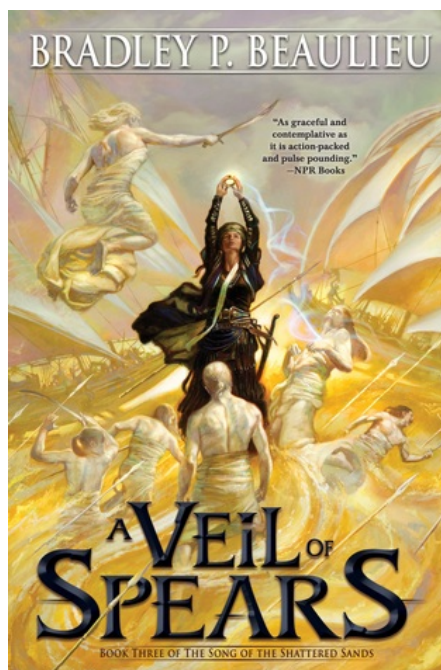




A Veil of Spears

Bradley P. Beaulieu

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The third book in The Song of Shattered Sands series--an epic fantasy with a desert setting, filled with rich worldbuilding and pulse-pounding action.

Since the Night of Endless Swords, a bloody battle the Kings of Sharakhai narrowly won, the kings have been hounding the rebels known as the Moonless Host. Many have been forced to flee the city, including Çeda, who discovers that the King of Sloth is raising his army to challenge the other kings' rule.

When Çeda finds the remaining members of the Moonless Host, now known as the thirteenth tribe, she sees a tenuous existence. Çeda hatches a plan to return to Sharakhai and free the asirim, the kings' powerful, immortal slaves. The kings, however, have sent their greatest tactician, the King of Swords, to bring Çeda to justice for her crimes.

But the once-unified front of the kings is crumbling. The surviving kings vie quietly against one another, maneuvering for control over Sharakhai. Çeda hopes to use that to her advantage, but whom to trust? Any of them might betray her.

As Çeda works to lift the shackles from the asirim and save the thirteenth tribe, the kings of Sharakhai, the scheming queen of Qaimir, the ruthless blood mage, Hamzakiir, and King of Swords all prepare for a grand clash that may decide the fate of all.

A Veil of Spears Details

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From Reader Review A Veil of Spears for online ebook

John says

Absolutely loved this,

Just a higher level of brilliance, that final battle was just insane. Loved the character development, loved how Ceda has grown from a one woman army to this powerful leader, and still plenty of great twists.

Rebecca says

A Veil of Spears is the third book in Beaulieu's Song of the Shattered Sands series and I must say, it's still going strong. There's no stopping the Ceda-train and I wouldn't have it any other way. Some books really start to drag and become more and more ridiculous and unbelievable (yes I know it's fantasy) as the story progresses. Not so with this series as Beaulieu doesn't just blurt out answers to the questions that have been burning in your mind. He hoards his story's secrets, doling them out a few at a time.

I continue to enjoy each character's perspective, particularly Ceda and Ramahd. I'd be lying if I said their chapters didn't have me worried from time to time as both make risky moves that keep me on the edge of my seat. The introduction of the healer Brama as a new POV was particularly interesting as it revealed more about the ehrek as well as Brama's own past. The ehrek are really awesome mythical-type beings that just seem really terrifying. I would love to see them illustrated – perhaps we can hope for a beautiful illustrated edition from Subterranean Press. I'd totally buy all of them.

I like the new turmoil in the House of Kings as well. These books are by no means small and Bradley Beaulieu never makes them too heavy or leaves the reader feeling as if they're slogging along. It's easy to lose yourself in these books because of the massive amount of action and devious plotting which abounds. The Kings of Sharakhai are down in number, but it seems as if those who remain have redoubled efforts to overthrow one another. Onur is now subjugating the desert tribes while Ihsan continues to plot dastardly deeds of devious nature. There's just so much going on, especially now that Sukru has Davud and Anila in his "care". On the flip side of the madness in Sharakhai, there's the Thirteenth tribe regrouping in the desert, trying to establish a presence...

A Veil of Spears is an excellent book that I would say is on par with the first two as far as enjoyment and quality go. Bradley Beaulieu doesn't get much hype in the fantasy community (that I've noticed) but he certainly deserves more recognition. If you want an ambitious fantasy series with a rich, desert setting, great characters, and loads of action then I'd say this would be a perfect fit. This will be a six books series, so we're at the midpoint – plenty of time to catch up before the rest of the series comes out!

