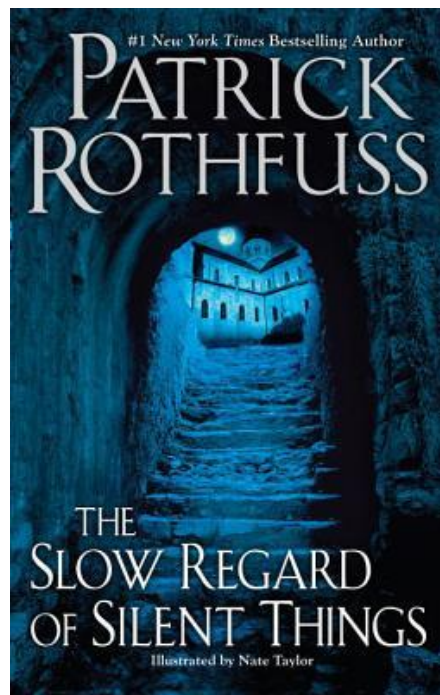




The Slow Regard of Silent Things

Patrick Rothfuss

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The Slow Regard of Silent Things Patrick Rothfuss

Deep below the University, there is a dark place. Few people know of it: a broken web of ancient passageways and abandoned rooms. A young woman lives there, tucked among the sprawling tunnels of the Underthing, snug in the heart of this forgotten place. Her name is Auri, and she is full of mysteries.

The Slow Regard of Silent Things is a brief, bittersweet glimpse of Auri's life, a small adventure all her own. At once joyous and haunting, this story offers a chance to see the world through Auri's eyes. And it gives the reader a chance to learn things that only Auri knows....

In this book, Patrick Rothfuss brings us into the world of one of *The Kingkiller Chronicle*'s most enigmatic characters. Full of secrets and mysteries, *The Slow Regard of Silent Things* is the story of a broken girl trying to live in a broken world.

The Slow Regard of Silent Things Details

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From Reader Review The Slow Regard of Silent Things for online ebook

Bryce Wilson says

Rothfuss's new novella, "Things Are Picked Up And Then Set Down Elsewhere" certainly lives up to its title. If you have a sexual fetish for descriptions of things moved from one place to another look out because Christmas has come fucking early.

Now look- I'm as hardcore a Rothfuss Partisan as they come but by page fifty or so I started doing this...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FYTc...>

And I didn't stop until the Author's Note where Rothfuss assures you not to worry if you didn't like the story it's just because you weren't enough of a beautiful and unique snowflake. Which is when this review went from 2 stars to 1.

So -er thanks for that.

Allie says

Being one of Pat's beta readers I had the pleasure of reading this last month. I absolutely adored it. The way it's written, I highly advise you read it twice. You will pick up on a lot of interesting things the second time around. Everyone is definitely in for a treat. Rothfuss has never let me down. Absolutely a fabulous writer! I can't wait until it's out so I can discuss it!!

Petrik says

2.5/5 Stars

Probably one of the weirdest books I ever read. I like and dislike this book equally, hence the rating.
(Since this is a novella, my review will be shorter than usual.)

The Slow Regard of Silent Things is a novella about one of my favorite side character in the Kingkiller Chronicle series, the enigmatic and bizarre Auri and although it's numbered Kingkiller Chronicles #2.5, the plot of this novella actually took place during chapter 7-11 of The Wise Man's Fear and it's centered on Auri's daily life and gift searching for Kvothe.

Rothfuss has said in the beginning of the book that this is different from his main series, a lot of readers won't like it and yes, it's completely different. This novella is littered with things I dislike but at the same time, the things I like are about equal.

Auri is an adorable character and I really like her relationship with Kvothe. Their scenes have always been one of my favorite scenes in the Kingkiller Chronicle series and from there we already know that Auri is a bizarre person. To be honest I was expecting to know more about her background here since she's so

interesting and unique but apparently, other than showing her excitement in waiting for Kvothe's visitation, the whole only book deals with her OCD on inanimate objects, which at the same time made *The Slow Regard of Silent Things* an apt title for the novella.

I find Auri's behavior on this to be something positive in the book, I don't think I have an OCD but I do love and took care of my possessions REALLY carefully and I find her behavior on this subject really relatable (*I don't kiss my stuffs though*) in a way. The gorgeous illustrations that were spread throughout the book is also a fantastic addition, providing great atmosphere to the novella and Rothfuss's writings, although different than the style he used in the main series, is still beautiful in a poetry kind of way.

