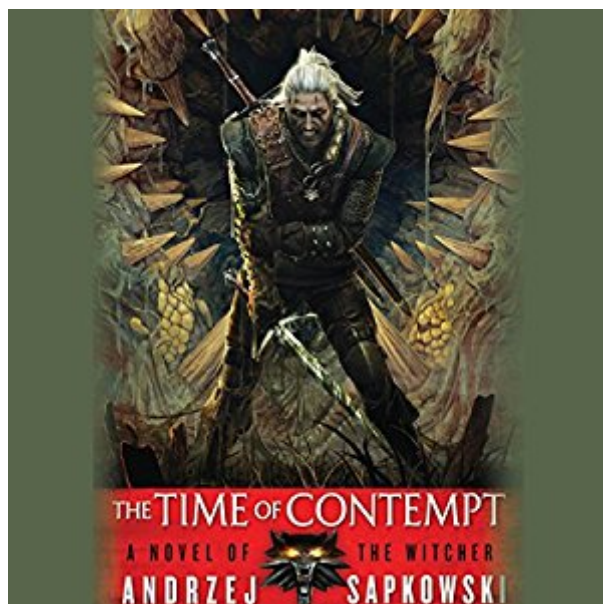


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The Time Of Contempt: The Witcher, Book 2



Synopsis

The Witcher returns in this sequel to *Blood of Elves*, in the series that inspired *The Witcher* video games. Geralt is a witcher: guardian of the innocent; protector of those in need; a defender, in dark times, against some of the most frightening creatures of myth and legend. His task now is to protect Ciri. A child of prophecy, she will have the power to change the world for good or for ill - but only if she lives to use it. A coup threatens the Wizard's Guild. War breaks out across the lands. A serious injury leaves Geralt fighting for his life.... And Ciri, in whose hands the world's fate rests, has vanished....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I will preface with this: the novel is excellent. If you are even a mild admirer of the *Witcher* series, this whole line of novels will suck you in. *The Time of Contempt* swiftly sets rolling the ball *Blood of Elves* positioned. It leaves you wanting more. In no way is this a bad thing. In fact, none of my complaints have to do with those things Sapkowski directly controlled, that which a translator can not alter: namely plot, pacing, and characterization. The grievances do start, however, when it comes to syntax. To some it may be a relief that Danusia Stok didn't translate this book, but rather the task was given to David French. I stumbled with his translation efforts. Many times throughout the book I had to reread sentences because they were composed in an especially unusual manner, and even after looking them back over, a number of them made no sense whatsoever. To quote one of the less egregious missteps: "Lydia,' smiled Vilgefortz, 'thanks for your acknowledgement.'"It

becomes clear further in the paragraph that Vilgefortz is speaking for Lydia, not thanking her as the syntax would imply. This blundering mistake could have been fixed with a simple word, added to the effect of 'thanks you,' but by some act of malevolence or neglect, it was left as is through the editing process. But as stands, this still is a coherent line, just with poor flow. What follows is something I still can't puzzle out: "The manhunters didn't touch Mistle, not once they'd checked she really was untouched." I really want to throw a copy of *The Elements of Style* at the translator and his editors, as I can't make head or tail of what this was meant to say.

The Time of Contempt is a really hard book to review which is ironic because, really, when I say that, I just mean it's a really hard book to review because of the last twenty pages or so when things go from a really-really well done book and my favorite in the series to super-super uncomfortable. For those who wish to know what precisely I'm talking about, I'll say a main character is sexually assaulted. There's some controversy about this event not just because it is happening to a fan favorite but also because of the event is depicted with questionable consent. The victim also rationalizes it away afterward. It is deeply ***** up. To be fair to Andrzej Sapkowski, it's supposed to be deeply ***** up. However, the age of the character as well as the bond which had been established between the reader and them is one that makes it doubly horrifying. Readers will probably be able to figure out which character suffers such if they continue on with this review so consider yourself warned. Except for the last thirty pages or so, *The Time of Contempt* is perhaps the best in the *Witcher* novels. It is a book which provides an immense amount of world-building to the *Witcher* universe. We get a multidimensional look at the Second Nilfgaard War's beginnings, progress, and horrors. We also get an expansive look at mage society in the North before the actions of Vilgefortz and Francesca Findabair destroy it. There are some great moments with Ciri, Yennefer, and Geralt as a family plus some great comedy. Also some truly terrible bits. A major theme is the terrible things people do in wartime as well as the moral compromises they make, which erode everything which is good about them.

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