Kristobelle says

In all honesty, I was a bit hesitant to read VoS. So many series I started a few years ago have disappointed me one after the other with recent releases. And Ceda has become one of my all time favourite characters, so you know.. I just didn't want to go through it again. Anyway, I'm happy to report - SO NOT DISAPPOINTED! In fact, fell more deeply in love with the settings, characters, battles..

I got a little worried when there was some back and forth, Ceda running around like a chicken with her head cut off, with me wondering if she'd lost her mind a little.. But then, it came together and *kisses fingers*. Then it was on. And gave me some scenes to get weepy at, scenes to cheer at, scenes to yell at, and scenes to go "naaaaaaw" at.

And Sarah Coomes, the narrator, deserves an Audie. So so good! Expressive, clear characterisation, fantastic pacing.. Only a truly talented narrator can pull tears out of me. I literally clapped at the end. Then felt like a dork...

Beaulieu keeps nailing, and for once I am incredibly happy that the series has been stretched.

Quinn David says

Bradley Beaulieu is quickly becoming one of my favorite fantasy writers, and he proves his mettle once again in *A Veil of Spears*. *A Veil of Spears* picks up a mere couple of weeks following the end of *With Blood Upon the Sand*, joining Ceda, Kerim, and her wolf friends adrift in the desert, with no where to go but further in. And with her onward march through the dunes Ceda, and the reader by association, are introduced to the long lost Thirteenth Tribe as well as those who make their livelihoods trapped between Sharakhai and the neighboring kingdoms. All the while, we still have Ramahd and his mad queen plotting god knows what, along with Emre's upward movement through the ranks of the Moonless Host to deal with.

What Beaulieu does so well is his use of character view to drive the plot forward. He has built a vast landscape that traverses not just our desert jewel city but through the desert tribes into Qaimir, Malasan and beyond. There are characters from various areas that all converge only to be swept apart when the plot demands it. So just as we spend the bulk of our time following Ceda as she seeks to connect with her heritage while also working to convert the blade maidens to her cause, we get a story made that much richer by our ability to follow King Ihsan, whose behind the scenes plotting against his fellow kings may lead to their downfall faster than Ceda can kill them. We can see Emre who, by the order of Macide and Ishaq, works to improve relations and gather support for the Moonless Host against the Kings. Ramahd, in turn, gives us insight into Qaimir's Queen's meddling and power quest. This is a great story telling technique because it allows the reader to learn more than each individual character. You read along and wonder when Ceda is going to learn that a certain someone is dead, or that Guhldrathen is after her because of someone else. He creates suspense in his ability to dangle pieces of plot in each person's narrative which makes the reader long to see the day when it is all put together.

As much as I mostly enjoy all the varying POVs, there are some I enjoy more than others. If I had single one out as not as interesting the award would have to go to Davud. Now it is not to say that his POV is not important, especially when where Beaulieu left him, Davud and his budding bloodmagery is going to add yet another layer to the mix. My problem lies with the fact that Davud's beginning chapters are a bit boring and repetitive. He has about three in a row where he visits the adichara trees, has a overly convoluted vision, wonders about making his friend talk to him again, and reading a book. But instead of going down a decidedly George R. R. Martin route and filling a thousand pages with Davud picking his nose and inventorying canned food, Beaulieu manages to break the monotony by bringing him in contact with multiple kings and eventually Ceda. And once he has played out his part he simply removes him from the book for the time being. Thank you Beaulieu by not continuing to stuff Davud down our throats when he is no longer contributing to the bulk of the story direction for the moment. It is a smart move and the reason I didn't subtract more stars because for a moment there I found him highly annoying. Useful but no less annoying. I just hope that Beaulieu remembers that while his supporting characters are well thought out, realized, and important to the plot, they are still not Ceda, who as far as I, and your inside cover flap, are

concerned, is the main character that I show up to read about.