Sadly, the novella is almost completely pointless to the series and I don't like reading novellas that doesn't provide any proper story or new information to the main series. Rothfuss himself said on the endnote that there is **NO STORY** in this novella, yeah he really said that. **I mean c'mon, there are literally 8 pages of Auri making soap, I almost bathe this book with a soap during that section.**

Another huge annoyance for me was while Rothfuss's writing is beautiful and well done, it's really hard reading the book from Auri's POV. Other than 'Mantle' and 'All Things Above', I have no idea what the other places mentioned in the novella really supposed to mean. Finally, for a book about Auri, as I said before there's no new important background on her character at all which disappointed me very much.

I'll admit if I finished reading *The Wise Man's Fear* in 2011 and then during my waiting game of the 3rd book I was given this novella, I'll rate this a 1 star in a heartbeat. Luckily that's not the case but overall, I don't really know how I feel about this book since I really like and dislike it equally to the point where I don't care if this book exist or not. At the end of the day, if I have to choose, I don't think this piece of novella is suited for me.

Side note: Rothfuss's 8 pages Endnotes on this novella is really pleasant to read, probably more than the novella itself.

Picture: *The Slow Regard of Silent Things* by Marc Simonetti

You can find the rest of my Adult Epic/High Fantasy/Sci-Fi reviews at Booknest

??? 2.7 says

I'm not exaggerating whatsoever when I say, this may very well be **The Worst Book I Have Ever Read**. Yes, worse than every children's book, pop-up picture book, Twilight, teen romance, Dean Koontz, Scooby-Doo mystery, you name it—I've leafed through more entertaining chemistry textbooks. As far as literature goes, this is the bottom of the barrel scrapings! This opinion, no less, is coming from a Rothfuss fan who really enjoyed each of his first two books. Yes, they were kitten squishers, but the writing was quite good, the worldbuilding and magic system were highly immersive and well defined. If I could remove say 80% of the Denna sections from that first book it would rate close to five stars for me. But this book . . . no, this **Abomination** felt like a blatant money grab!

What you have here is an author who's built up a tremendous fan base off the back of a promised epic fantasy trilogy. Book two however, came out way back in 2011, so I can only imagine that his publishers are starting to get a little antsy. Book three has been promised basically every year since, only to fall back into

endless re-edits. Supposedly, the entire story was written years ago in college, but it's taken a tremendous amount of time to iron out all the kinks. In the meantime, what's a greedy publisher to do, with the fans clamoring for that final chapter? The pressure's mounting. People are starting to lose patience. Well hell, why not provide them with a side story of a minor character to tide things over? Not only is this the perfect opportunity to milk the public out of some of their hard-earned cash—the sheer number of preorders alone will no doubt make this a roaring success—but who knows, some morons may even think, “Oh my God, book three has finally arrived!”

So what we're left with here is **an entirely pointless and plotless novella about an OCD girl mired in feng shui issues.**

Auri lives in the sprawling maze of tunnels and basements under the university. She's a quiet, shy little mouse of a girl, hiding away from the world. Only to be occasionally drawn out of the “Underthing,” by her only friend, and trilogy main character, Kvothe. In the other books, this was the only time we saw her when she was loll'd out by his music and stories. This novella takes place over a six-day period in-between a couple of his visits.

The feng shui she's concerned with isn't even over say, some handsome leather chair, or antique vase, or that perfect rug that'll tie the whole room together. Oh no, not hardly. **Her entire world revolves around the perfect placement of worthless trinkets!** It goes a little something like this, “Oh dear, where does this broken gear belong, next to this belt buckle, or over by the holly berries? Oh no, now the lipstick is lonely. Oh good heavens. NO, NO, NO this will not do! The mirror's become upset, I'll need to cover it with the blanket. I must kiss it and reassure it.” On and on it goes. **The entire book is filled with this absolute nonsense!**

Her only other concern is what gift to bring Kvothe. “The ice-blue bottle wasn't entirely at home. It huddled on the lowest, leftist shelf upon the eastern wall. Auri touched it gently, doing her best to reassure. He liked bottles. Might this be a seemly gift?”

When the most captivating part of your story is an eight-page description of soap making, **you seriously need a reality check, Pat.** You need to step away from whoever's advising you. They've obviously either got their head so far up your ass that they believe every yarn you weave is a finely woven masterpiece, or more likely they're just some money hungry shills.

