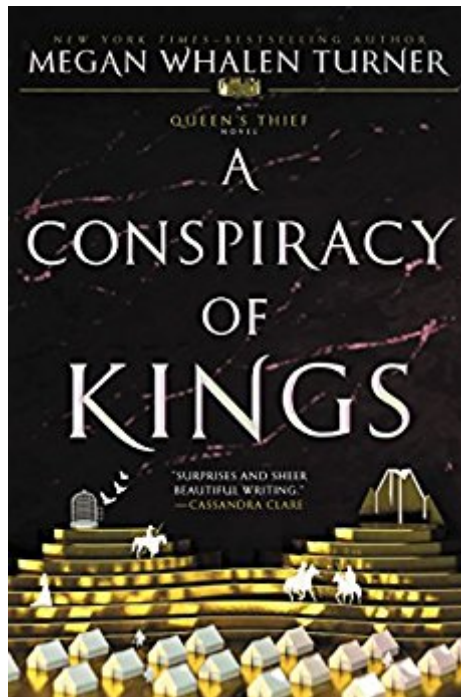


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A Conspiracy Of Kings (The Queen's Thief Book 4)



Synopsis

Discover the world of the Queen of Attolia and the Thief, New York Times bestselling author Megan Whalen Turner's entrancing and award-winning Queen of Attolia and Thief novels bring to life the world of the epics and feature one of the most charismatic and incorrigible characters of fiction, Eugenides the thief. The Queen of Attolia and Thief series is rich with political machinations and intrigue, battles lost and won, dangerous journeys, divine intervention, power, passion, revenge, and deception. The New York Times bestseller *A Conspiracy of Kings* won the Los Angeles Times Book Award and is perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo, Marie Lu, Patrick Rothfuss, and George R. R. Martin. After an attempted assassination and kidnapping, Sophos, heir to the throne of Sounis, disappears. Those who care for him—including the thief Eugenides and the Queen of Attolia—are left to wonder if he is alive and if they will ever see him again. The Queen of Attolia and Thief novels have been praised by writers, critics, reviewers, and fans and have been honored with glowing reviews and numerous awards, including the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Newbery Honor, the Andre Norton Award shortlist, and the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. Discover and rediscover the stand-alone companions, *The Queen of Attolia*, *The King of Attolia*, *A Conspiracy of Kings*, and *Thick as Thieves*, all epic novels set in the world of the Queen of Attolia and the Thief. This edition of *A Conspiracy of Kings* includes a conversation between bestselling author Leigh Bardugo and Megan Whalen Turner, an introduction to the characters from the world of the Queen of Attolia and the Thief, and a map of the world of the Queen of Attolia and the Thief. Winner of the LA Times Book Award, A New York Times Bestseller, A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book, A School Library Journal Best Book, "The Queen of Attolia and Thief books awe and inspire me. They have the feel of a secret, discovered history of real but forgotten lands. The plot-craft is peerless, the revelations stunning, and the characters flawed, cunning, heartbreaking, exceptional. Megan Whalen Turner's books have a permanent spot on my favorites shelf, with space waiting for more books to come." —Laini Taylor, New York Times bestselling author of the *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* novels and *Strange the Dreamer* "Unforgettable characters, plot twists that will make your head spin, a world rendered in elegant detail—you will fall in love with every page of these stories. Megan Whalen Turner writes vivid, immersive, heartbreaking fantasy that will leave you desperate to return to Attolia again and again." —Leigh Bardugo, New York Times bestselling author of *The Grisha Trilogy* and *Six of Crows* "Megan Whalen Turner is one of my all-time favorite writers . . . impossible to put down." —Holly Black, award-winning and New York Times bestselling author of the *Modern Faerie Tale* series and *The Darkest Part of the Forest* "Romance, intrigue, mystery, surprises, and sheer beautiful

writing. • Cassandra Clare, award-winning and New York Times-bestselling author of The Mortal Instruments and Lady Midnight “The world Turner creates is so tangible that not only do I believe in its characters, I almost believe in its gods. • Kristin Cashore, award-winning and New York Times-bestselling author of the Graceling Realm series “A Conspiracy of Kings brings the sweetest, sharpest kind of reading pleasure. Megan Whalen Turner’s books are pure joy. • Rebecca Stead, Newbery Medalist and New York Times-bestselling author of When You Reach Me and Goodbye Stranger

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Customer Reviews

The ThiefThe Queen of AttoliaThe King of AttoliaA Conspiracy of KingsThick as Thievesby Megan Whalen TurnerThis is one of those series of books that you really ought to read in order. While each book can and does stand alone, this is a tale that unfolds like a flower, one petal at a time, and you owe it to yourself to let yourself enjoy it the way it was meant to be enjoyed. Take Humpty-Dumpty’s advice. Begin at the beginning, go on to the end, then stop and then wish that there was more to the tale!So: Imagine a land that looks like

