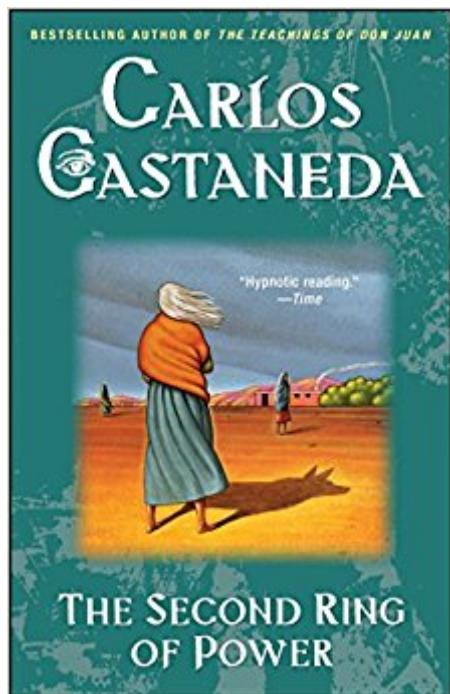


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The Second Ring Of Power



Synopsis

ENTER THE SORCERESS! Back from the abyss, Castaneda encounter his greatest test on the journey towards impeccability and freedom: to outwit and overpower the sorcery of Doña Soledad, herself transformed from a defeated and meaningless life to a warrior, a hunter and a "stalker of power." Now the combat will begin. Now the journey will continue. Till the last danger is faced...the final paradox embraced.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the groundbreaking work of bestselling author Carlos Castaneda "Extraordinary in every sense of the word." (The New York Times) "An unparalleled breakthrough... Remarkable (Los Angeles Times) "Hypnotic reading." (Chicago Tribune) "It is impossible to view the world in quite the same way." (Chicago Tribune) "Exquisite... Stunning... Fresh, unexpected visions with the logic of dreams." (Detroit Free Press) "Taken together [Castaneda's books] form a work among the best that the science of anthropology has produced." (The New York Times Book Review)

Born in 1925 in Peru, anthropologist Carlos Castaneda wrote a total of 15 books, which sold 8 million copies worldwide and were published in 17 different languages. In his writing, Castaneda describes the teaching of Don Juan, a Yaqui sorcerer and shaman. His works helped define the 1960's and usher in the New Age movement. Even after his mysterious death in California in 1998, his books continue to inspire and influence his many devoted fans.

This is when 'kaka' gets weird for Carlos. Jumping off a cliff, check. But who are these ladies? How do they know me? The beginning of the 'higher awareness amnesia' narrative which persists through the rest of the series. I can attest to this being a valid phenomenon; I have personally experienced events in a higher state of consciousness which can only be 'recalled' by regaining the state of consciousness when they occurred. Many accuse Carlos of being disingenuous. When defending a project on Castaneda in college, I said to my peers, 'Does it matter?'. Shed your narrow, rational viewpoint (a byproduct of Baconian ideology, and not inherent to nature per se) and you'll find that your depictions of 'true' and 'not true', i.e. calling upon some source of 'authority' to prove or disprove what you're experiencing are just shields you're putting up between yourself and what you're experiencing. When reading Castaneda, it's what you experience that matters, and, with careful study and the suspension of disbelief, Carlos' 'magic words' will take you right into his experiences with him. (Literally, I'm not being cute or poetic. Just to be clear)

Probably skip this if you are unfamiliar with Castaneda. The best part is the magical sparkling urine magic. And the Allies. The main thrust is that Castaneda wanted to show how other people processed Don Juan's instruction and that teaching sorcery is highly idiosyncratic. Another major theme in the book is the power of females - an important topic in Castaneda's whole body of work that is first explored in detail in this book. So in summary, when in doubt, pee on your hands.

This is one of the easiest reads that Carlos wrote, since the first most of it is action by characters bidding for power. Obviously they were played by the master stalker, Don Juan. In the end, I'm sure the result was as intended and a new cycle of the sorcerers involved began. While the shamanic arts of Seeing and Stalking are embedded in the action, there is also elaboration on the art of Gazing. Then there is the matter of the double and just what the Nagual is. A fine read or re-read.

An important book in the annals of non-traditional philosophy. Works well on the metaphysical level, and has many important things to say about self-discovery. Was required reading in my pop culture and interpersonal communication classes. These comments also apply to the other Castaneda books. Highly recommended.

Hasta siempre Carlitos et. al.

In this book Don Juan has set some time release tests for Carlos to see if he can lead a party of

brujos and brujas. And what a party it is. Rife with the passionate call of the otherworldly most of us expect from this series. A very entertaining book well worth reading.

Very good reading. Its been years sense I last read Carlos's books.

One of my favorite in the series.

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