I know that you know better when you feel the need to preface your story with a warning,

You might not want to buy this book.

I know that's not the sort of thing an author is supposed to say. The marketing people aren't going to like this. My editor is going to have a fit. But I'd rather be honest with you right out of the gate.

First, if you haven't read my other books, you don't want to start here . . .

Second, even if you have read my other books, I think it's only fair to warn you that this is a bit of a strange story. I don't go in for spoilers, but suffice to say that this one is . . . different.

Oh, you don't say. And then you tack on an author's note at the end where you apologize even more profusely.

Well, let's be honest, I was more than a little nervous about this story. I knew, deep in my heart of hearts, that my new-wrought story was a train wreck. A colossal, smoldering mess of a train

wreck.

“It doesn’t do the things a story is supposed to do,” I said to her. “A story should have dialogue, action, conflict. A story should have more than one character. I’ve written a thirty-thousand-word vignette!”

“People are going to read this and be pissed.”

Why yes, Pat. But amazingly his friend advises, “Let those other people have their normal stories . . . This story isn’t for them. This is my story. This story is for people like me.”

Later Pat realized,

I was writing a trunk story. For those of you who don’t know the term, a trunk story is something you write, then when it’s finished you put the manuscript in the bottom of a trunk and forget about it. It’s not the sort of story you can sell to a publisher. Not the sort of story people want to read. It’s the sort of story that you write, then on your deathbed you remember it and ask a close friend to burn all your unpublished papers. Right after they clear your browser history, of course.

All this doubt and second guessing, and yet this story still sees the light of day. **WTF man?** If you’ve got all these worries over a silly little novella, just trash it, Pat. Go with the gut for God’s sake. **Is it really worth burning your loyal fan base to make a quick buck?** I hope you’re happy because what you’ve left them with is a steaming pile of SHIT!

I dare you to buy this. Better yet, this would actually make the perfect gift for someone who thinks you’re friends, but whom you secretly despise. Just imagine the joy that will fill your heart, as they actually thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I, for one, would rather burn my ten dollars. I promise it’ll provide you with more light and warmth than what you’ll glean from reading this pretentious drivel. And no, Pat, as you’ve suggested, I don’t think my opinion would change with a second read through. **I Think I’d Rather be Waterboarded!**

Alex says

I loved his first two books, but this is dire. There's absolutely no plot, it's just ~150 pages of a girl running around in the sewers doing Feng Shui and kissing inanimate objects.

Eric says

Update: I am going to leave my earlier rant about Rothfuss below, since it received so much commentary -- both positive and negative. Here I will leave my thoughts on the novella, now having read it.

There is no way I can review this without it looking like I am just piling on and confirming what I ranted about, but let me assure you, despite my wish that he finish the Kingkiller trilogy first, I really wanted to like this. I did enjoy *The Lightning Tree*, another diversion of his, a great deal.

That all said, this is a beautifully written and illustrated story in which almost nothing happens -- except Auri

being generally strange, giving names to various objects, and making soap. Mysterious minor characters like Auri seem to work a lot better in smaller doses, not following their every odd action for an entire week. The only time the prose wasn't beautiful was when the title -- "the slow regard of silent things" -- was awkwardly inserted into the text at one point. Kvothe isn't even mentioned by name, although he is clearly alluded to. The end of the novella did allude to Kvothe's future in an interesting way, although it wasn't worth the 160 pages getting to it.

Also, I wasn't a huge fan of Rothfuss's afterward non-apology apology, that read, "If you're one of the people who found this story disconcerting, off-putting, or confusing, I apologize. The truth is, it probably just wasn't for you." I didn't find it any of those things, I just didn't find it compelling.

This is not a review of this book, as it is not out yet. I just needed to vent after hearing about the upcoming release of this novella.

Am I the only person that thinks that Patrick Rothfuss may be getting lost in the echo chamber of his fanboys' squeeing adulation?

Let me back up and explain a bit. The Name of the Wind is an amazing book, and it brought me back to reading the fantasy genre, so don't think I hate this author or all of his works. But he committed to the Kingkiller trilogy, saying, for one thing, that it would only be a trilogy, and for another, and I will just quote this directly from his blog:

The second and third books of the trilogy should be coming out fairly quickly, considering how long they are and the fact that I'm fairly obsessive when it comes to my writing. That means book two should be out about two years from now. Book three will be a year or so after that... The trilogy is already written all the way through to the end, but there is still some editorial work to be done. I want the second one to be at least as good as the first, if not better. That takes time.

