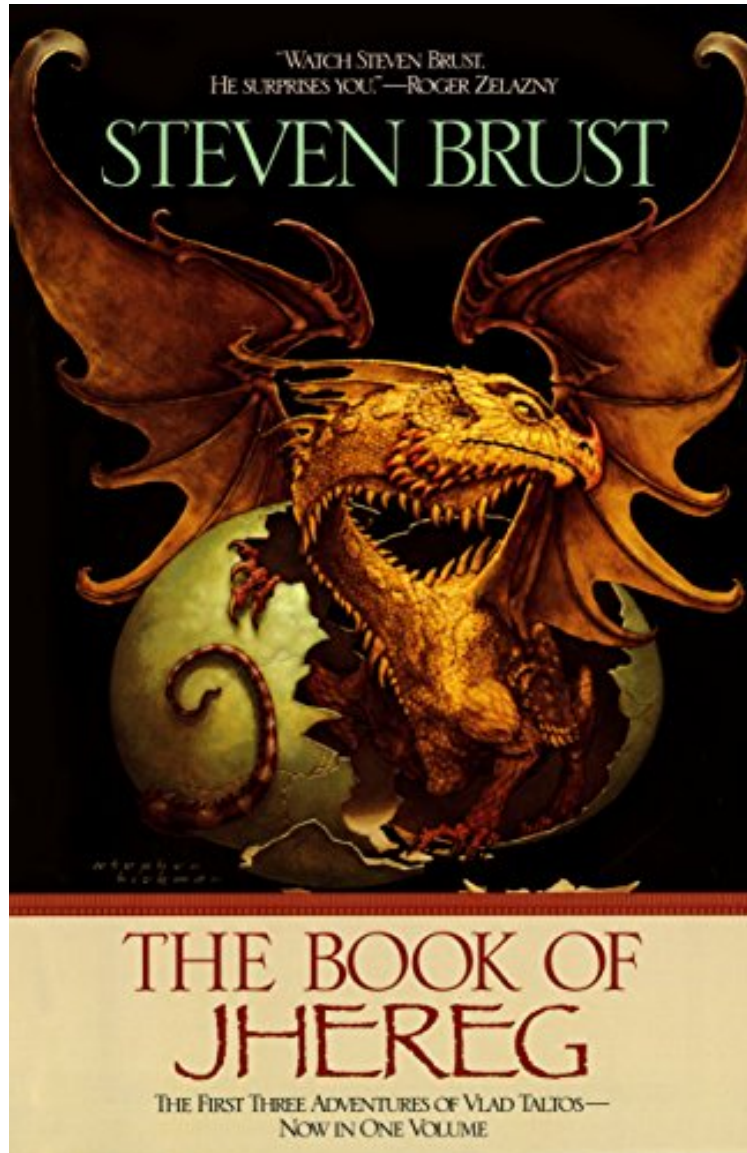


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## The Book of Jhereg

Von Steven Brust

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**Von Steven Brust : The Book of Jhereg** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Jhereg:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pow! Biff! SPLAT!Von Wizard's ApprenticeIt's like a comic book, without the pictures, and you've just been dropped into the middle of it. Or maybe a video game, and you'd better be able to reach your shurikens or poisoned dagger while your faithful reptile companion holds the other assasins off. But if you're killed, don't worry: you've got insurance that