Greece but isn't, inhabited by a people with Greek sounding names, who worship gods with Greek sounding names, but who have pocket watches, window glass, and flintlocks. They speak a common language, worship common gods, but have divided themselves into three separate states: Sounis, Eddis and Attolia: The queendom* of Eddis is both protected and trapped within its mountainous geography. It is sandwiched between the kingdom of Sounis on one hand, and the queendom of Attolia on the other. The king of Sounis covets Attolia, Eddis, and especially Eddis's queen. The Queen of Attolia is struggling to keep her throne and her power against the machinations of the large empire of Mede across the sea to the south. Like the wolf at the door, Mede is hungry to get a foothold on their shores by using intrigue and influence to gain control of all three states, and another powerful empire to the north of them is equally determined not to let this happen. The tale starts with The Thief, whose name is Gen, locked in the palace dungeons of the king of Sounis for being what he is, a thief. It's a heist tale, suspenseful and exciting; it sets the stage for everything that comes after. By the end of it we have come to understand the where's and why's of the story, and have met all the important who's but one. The second book continues the career of Gen the thief, and introduces us to the last of the key players, The Queen of Attolia, a woman who must walk a tightrope to stay one step ahead of the machinations of the Mede ambassador who already sees himself as Attolia's next king. When Gen falls into her clutches, she takes something important from him, but he steals something much more important from her. In The King of Attolia, the third book, Attolia gets the king it needs but doesn't want, and in order for Gen the thief to obtain the one thing he wants most, he also has to take what comes with it • which is the last thing he wants. In the fourth book, A Conspiracy of Kings, Sophos, the chief advisor of Sounis's young apprentice whom we met in The Thief, gets to tell his tale. He is an unwilling hero who has the wit to make the right choices and then somehow find the strength to carry them out. He survives betrayal, slavery, conspiracy, pitched battles and the loss of his mother and sisters. This is the fast-paced, action packed story of how a boy becomes a man, how a man becomes a king, and how the young apprentice Sophos puts the heir of Sounis on his throne. I suspect that Ms. Turner succumbed to the plea that every story teller hopes to hear, "Just one more story! Please!" That "one more story" is Thick as Thieves. In it, the chief slave of the former Mede ambassador to the court of Attolia tells how Attolia's king enacted his revenge on both master and slave. I was lucky that the first three books were already out when I started The Thief. I only had to wait two days for the second and third books to arrive from . I read them again when the fourth book

came out, and have just finished reading them all again now that the fifth book is out. I know at some point I'll want to read them all again. Yes, they are that good. By the end of the first chapter of *The Thief*, the characters had stepped off the page and into the miniseries that was playing in my head as I continued reading. As I said at the start of this, do yourself a favor and read the books in order. Just when you think you know how the tale is going to go, the tale takes an unexpected twist. Things are not what they seem, and people are not who you think they are. Oh, and did I mention the volcano? Don't tell me a queendom isn't a thing. If a country ruled by a king is a kingdom, then a country ruled by a queen is a queendom. Sit down and hush.

I enjoyed this book a lot. Turner continues to demonstrate her ability to construct beautiful sentences, moving descriptions of places, events and people, and elegant turns of phrase. There are the (for Turner) typical shining moments when characters reveal themselves, sometimes even to themselves. The reader learns more about Gen's world, its geography and history (the archipelago off the coast of Attolia and the impending all out war with the Medes suggests a future book in which the islands will play a prominent role and the possibility of a Salamis style naval battle with the Medes - I hope). We are reminded that Gen is 1) very young, 2) very very smart, 3) very very gifted, 4) willing to bear the burdens of both kingship and of those he loves, and 5) in need of a male friend to whom he can talk to and love more or less as an equal. We're also reminded that the gods work in subtle ways and that this is a world where violence is taken for granted even when regretted. One reviewer asked why Gen was so "greedy". This seems a misreading of his motives which have to do with events foretold for Eddis and the impending conflict between the Medes and Eddis/Sounis/Attolia. Another reviewer found the epistolary style of the early part of the book off putting. I thought so too for the first few pages until the character to whom Sophos was writing became clear. One reviewer thought there was too little Gen. Gen isn't "onstage" in every scene, but I felt his presence continually in the actions and dialogue of the other characters. He remains the linchpin of the story. One reviewer questioned Sophos's intelligence and whether he was an interesting character. I read him as a very interesting character and quite smart, just not in a subtle and guarded "Gen" sort of way. One thing that struck me about Sophos as a character was that Turner was able to portray him as "royal" but in a very different way than Gen or Irene or Helen. By the end of *A Conspiracy of Kings* I had a much better sense as to what made each of the rulers of Souris, Eddis, and Attolia uniquely suited to rule. This is in part to the different ways in which each has been introduced to the reader. One of the great things about this series is the way that Turner

varies the point of view and other elements of the narrative structure while continuing the development of the characters, the plot and the setting. The density of the storytelling (which achieves a kind of paradoxical simplicity) contributes to the density of the story. The last scene of the book is utterly charming. There are a number of fantasy writers whose books I look forward to reading but few writers whose books I look forward to rereading: Diana Wynne Jones, Patricia McKillip, C.J. Cherryh (for the most part), and Megan Whalen Turner.

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