This blog was written on April 18, 2007. Note that it says the books are "already written all the way through to the end" and that the releases should be in 2009 for The Wise Man's Fear and 2010 for Doors of Stone. The reality is he overshot both of those predictions by not publishing The WiseMan's Fear until 2011, and there is no sign of things improving, since Rothfuss has already said Doors of Stone won't be out until at least 2015-2016.

So why am I mad that I am getting this in the meantime? Shouldn't this help tide me over until the final book in the trilogy comes out? Shouldn't I be more supportive of his creative process and understand that "it will be done when it is done?" Maybe, but I think I also have a right to be annoyed that I was promised something by the author and not only hasn't he delivered, he is more than five years overshot his estimate. I get optimistic estimates, but this is well beyond that.

I think its possible that Rothfuss has become too enamored with his own celebrity, hosting shows about writing, penning children's books, running an annual charity drive, becoming involved in a myriad of Kickstarter projects, and now writing three short pieces in the Four Corners universe -- *How Old Holly Came to Be*, *The Lightning Tree*, and now this novella -- instead of finishing his long-overdue promised trilogy.

And despite all this stalling, all I see is his fans tripping over themselves to placate his procrastination. I think he should remember what made him famous in the first place and focus on that. And I realize it is not popular to shame authors into writing, but fact is, he claimed this was written back in 2007, and no amount of editing could take this long.

Will I read those short stories and this novella? Almost definitely. But I won't pay money for them, and I will likely be annoyed the entire time that Rothfuss refuses to instead deliver what he promised seven years ago. Sour grapes? Surely. A valid complaint? I think so, obviously.

Idcboobs says

This is a copy/paste of my opinion on the release date and general money grabbing of Patrick Rothfuss, not a review of an unreleased book, dissimilar to what other people are able to do?

First let me say; before the release of the name of the wind, Patrick Rothfuss announced the completion of all three books, the three books in this trilogy were completed, the three books who would write for this series had been finished, he planned to release these books in one-year intervals, as he announced, completely understandable, it's almost tradition for not just authors but for many other forms of entertainment to release a new form or medium for enjoyment to release new models at yearly intervals.

When i heard about the completion of the novels and the general praise the book was getting i decided to pick it up, of course i completely fell in love with the books cliché yet beautifully written story, the characters were deep and full of life, i was really in love with the book.

I couldn't wait for the wise man's fear, i couldn't wait to see what questions would be answered, how they'd be answered, what new riddles would pop up within the pages. Unfortunately, this book's release date was pushed back several times due to reasons i do not understand.

Instead of a 2008 release date like the fans were promised the book was pushed back four years. Four years. I will admit that the book was extremely well written, but the depth of the story is nowhere near as long or as deep as a series such as the game of thrones, which George Martin has taken just as long to write a single novel in his series.

This in my opinion is unacceptable, the series was claimed to be finished and yet the book is pushed back three years for what? editing? three years would not be allowed at all for anything other than a book, if a movie, game, tv series, even a new phone model was pushed back three years there would be an outrage, but since we fans are the pawns of authors we have to abide by their will.

I cannot make excuses for authors, Patrick Rothfuss might have really been editing his book for four years, however the much more likely occurrence would have to do with the side stepping of his writing, the general distractions that Patrick has enjoyed immersing himself in so joyfully. (more on this later)

So, it has been three years since the release of the wise man's fear and even now, may/2015 the release date has been pushed back several more times for the doors of stone, looking at reviews from 2012 i can see people expecting the book to release in 2013, this was then pushed to 2014, to may 2014. It would be about the time i'm writing this review that the book; the doors of stone would have been published, a book that was apparently written seven years ago. We can't assume why it's taken so long, we can only defend Patrick, that he has been editing his book this entire time or take the offense, that he has been caught up in distractions and knows about the money he can make by jumping a hype bandwagon that has been leaving fans in it's trail for years.

So, what has happened in those three years since the wise man's fear?