It is both a blessing and a curse that Beaulieu has created such a vast and detailed land, because with the large distances to traverse growing even larger, the main characters seem even further apart. I live for the days when the POVs start to join together and although we got the unlikely duo of Brama and Ramahd, and the dude squad of Emre and Macide, I was really hoping to see Ceda interact more with all of them. In a Veil of Spears, up until the end, the majority of the action seemed to lie with the guys, especially as Ceda spent time learning about her family and her tribe. I want to see them all fight together. I want to see them take down a ship or infiltrate a castle together. Even if they have to part again, I would like these characters to interact a little more. And I'm saddened by the ending's suggestion that some characters may be spending even more time apart than I would want. Although once again I have to applaud Beaulieu, because even as he does things that drive me crazy, he is careful to depict the importance of the move through dialogue, so that while I'm still grumbling about his choice, I am able to begrudgingly nod at the sense of the move.

I started reading this series thinking it was a trilogy, but with the addition of three more books I am so excited to see where this endless battle takes us. I can't wait for the next book to come out. The stage is set for a massive Sharakhaini brawl and I will definitely be lined up to witness the show.

Matthew says

The most consistently great series out there. So happy it'll be six books long and not just a trilogy.

Ceda is almost always the best part of the story. Certainly true for Books 1 & 2. And while she was awesome and kickin' ass here, the bros of Sharakhai stepped it up!

Davud is wilding out with blood magic, along with his friend whose name I'm blanking on. She's on some darker magic...

Rahmad is having doubts about his Queen while also slitting throats from time to time. Brama is in deep shit with a she devil, but also can heal like crazy.

Emre ran away from a wyrm. King Ihsad may be the GOAT schemer. Ceda's dad is....well, you'll see.

5/5

Karina Read says

Woah. I have so much love for this series.

I won't go into plot as it is the third book but I will say if it has been a while since you read *Of Sand and Malice Made*, I recommend a reread.

These books have been so consistently great. I love how we dive straight back in where the last book left (it was the same with the second), no rehash of previous plots and stories, just straight in. It's so refreshing! The world and plot gets ever more complex yet it's never overwhelming. More magic has seeped into this book as more players enter the game. However, it's still about the characters we've watched grow and begun to love.

The character development is fantastic. I never thought I'd warm to some (i totally have now) and there were those who I loved from the start who I'm now seeing as flawed, but equally compelling and intriguing. I love them all. Well, apart from those I hate. One in particular that I always hated, well now their true colours have come to light I am thrilled. I am sooo ready for the next one, I really dislike becoming this invested in an unfinished series, but i'll cope for this, as it's so worth it.

Ps. We get the reveal we've been waiting 2 (and a half) books for! You know the one... i had my suspicions and to be proved right is very interesting... can't wait to see where Beaulieu takes us from here.

Nicholas Talty says

Haven't read it yet, but annoyed by the two other non-readers who rated it 1 or 2 for no reason. Cannot wait for this.

John Ross says

The official cover *A Veil of Spears* (The Song of the Shattered Sands, #3) by Bradley P. Beaulieu by has been revealed!

Update: It's official! There will be books 4, 5, and 6! Yay!

Kristen says

Full review is here on my blog. :)

Ooooh, Çeda and Emre I missed youuuuuu!

As this is the third in a series, I'm going to do my level best to not spoil any of the story so far for anyone who hasn't read them. I mean... you should read them though, if you haven't. :D

Once again, just like the previous installments in this series, this one caught my attention and engrossed me absolutely immediately. We picked up where *With Blood Upon the Sand* left us, and events move right along. There's even a connection in this book to the characters from a novella in the series that I read between this one and the novel previous to it. Fun times!

We follow a few more points of view in this one than we have previously. In the beginning of the series, it seemed like just Ramahd, Çeda, and Emre, but now we've got a few other characters that have made themselves more prominent as the series has progressed.

I absolutely loved this one. Possibly more than the two previous installments of the series. Things are slowly coming together more and more here, and I'm excited to see where it goes. Characters who were good are... maybe not as good as I thought. Other characters that I thought were bad are... not so bad after all. All kinds of shenanigans happen between everyone as the story ramps up to where its going. The last 4 or so hours of

this audiobook were unputdownable, and, thankfully I ended up having plenty of things I could do to occupy my hands for 4 hours. Awesome ending was awesome.

Sarah Coomes once again totally nails the narration here. I ended up just putting my headphones on and drifting along the desert with her at the helm. Much work got done, many things were made, chores were chored, and everyone rejoiced.

