Fantasy, Historical Fantasy, Sword & Sorcery, Men's Adventure ***They killed the king. They pinned it on two men. They chose poorly. There's no ancient evil to defeat or orphan destined for greatness, just unlikely heroes and classic adventure. Royce Melborn, a skilled thief, and his mercenary partner, Hadrian Blackwater, are running for their lives when they're framed for the murder of the king. Trapped in a conspiracy that goes beyond the overthrow of a tiny kingdom, their only hope is unraveling an ancient mystery before it's too late. This is the first book in the original series, The Riyria Revelations, from best-selling author Michael J. Sullivan. It takes place twelve years after the events of The Riyria Chronicles and the two series can be read in either chronological order or order of publication, although the author suggests reading in publication order.

Publication Order

Theft of Swords (Riyria Revelations #1 & #2): contains The Crown Conspiracy & Avempartha Rise of Empire

Heir of Novron (Riyria Revelations #3 & #4): contains Nyphron Rising & The Emerald Storm

Chronological Order

The Crown Tower (Riyria Chronicles #1) The Rose and the Thorn (Riyria Chronicles #2) The Death of Dulgath (Riyria Chronicles #3)

Other Books by Michael J. Sullivan

Hollow World (2014 - stand alone science fiction) Age of Myth (2016 - Legends of the First Empire #1)

Lists and Award Nominations

2013 Audie Award Finalist

2012 Shadowhawk's Shade Best of the Best

2012 Audible's 5-star The Best of Everything

2012 Mathias Cavanaugh Top 10 Books

2012 AudioBookaneers Favorite Listens, Runner up

2012 Audible's Best of 2012 Editor's Picks

2011 Library Journal's Best Books for Fantasy/Sci-Fi

2011 Only the Best Science Fiction and Fantasy's Top 10

2011 Best Fantasy Releases by Barnes and Noble Blog

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Customer Reviews

Hadrian and Royce are partners in crime, a mercenary and thief who make a living working for the various nobles who rule over the lands of Avryn but spend most of their time feuding with one another. One particular job ends with Hadrian and Royce being arrested and charged with regicide. Determined to prove their innocence and take revenge on those who framed them, they set out on a quest that could change the fate of Avryn and the whole world.

Michael J. Sullivan's *Riyria Revelations* series is already a proven success, with both small press and self-published editions of the books selling well. Orbit have picked up the series and recast the original six books as three omnibuses, bringing them to a wider audience. Whilst this laudably rewards the author's success, it also raises the stakes: standing out from the crowd in self-publishing is one thing, but how does Sullivan's work stack up compared to the current fantasy heavyweights? The answer is...okay, actually. Sullivan's ambition with this series was to create a series that in a way beat against the current trend for adult, edgy, violent and explicit fantasy novels in favour of something more straightforward or 'classic'. Something that evoked the spirit of say Eddings or Brooks without being as dire. Sullivan lists Harry Potter as an inspiration, particularly the way it welded together accessibility and a classic structure with darker elements (such as major character deaths), and that's certainly a reasonable ambition.

Theft of Swords (which combines the first two novels in the series, *The Crown Conspiracy* and *Avempartha*) is a fast-paced, straightforward read with a

fast-moving plot and easy-to-read writing.

It should be noted that some of the first fantasy stories I ever read fell quite solidly into the sword and sorcery sub-genre. I remember liking them and then starting to move towards other things. Anyway, it's been a while since I found a sword and sorcery story I truly delighted in reading and Theft of Swords reminded me of everything I love about the sub-genre. The book is about two partners in crime, Hadrian and Royce, as they get hired to pull a couple of heists involving swords (hence the title). Both start off simply enough but as such things are wont to do in fantasy novels, events go all Murphy's Law on them. It's really more like two novellas set one after the other with an ongoing plot linking them loosely together. Usually the biggest pitfall I have with sword and sorcery is the main characters. This was not the case for this book. There was no brooding over Royce's and Hadrian's pasts (which was refreshing). Little tidbits and hints about their pasts were noted without dragging the pace of the story down or distracting me with some tale of woe. There were one line acknowledgements where I could look back at that character's actions up until that point and go "yup I suspected that, but thank you for confirming it" without interrupting the story one whit. I loved the social dynamic between the two of them and how opposite Hadrian and Royce were by nature and by trait, but how little true antagonism there was between them. I found myself very happy with the ribbing of who's got a soft spot for what, the "if we listened to me, we wouldn't be in this mess" reiterations and of course the ever entertaining "Well we could just kill the twit" spiel.

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