- Fundraisers (of course for a good/great cause, raising money for the people in need can never be looked down upon)
- side books (to be released in october 2014, months after the announced release date of the doors of stone)
- Children's books
- Kickstarters (Nobody cares about the card game that you're trying to force down our throats Patrick, you wouldn't need people to donate money for a kickstarter if you released your novels earlier anyway, since when do authors even engage in such gimmick money grabbing events anyway? Also those stones or coins? really? really??)
- Constant interview after interview (if you follow Patrick on facebook you'll know what i'm talking about, every few days is another interview that barely seems to intervene with his writing schedule, almost as if he doesn't have one at all)

There are more i could list but anyone would get the gist of what i'm saying, Patrick has obviously gotten so involved in the money making events his books could potentially create that he's lost sight of an actual goal, this to me is disgraceful. To release a book seven years ago, telling his fans that all three books were finished only to have released the second book four years later is pathetic. Patrick has release 2 books of his Kingkiller chronicles trilogy in 7 years. Let that sink in.

I can't see an end to this series. What initially was introduced as a quick trilogy for us to enjoy and finish with a quick smile has been turned into seven years of money grabbing and lies, dates constantly being pushed back for no reason, books that have no relevance to the series are being released. Sure Kvothe's story might only last a trilogy, but what about Kote's? we all know that Patrick will never fit both 'characters' stories into one book, will we see the final book split into two? My guess is a new series all together, a sequel if you like for Kote to regain his 'powers'. Not only that but books that are to occur within the four corners have been announced, not only has Patrick ridden the fame train for 7 years for these two books, he's preparing the rest of his life as an author to be based around this world.

If you are really blinded by how much Patrick spits into the face of his fans, you deserve the wait, you deserve to wait another who knows how many years before you have your trilogy finale. Another book coming out in october this year only confirms another year or more before the doors of stone is to be released, and if that book is coming out in october what does that say about the doors of stone? a book that was meant to be finished 7 years ago, a book that Patrick has supposedly been editing for 3 years is now being pushed back because Patrick was writing a different book altogether.

Pathetic Patrick Rothfuss, just pathetic, for an author praised for his writing ability you sure do like to make fans who have been with you for almost 7 years wait for a third book. And then there are authors like Brandon Sanderson, who take their writing as a job seriously, who know how to make their fans happy. There are Authors like J.K. Rowling; who work tirelessly and are completely great full for opportunity their writing has brought them, people like them are able to write their books, please their fans, make their money, donate to the needy and are praised.

You however have been praised for releasing 2 books over the course of 7 years and milking his fans down to absolutely nothing.

Pathetic.

EDIT: If you're planning on commenting, read the comments first, i've been getting a lot of negative feedback which i have addressed almost a dozen times now, if your negative feedback hasn't been met with

an equally negative, sarcastic response from me; feel free to tell me how much of a shitlord i am, however please note that you're wrong.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

4.5 filled with secrets stars

I have wondered for two books now more about two very specific characters Auri and Bast and does this ever deliver on Auri. I longed to know more about what Auri does in the Underthing, how she ended up there and what else goes through her mind. One of my favorite things in The Name of the Wind and The Wise Man's Fear were Auri's interactions with Kvothe things like:

"I have an apple that thinks it's a pear. And a bun that thinks it's a cat. And a lettuce that thinks it's a lettuce."

"It's a clever lettuce, then."

"Hardly," she said with a delicate snort. "Why would anything clever think it's a lettuce?"

"Even if it is a lettuce?" I asked.

"Especially then," she said. "Bad enough to be a lettuce. How awful to think you are a lettuce too."

I really wanted to get in her head and see what really is happening in there because I find her absolutely fascinating. Well, Rothfuss heard my wish and put me inside Auri's head for an enthralling 159 pages.

Warnings:

DO NOT read this until you have read at least The Name of the Wind, although I would recommend reading both TNotW and The Wise Man's Fear first.

DO NOT expect see Kvothe because he isn't here. It is all Auri all the time and it is enough.

DO NOT expect this to be a normal story because it isn't. I think this falls into more of a character study.

Auri is an interesting character, enough to carry an entire story like this, enough to follow around like a reality TV show but better than a reality TV show because she is far more interesting.

I LOVE AURI

She is so different. She pretty much lives in the steam tunnels under a school and so far we have only seen her through Kvothe's eyes. She is a wild, feral thing and seems sorta like a skittish creature in many ways. But that is just the very tip of the iceberg, she is so much more.

