

The Republic of Thieves (Gentleman Bastards, Book 3)

By Scott Lynch



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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"A bright new voice in the fantasy genre" (George R. R. Martin), acclaimed author Scott Lynch continues to astound and entertain with his thrillingly inventive, wickedly funny, suspense-filled adventures featuring con artist extraordinaire Locke Lamora. And *The Republic of Thieves* is his most captivating novel yet.

With what should have been the greatest heist of their career gone spectacularly sour, Locke and his trusted partner, Jean, have barely escaped with their lives. Or at least Jean has. But Locke is slowly succumbing to a deadly poison that no alchemist or physiker can cure. Yet just as the end is near, a mysterious Bondsmage offers Locke an opportunity that will either save him or finish him off once and for all.

Magi political elections are imminent, and the factions are in need of a pawn. If Locke agrees to play the role, sorcery will be used to purge the venom from his body—though the process will be so excruciating he may well wish for death. Locke is opposed, but two factors cause his will to crumble: Jean's imploring—and the Bondsmage's mention of a woman from Locke's past: Sabetha. She is the love of his life, his equal in skill and wit, and now, his greatest rival.

Locke was smitten with Sabetha from his first glimpse of her as a young fellow orphan and thief-in-training. But after a tumultuous courtship, Sabetha broke away. Now they will reunite in yet another clash of wills. For faced with his one and only match in both love and trickery, Locke must choose whether to fight Sabetha—or to woo her. It is a decision on which both their lives may depend.

PRAISE FOR SCOTT LYNCH

The Republic of Thieves

"Fast paced, fun, and impossible to put down . . . Locke and company remain

among the most engaging protagonists in fantasy."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"The Republic of Thieves has all the colorful action, witty repartee, and devious scheming that fans of the series have come to expect."—Wired

"A fantasy world unique among its peers . . . If you're looking for a great new fantasy series this is one you won't want to miss. . . . In a word:

AWESOME!"—SF Revu

Red Seas Under Red Skies

"Lynch hasn't merely imagined a far-off world, he's created it, put it all down on paper—the smells, the sounds, the people, the feel of the place. The novel is a virtuoso performance, and sf/fantasy fans will gobble it up."—*Booklist* (starred review)

"Red Seas Under Red Skies firmly proves that Scott Lynch isn't a one-hit wonder. . . . It'll only be a matter of time before Scott Lynch is mentioned in the same breath as George R. R. Martin and Steven Erikson."—Fantasy Book Critic

"Grand, grandiose, grandiloquent . . . No critic is likely to fault Lynch in his overflowing qualities of inventiveness, audacious draftsmanship, and sympathetic characterization."—*Locus*

The Lies of Locke Lamora

"Right now, in the full flush of a second reading, I think *The Lies of Locke Lamora* is probably in my top ten favorite books ever. Maybe my top five. If you haven't read it, you should. If you have read it, you should probably read it again."—Patrick Rothfuss, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind*

From the Hardcover edition.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Lynch's long-awaited third Gentleman Bastards high-fantasy caper novel (after 2007's The Lies of Locke Lamora and 2008's Red Seas Under Red Skies) abundantly delivers on the promise of the earlier volumes. Quick-witted protagonist Locke is slowly succumbing to poison as his loyal companion, Jean, tries to find someone who can save him. The price of rescue gets the duo involved in running an election campaign in the city-state of Karthain, where the parties are fronts for two factions of terrifyingly powerful mages. The opposition campaign leader is none other than Locke's long-lost love, Sabetha, who knows all of his moves and has a few of her own. A set of flashbacks explores Locke, Jean, and Sabetha's shared past as a theatrical scam goes horribly wrong. Locke and company remain among the most engaging protagonists in fantasy, and Lynch sneaks in some incisive political parody while never overdoing the comedy. The result is fast paced, fun, and impossible to put down. (Oct.)

From **Booklist**

Starred Review Announced as early as 2008, the long, long, long-awaited sequel to The Lies of Locke Lamora (2006) and Red Seas under Red Skies (2007) finally arrives. The story picks up almost immediately after the end of Red Seas. Locke Lamora, professional thief and con artist, has been poisoned ("He was being unknit from the inside; his veins and sinews were coming apart"). He has only a handful of days left, but rescue from certain death comes from a most unexpected source: the Bondsmagi, the powerful sorcerers who haven't exactly been Locke's best friends until now. After ridding his body of the poison, they, of all things, offer him a job. They want him to help rig a local election, which doesn't sound all that tricky, except that someone else is working the other side of the street, and she's at least as clever and ruthless as Locke: Sabetha Belacoros, Locke's long-lost love. This rousing adventure expands on themes introduced in the first two books and tells the full history of Locke and Sabetha, whose relationship was tantalizingly sketchy in the first installment. The Bondsmagi, too, are shown here in more detail than ever before, and Lynch has some serious surprises in store for fans of the first two books. It might have taken Lynch a lot longer to publish the book than fans wanted, but it was definitely worth the wait. A landmark publishing event in the sf world. -- David Pitt

Review

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"The kind of witty romp that reminds you exactly how much fun heroic fantasy is supposed to be."—SFX

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barry Houde:

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Raymond Phillips:

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Douglas Whatley:

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Maria Tate:

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