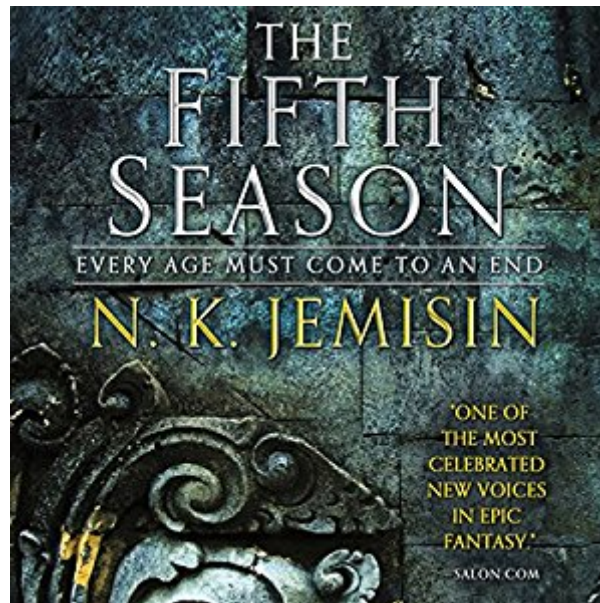




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The Fifth Season: The Broken Earth, Book 1



Synopsis

This is the way the world ends. For the last time. A season of endings has begun. It starts with the great, red rift across the heart of the world's sole continent, spewing ash that blots out the sun. It starts with death, with a murdered son and a missing daughter. It starts with betrayal, and long dormant wounds rising up to fester. This is the Stillness, a land long familiar with catastrophe, where the power of the Earth is wielded as a weapon. And where there is no mercy. A new fantasy trilogy by Hugo, Nebula & World Fantasy Award-nominated author N. K. Jemisin.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours 31 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 4, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B012H8111O

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #27 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fantasy > Epic #27 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian

Customer Reviews

I've enjoyed all of Jemisin's books thus far, but I often avoid starting series books until the whole series is complete because I hate being left hanging, waiting for the next installment. But "The Fifth Season" was totally worth the suspense. The world of The Stillness - an ironically-named super-continent that suffers frequent, massive environmental catastrophes thanks to its unstable geology - is a captivating setting for the story's three narrators, each of whom is forced to journey across the dangerous, shifting land. In conceiving a society able to do what it takes to survive across multiple devastating periods of disaster and climate change, Jemisin creates a world order that each of her main characters sees through different eyes: one hoping it will offer her refuge, one furious about its demands on her, and one hoping to just avoid its gaze altogether. Even though I enjoy a good Tolkien-esque fantasy, it's so refreshing to read Jemisin's writing, which always takes a fresh departure from the pseudo-medieval-Europe settings so common in the genre. Rather than elves and orcs and plundering armies, Jemisin gives us orogenes (those gifted with the ability to

control geological forces), stone-eaters (non-humans who can move through solid rock with their own, mysterious agenda), and a continent that is a greater threat to its people than any army. Whether the strict, caste-driven, xenophobic society that has evolved in response to the environment is a necessary evil or a regime to be overthrown is an argument that will likely span the entire trilogy. "The Fifth Season" could be considered part of the vein of SF/F that addresses environmental and climate change issues (e.g. Nicola Griffith's "Slow River," Paolo Bacigalupe's "The Windup Girl") but in this trilogy, change is inevitable and largely beyond human control. The book builds toward several narrative twists slowly revealed in its final third; I had picked up on enough very subtle hints to suspect some of them, but they still came into focus with a satisfying emotional "click" that made me glad I waited and didn't stumble across any spoilers. I was so captivated by the narrative that I literally woke up in the night wanting to read more (thanks, insomnia! thanks, book light!). Waiting for the next two chapters leaves me feeling as unsettled as the world of *The Stillness* itself.

Rarely is a book so engrossing yet enigmatic that you can't wait to finish it just so you can start again from the beginning but this is what I got from Jemisin's 5th Season. Sci Fi at its best and brightest, filled with emotion and discovery, I just can't wait to learn more about the Broken Earth world. In fact I can't wait to finish this review so I can start reading it again.

I've never read anything quite like this -- N.K. Jemisin creates a completely original, immersive world featuring complex, real characters, whom I'm still thinking about a month after finishing the book. The structure, and its twists (I'm not going to say anything else, for fear of giving things away), are astonishing: surprising, skillfully executed, and supremely satisfying. Although it grabbed me from the heartbreaking start, I didn't find the next chapter or two an easy read; it took me a little while to get comfortable with what was going on, but I'm relieved I kept going -- it's so rewarding. I can't wait for the next book and may have to re-read this in the meantime.

The story line is good and the magic system is novel. I could have done without the sex scenes, which were pointless and added nothing to the narrative. At times it felt like the author was trying a little too hard.

A fantastic beginning of yet another incredible epic. I've loved Jemisin's unique storytelling voice and non-traditional fantasy worlds/characters since her debut series (*The Inheritance Trilogy*), and

The Fifth Season continues the trend. I'm not sure who else would be able to successfully pull off a character with a second-person pov--and not just to prove she can--there's a specific reason for it that makes perfect sense once you get to the point in the story where you understand what she's done. I absolutely adored this book (I'm only disappointed that I have to wait for the next part!), but as others have mentioned it's not at all a light or easy read; as the best fantasy does, it explores important topics, and does so with Jemisin's absolute mastery of characters and worldbuilding.

Well written and compelling story. It is difficult to describe but fans of sci-fi and dystopian novels would likely enjoy. It's a whole new universe and kind of people. My only criticism is the amount of new words and names. I always struggle to remember names, so it's doubly hard for me when the names themselves are not familiar. Despite this, I really enjoyed the book and immediately ordered the next two in the trilogy. I really enjoy this author's voice and this world!

This book just blew me away. The audio version, narrated by Robin Miles, is also smashing. Cutting an edge between sci-fi and fantasy, it offers an incredibly rendered world, heart wrenching characters... I just cannot say enough good things to do it justice. On to book 2. In sum: Read This Book.

Very original "magic system". Mind bending. Characters that are complex with good story arcs. This is a well-done, satisfying book. Love it. At first it is confusing as the book just starts up with no explanations. I actually like that in a book, rather than a bunch of exposition explaining how everything works. Anyway, I highly recommend not giving up on the first few chapters. Stay with it! You will be itching for the sequel at the end.

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