This series is slated to be 6 books long, and so I'll have to wait a bit for the ending, but if the rest of these books are anything like the first three were, it'll be worth it. I'm definitely going to be saving my audible credits well in advance, because these are among the best audiobooks I've ever listened to.

David says

A rip-roaring time following Çeda through Sharakhai and the Shangazi! Once again, great narrative and cliffhangers. I was also glad that I read 'Of Sand and Malice Made' novella beforehand as it gave some additional insight into this particular novel. I'll have to check out the other novellas as well.

My only regret is having to wait for the next volume in the series to come out.

Rochelle says

This was amazing and more than worth the wait. This one picks up right where the previous book left off and a lot happens. We get more magic introduced as well as more political maneuverings and that big reveal that has been such a mystery throughout the series this far.

Çeda is such an interesting character but she isn't the only interesting character and we get to see quite a few other POVs which helps to drive the plot along at a steady pace and ramp things up.

There is a lot of conflict with the Kings and Çeda at the midst of it all. The asirim also play a huge role in this instalment.

I for one can't wait to see where the story goes as there are a few intriguing threads to pursue going onwards and I'm curious to see how our all plays out.

This epic fantasy series set in a desert setting has everything I want in a fantasy series and more. I can't recommend it enough.

John Mendez says

Sharhakhai crumbles. With a quarter of it's ruling kings dead, chaos bubbles up from the depths of the desert.

Spoiler-ific review

Beaulieu delivers again with this fantastic third-book in a six book series. A VEIL OF SPEARS further ups the ante from book two, and sets up an even more tense book 4. If book 1 focused on crime and criminals, book 2 on a Kill-Bill assassination revenge plot, then book 3 is when the story REALLY opens up. We the readers finally begin to understand the depths to which the backstory and plot. The scope broadens from it's

lowly origins, to expand to cover the machinations gods and demons.

Çeda is an action focused main character: not one for contemplating ancient mysteries, she solves her problems with swords and daring do. Instead most of the backstory's unfolding is done by the research of Davood and Rahaad, to recurring characters from the previous two books. I really liked Rahaad and Davood in this book- their character development was excellent as they begin to realize that they're lambs among lions. Ultimately all three are excellent characters- but the POV character I love the most was King Ysan. He's more delightfully evil here than in even book 2.

The plot was a non-standard Political Fantasy plot- multiple factions are struggling for control of the desert city of Sharhakhai. It develops book 2's factions further: the Moonless host, the desert tribes, the Queen of Qiamir, the King of Secrets, the King of Kings, the King of Spears and Hamzakiir are all fighting against one another for control of the city's wealth and magic. They form alliances and betray one another as a matter of course- in the end only one faction can come out on top. At the end the Thirteenth Tribe has been firmly reestablished, and roam the desert openly at war with Sharhakhai.

I loved this book, but it's time for some constructive criticism. This book didn't really expand the lore of the setting too much. For example, one of my favorite parts of book 2 was when characters sat around campfires and told folklore and fairy tales- we learn more about the setting and we the readers have some time to chill and relax between high-octane scenes. This book was much more action packed, making this a quicker read but ultimately less substantial. Beaulieu should have slowed down a bit, added a few more 'low-octane' scenes to slow things down, and maybe flesh out the desert's folklore and everyday life some more.

Stay Sunny!

Femke says

I love love love love this book even more than the 2 previous books! I can't say too much without spoiling it for others and I suck at proper reviews anyways. This book has got some awesome battle/fight scenes and a really nice surprise when it comes to Çeda's love life. So go read it!

Vikramadithya says

I generally reserve my reviews for the final book of the series and that too selectively. I just wanted to show my appreciation for the author for keeping me hooked for 3 books and promising 3 more to come, and gifting us a book per year at that!

The board is set, the pieces are moving, and the intrigue is slowly, consistently building up!

Darren McGowan says

Very entertaining

If you enjoyed the previous books, you'll enjoy this story as well. Multiple stories going on, plenty of politicking, backstabbing, and plenty of sword fighting. Throw in zombie like creatures and maybe a dragon,

this story I felt, far exceeded my expectations. Not the typical gritty fantasy i truly enjoy, but the writing is top notch and the characters are exceptional. If your looking for a bonus (spoiler alert) this is not a trilogy,there's at least one more. That was a pleasant surprise.