Right away I was drawn into the way she sees her world and the way she wanders through it. Is she crazy or is she more in tune to the world around her. She has actual relationships of sorts with inanimate objects. The way she sees them they are almost sentient.

Skipping close, she saw a crystal had fallen from the chandelier to lay unbroken on the floor. It was a lucky thing, and brave. She picked it up and put it in the pocket that didn't have the key inside. They would only fuss if they were put together.

We get to follow Auri through a week in the Underthing as so goes through what she believes is her purpose there. She is also looking for the gift to bring Kvothe when she knows they will meet. It is such an interesting

journey to see that world through her eyes. Nothing is mundane not even a belt buckle.

Might the buckle be for him? That would be a good beginning to the day. A nice thing to have settled early on, his gift all ready with his visit days away.
Auri eyed the buckle sharply. Was it a proper gift for him? He was a tangled sort. And he was much hidden, too. Nodding, she reached out to touch the cool dark metal.
*But no. It didn't suit him. She should have known. He was not a one for fastening. For holding closed. Neither was he dark. Oh no. **He was emberant. Incarnadine. He was bright with better bright beneath, like copper-gilded gold.***

Auri is smart, so much smarter than I expected. She gathers and coerces and makes silent deals with inanimate objects. She seems to intuitively pick up on signs and there meanings she knows something that is coming and she is getting ready for it. Also there is a hint to her power that I really wasn't expecting.

She closed her eyes. She drew her shoulders back. She took a slow and steady breath.
There was a tension in the air. A weight. A wait. There was no wind. She did not speak. The world grew stretched and tight.
Auri drew a breath and opened up her eyes. Auri was urchin small. Her tiny feet upon the stone were bare.
*Auri stood, and in the circle of her golden hair **she grinned and brought the weight of her desire down full upon the world.***
And all things shook. And all things knew her will. And all things bent to please her.

This left me wondering though what will become of Kvothe in the next book. It seems that Auri has a hint of it and a plan. I'm really excited to see them together again.

I think this will be a love it or hate it story for most. Since it isn't traditional I can see why some might not like it. But I enjoyed the character study of Auri. I swam around in her head and learned a bit of how she made something that should have been like a sewer of sorts into a breathtakingly magical place full of hidden chambers and unexpected treasures. **This is why I fall on the side of LOVE.**

Andrew Obrigewitsch says

While this book is very aptly named. It was not for me. I really was not into slowly regarding silent things.

Jerry Smith says

This section is not a review. For that see further below. Also, those of you who rate books before they are released and haven't read an ARC, what the hell? 5-star , 1-star, whatever-star, you haven't read the book yet so withhold your judgement. Or is that a way of you just rating your excitement for the book? Maybe *goodreads* should have a "Hype" indicator you can vote on so you can get your fix that way.

This is mainly focused towards all you keyboard warriors out there. I'm being a bit of a hypocrite right now, I know.

I don't even really know where to begin with this so I'll just start with the "he said they were already done 7 years ago and blah blah blah..." Cry me a river... That was a mistake to say and Pat knows it, let it go. He's said in numerous interviews that he's a far better writer now than when he originally wrote the trilogy, so he basically just uses the original material as a rough outline for the new books. He has an editor now that probably wanted many things altered as well. Many characters and side plots (including the Waystone Inn framing) have also been added, so he obviously has much more work to do in that regard. You try rebuilding a 1000 page novel from scratch without having any hiccups in a 'timely' fashion.

For those of you who compare Pat to Brandon Sanderson and the like, just stop. Not all writers work at the same pace or in the same way. They're different people. Rothfuss also writes more poetic prose than say Sanderson, and Brandon will tell you the same. This takes time. Especially when you have to work on a sentence that sounds right to you, while also conveying the message it needs to. That can take hours.

For those of you that call people like me "Fanboys," go right ahead. I wouldn't be here if I wasn't a fan. But you know what, you're here too. The most angry comments are those always complaining the books aren't coming out fast enough. Strange, that. I'd say you are the biggest "Fanboys" here since you seem to be the ones most desperate to get your hands on *Doors of Stone*. If you're this angry about a book, then you have some bigger problems you need to worry about. We Rothfuss apologists aren't defending him because, while we may like his books and personality, we have some semblance of empathy and understanding in our bodies. The man has a family, people. His obligations aren't strictly to you. Deal with it.