will bring you back. Vlad is a human in a city dominated by eight-foot Dragaerans, who never have to shave and live to be a thousand. It's their turf, and their rules, and they routinely conquer and abuse "Easterners" like Vlad. He's not the type to take this, so he becomes a "Jhereg" assassin, working up the ranks of a criminal syndicate until he comes to boss dozens of Dragaerans around, befriending some and terrorizing others. He adopts a new-hatched mini-dragon or jhereg, finding that the cat-sized beast has a humanlike intelligence and a nasty sense of humor, and wins a grudging respect from the dominant species. All his friends are 900 years old, or undead vampires, or legendary thieves; but don't hold it against them. Vlad solves mysteries and evades death, and cooks fiery fungus-laced omelets, in a bizarre semi-alien milieu. He finds love. He sharpens knives. He gloomily bandages his jhereg bites. He'd be right at home in a Zelazny novel, which is reason enough to buy this or any other Brust book.<sup>4</sup> von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Vald Taltos rules Von RP Steven Brust's "Vlad Taltos"-series is made for people who enjoyed watching "Young Guns": You have to set moral conventions aside in order to root for Vlad (or Billy the Kid). There's no doubt that the people on the receiving end of Vlad's daggers had it coming, but what he does to make a living (or better killing) is plain wrong. But there's no doubt that Vlad is a cool guy. Chastising Vlad for running a couple of brothels or whacking people left and right would be like saying Indiana Jones is a bad person because he shot the swordsman in "Raiders of the Lost Ark". The dialogues in the novels are refreshingly not like in your standard work of fantasy. Especially the verbal exchanges between Vlad and his smart-ass familiar Loiosh are among the best ever. What I like most about Brust's writing style is his complete negligence of chronology. Jumping around in the timeline in each instalment of the series or within the individual books makes reading about Vlad's exploits comparable to watching a Tarantino movie. And there's plenty of violence - explicitly described in the plot, as well as inherently in the society that Taltos is living in. This would make Good Ol' Quentin my first pick if it ever came to adapting the novels to the big screen. In every book you find references to previous adventures or hints at things to come. This keeps you hooked to the series and longing for more. With only 9 novels published so far, there's hope that there are 9 more to come (one for each of the 17 great houses of the Dragarean society + Taltos). I read the novels in publishing order, which would be: Jhereg, Yendi, Teckla, Taltos, Phoenix, Athyra, Orca, Dragon Issola. For those who prefer to read the books in their chronological order, this would be the way to go: Taltos, Dragon, Yendi, Jhereg, Teckla, Phoenix, Athyra, Orca, Issola - however, I would recommend starting with Jhereg in any way, because it throws you right in the middle of the action and is the best way to get you addicted to the series.<sup>3</sup> von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Assassination for Fun and Profit Von James D. DeWitt Let me start by saying I like Steven Brust very much, and that I think the Vlad Taltos series is outstanding. The three stories in this volume are among the best of the early books, and show Brust's writing at its best. But any thoughtful reader needs to consider the subject. Here we have a hero in Vladimir Taltos who makes his living assassinating people, selling illicit - well, untaxed - drugs, running whorehouses and operating a numbers racket. He's not a nice guy. It's true that he had a rough childhood, lives as a member of minority in a culture that's even less nice, and tried work as a restaurateur first, but even so... How can we like this guy? How can we recommend books about this guy to anybody? The Dragarean culture is deeply dysfunctional. It is based on sorcery in fundamental ways, and upon the failure of sorcery a few hundred years before Taltos was born, the society essentially collapsed into chaos (sorry). Crime, including assassination, is an accepted line of work. The empress herself recognizes its necessity. Nor are all assassinations necessarily fatal, although a lamentable number of those that Taltos commits seem to be. Sorcery is very powerful, and revivification is often possible. And so many of the targets richly deserve it. And there is an afterlife. At least for Dragearans. And sometimes Taltos feels bad about it afterwards. After the torture and murder of one sorceress, who was guilty of nothing more than what Taltos does for a living, he tells us that years later it still bothers him. Brust is a good enough writer that he makes you like Vlad Taltos, and care about him, despite his vocation. Brust presents the picture of a deeply complex man who wants to deny those complexities, in the tradition of the best mystery writers. Characters are well-developed, plot lines imaginative and tight, and the dialog is very good. The novels are themselves are each very much pieces of the puzzle that is Vlad Taltos. While there are a few inconsistencies across the books, they are relatively minor. There is a sense that Vlad Taltos is much more important than he knows, and that he will have a critical, even indispensable, role in the society in which he finds himself. There are mysteries that span several books, some still unanswered. Who is Vlad's mother, for example? Why does the very oldest Dragearan foster and protect him? Why does a goddess take such an interest in him? The mysteries and shadows, some revealed in later books and some still dark, make Taltos more compelling. These are entertaining, even compelling yarns in a richly imagined world. In the end, you don't care that Vlad Taltos is a multiple-murderer; you just want Steven Brust to write another book.

Kurzbeschreibung A welcome addition to any fantasy fan's library, *The Book of Jhereg* follows the antics of the wise-cracking assassin Vlad Taltos and his dragon-like companion through their first three adventures? Jhereg, Yendi, and Teckla. From his rookie assassin days to his selfless feats of heroism, the dauntless Vlad will hold readers

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