



## Sword of the Deceiver

*Sarah Zettel*

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For five hundred years, the great southern empire of Hastinapura has flourished, ruling the world of Isavalta with an iron fist. But nothing lasts forever... The day of her womanhood ceremony finds Princess Natharie of Sindhu happily celebrating with her family, joyfully awaiting her marriage to a prince of another realm. However, when the Empire demands that her family send someone to court, Natharie realizes that she is the only one who can satisfy the Emperor's wishes and is taken by Hastinapura's Prince Samudra, brother of the emperor, back to the seat of empire. As Natharie spends time in the Hastinapura court, she learns of the Empire's bloodthirsty worship of the Mothers, and that their High Priest, Divakesh, is intent on spreading their worship beyond the Empire, including into neighboring Sindhu, at any cost. At the court, Natharie learns of plots that threaten to pit her homeland against Hastinapura in a disastrous war. Appalled by the power and brazenness of Samudra, she realizes, as each day brings war ever nearer, that the powerful prince may be her only hope to prevent a war that could destroy them all.

## Sword of the Deceiver Details

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Author : Sarah Zettel

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## From Reader Review Sword of the Deceiver for online ebook

### **Lynn Calvin says**

ARC

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### **Jilly says**

Just wish these were in some sort of chronological order.

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### **Shardis says**

I haven't gotten all the way through this series. I need to go back and reread it, I think, in order, since I think I missed something along the way. For those that like a mix of Russian mythos with their literature, this is a great series.

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### **Kristen says**

Might have made a lot more sense if I had read the books for which this is apparently a prequel. As it was, there were vast stretches of this book that I was bored/lost.

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### **Daniel says**

Another enjoyable book, by Sarah Zettel. All her books are well written. This one explores the mythology of Hinduism and Buddhism. Though the names have been changed, and the Hindi religion is more matriarchal. Also, the Buddhism is a combination of Mahayana and Tibetan, not the older Theravada style. Still, overall very enjoyable, blending of Myth, and folklore, with believable characters.

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### **Keelin Perala says**

I had forgotten how skilfully Sarah Zettel crafts characters that fail to fit the dichotomy of good and evil I have come to particularly expect in Fantasy novels. She weaves characters whose viewpoints are often shaped by common human weaknesses and hardship. This, and her believably strong, self-driven female protagonists has elevated her as one of my very favorite fantasy authors.

Sword of the Deceiver also contained her signature strong female protagonist and complex characters, this time woven with Russian and Indian and Thai mythologies. Her depictions of court life are rich, and the plot

woven with such skill that I found myself deeply satisfied with both its building climax and its resolution, although I fully expected to be disappointed.

She is a masterful voice telling powerful stories about what it is to be female and what it is to be human that I believe to be particularly relevant to young women today.

TL;DR: I like her books.

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### **Nikki says**

A lovely prequel. I thought the world could have been a little more detailed and the characters a bit more developed, though.

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### **John says**

Great book, highly engaging plot by a writer that is versed in both Science Fiction and Fantasy. It really deserved four and a half stars, but since we can't do that, I just gave it four stars.

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