And lastly, for those of you complaining this is a "money grab," you... you are the worst of all. He started this as a short story, and it became something longer. That's all that happened. The man needs to work on other things so he stays sane. He could have just kept it for himself as world building material and start slaving away again at your leisure - Yah, Rothfuss! Yah! - but he decided to take the time to polish this work, *The Slow Regard of Silent Things*, to tide you over because so many of you seem to be foaming at the mouth. If you like the series, then you probably like the world and characters. Here is something for you. Stop looking a gift horse in the mouth. Also, I noticed some of you are complaining about price. It's \$11 for a hardback! Are you kidding me? That's cheap! Comparing to say *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, I open up the dust jacket and it says \$25.99 for a novel of roughly the same length. I loved the book, so I'm not trying to give an impression in that regard, but just as a point of comparison. I never saw anything about that price, though there could have been. Rothfuss probably had to fight to get the price down. Or the people at DAW are just the most lovely ever.

To the other Rothfuss apologists out there who 'get it' - preach on brothers/sisters.

And thank you Patrick for writing this, Auri is one of my favorite characters so this will be a pleasure to read.

Having finished the book, I suppose I can see why some people would find it off putting. It's different. But... Auri is different. It took me a while to read this book, not because it was too boring or bland, or I just couldn't get into it for some other reason, but because it was sweet like honey and was something I wanted to savor, like bottled moonlight.

I didn't give it 5-stars because it does lack a certain depth of plot that I usually look for in a book, but I still very much enjoyed it and became quite captured by Auri and her nature. However, the poetry of words one will find in this book itself makes it an interesting read.

Most people read books for the characters and the relationships they forge, so looking at the *Characters* section here on *goodreads* might turn off more than a number of people, as it simply says "Auri." But I didn't

really see this book as having but one character. Some of the objects in *The Slow Regard...* are so important and central to the story, that they feel like characters themselves in a way. At one part I was actually saddened when one particular object broke. I have to commend Pat for that.

While it's not BOOK 3, Pat definitely slipped some information in here if you're paying close enough attention. If you're somebody who reads between the lines and is interested in what's going on behind the scenes in Temerant (man + tree ?), this is worth your time.

The art also really helps to make this book. It's really integral to see what Auri sees so you feel more connected with her doings.

I should say that this book isn't for everybody, and Pat tells you this from the start. But if you're somebody who has ever sat on your bed and listened to the white noise in your room, laid on your carpet and fingered its threads, kissed an inanimate object *raises hand*, sat in the sun filtering through a window and watched the particles of dust floating in the air, touched all the objects you could in your room just because they seemed lonely, then you might like this book.

Bookdragon Sean says

“People are going to read this and be pissed.”

-Patrick Rothfuss (2014)

Well Pat was right. People are pissed. I'm pissed.

I've been warned about this, several times in fact. I've been told that it's terrible. I've been told that it has no plot or any string of story. I've been told that it is utter garbage, and I disbelieved it. I consider myself a huge fan of Patrick Rothfuss. His first book was great and his second book was almost the same. His writing is fantastic, his world is superb and his magic system is as complex as it is brilliant. So, when I was told that this was abysmal I didn't believe it. I couldn't believe it.

Then I read it.

And wow!

This was so bad, so surprisingly bad. Not just bad, but absolutely crap.

That's a whole new level of badness! **(SCREAMS SILENTLY INSIDE)**

It's just a complete mess. There is truly no plot or any excitement. It gave me no reason to read it. It is a glimpse at Auri's life, which is to say the whole thing is a young girl exploring a whole lot of nothing. It's dull, painful and redundant. I couldn't get into it. Well, I say nothing because Auri hasn't got a clue where she is. She is like a child in a vast and complex world. She perceives things in an oddly unique manner. This isn't bad in itself; it just makes the whole thing hard to follow because it is so easy to form misconceptions. Auri just seems lost within herself as well as the world at whole. I hated it in its entirety.

Certainly, she is a strong enough character for her own side story, but this story isn't strong enough for her. Nothing really happens. There is no plot driver or reason to read; it's a waste of time. The writing felt quite awkward as well. Shocking I know, that I could say this of Rothfuss. He focalised the narrative through her.

For me, it didn't work; it just seemed strange to the point of awkwardness rather than a representation of her character. The result was a narrative that felt expressionless and flat. I didn't like it one bit.

Rothfuss mentions in the forward that this story is "different." It clearly deviates from the standard expectations of his writing, but that's a bad thing. That's a terrible thing. I think, after this, Rothfuss should stick to what he does best. I sincerely regret reading this. I'd like to forget that it actually exists, but, alas, my perceptions of a character I previously liked are swaying toward the negative.

On a positive note, I do recommend the author's novels. They're great fantasy stories that are worth reading. This, however, was utter garbage. Pat, again, sums it up better than I could in his weirdly self-defeating forward.

"I was writing a trunk story. For those of you who don't know the term, a trunk story is something you write, then when it's finished you put the manuscript in the bottom of a trunk and forget about it.

He knew this was weird. He had doubts. So why publish it?

p.s- when do you think *Doors of Stone* will be released? I've got my money on late 2018.

Patrick says

So this book is coming out on the 28th of October, just two weeks away, and I'm growing increasingly nervous.

This isn't an unusual thing. Authors are always anxious before the release of a book. We worry if people will like it. We worry about the publisher being satisfied with the sales. We worry about the translations being good.

I am all those types of worried. But I have other worries too.

One of my biggest concerns is that despite my best efforts to spread the word, people will pick this book up thinking it's book three. (It's not.) If that happens, they can't help but be disappointed. If you take a drink expecting milk and get orange juice instead, you're going to be unhappy. It doesn't matter how good the orange juice is. It's shocking and unpleasant.

Equally troubling to me is the thought that people will see this book and think, "Oh, I've heard of that Rothfuss guy. Maybe I'll try him out..."

And then they'll pick up this book and start reading. And it won't make one damn bit of sense to them because they don't have any idea who Auri is. Because this story is about her. This is Auri's book.

For all these reasons, I wrote my first ever Author's Foreword. I expected my editor to cut it. But she didn't. And when I asked her if I could share it here. She said I could.

So here it is.

* * *

You might not want to buy this book.

I know, that's not the sort of thing an author is supposed to say. The marketing people aren't going to like this. My editor is going to have a fit. But I'd rather be honest with you right out of the gate.

First, if you haven't read my other books, you don't want to start here.

My first two books are *The Name of The Wind* and *The Wise Man's Fear*. If you're curious to try my writing, start there. They're the best introduction to my world. This book deals with Auri, one of the characters from that series. Without the context of those books, you're probably going to feel pretty lost.

Second, even if you have read my other books, I think it's only fair to warn you that this is a bit of a strange story. I don't go in for spoilers, but suffice to say that this one is... different. It doesn't do a lot of the things a classic story is supposed to do. And if you're looking for a continuation of Kvothe's storyline, you're not going to find it here.

On the other hand, if you'd like to learn more about Auri, this story has a lot to offer. If you love words and mysteries and secrets. If you're curious about the Underthing and alchemy. If you want to know more about the hidden turnings of my world....

Well, then this book might be for you.

Brigid says

WOW. people are seriously fucking angry on here. It's hilarious how emotional people get over a release date. Guys, the dude is a really good writer. Not to mention he's a perfectionist. Nothing wrong with that in my opinion. Give him a break. He's got his own life separate from being a writer. Let him be.

Catriona (LittleBookOwl) says

3.5-4 stars?

Alex Ristea says

This is the most beautiful story I've read in years.

Think about that word, beautiful, and what it means to you. It could be a memory, a place, a loved one, an emotion.

Keep thinking.

It's not the best analogy, but it's the best I can do because *The Slow Regard of Silent Things* is in a class all of its own and it evokes a response that no other book has managed to elicit from me.

It is strange, it is gentle, it is true, it is heart-warming, it is poetic, it is pure Rothfuss.

I don't know about you, but I fell in love with *The Name of the Wind* because of the attention to language and the sheer beauty of the story. Now imagine if Pat could concentrate only on those things and say "fuck it!" to conflict, action, and dialogue.

This is a story only he could pull off, and I can tell you that yes, yes he does.

This is one of those books you need to set aside some time for, brew a mug of coffee, and bundle up undisturbed.

I want you to read *The Slow Regard of Silent Things* to understand what a story is and what it isn't. To explore the boundaries of language. To feel the cadence and the beat and the lilt and the rhythm of the words. To revel in one of the most fascinating characters the genre has to offer. To know that you are not alone in being a broken thing.

One last fun little tidbit: I got the *real* Rothfuss to sign my book, not that fake Pat fellow.
