

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

# BRANDON SANDERSON



## WIND AND TRUTH

BOOK FIVE OF THE STORMLIGHT ARCHIVE

For Adam Horne,

Who is a champion of books, and deserves his own Shardblade.

BRANDON SANDERSON

WIND  
AND  
TRUTH

Book Five of  
THE STORMLIGHT ARCHIVE



# CONTENTS

[Dedication](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Illustrations](#)

[Preface and Acknowledgments](#)

[Book Five: Wind and Truth](#)

[Prologue: To Live](#)

[Day One](#)

[Chapter 1](#)

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 3](#)

[Chapter 4](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 9](#)

[Chapter 10](#)

[Chapter 11](#)

[Chapter 12](#)

[Chapter 13](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 1](#)

[Interlude 2](#)

[Day Two](#)

[Chapter 14](#)

[Chapter 15](#)

[Chapter 16](#)

[Chapter 17](#)

[Chapter 18](#)

[Chapter 19](#)

[Chapter 20](#)

[Chapter 21](#)

[Chapter 22](#)

[Chapter 23](#)

[Chapter 24](#)

[Chapter 25](#)

[Chapter 26](#)

[Chapter 27](#)

[Chapter 28](#)

[Chapter 29](#)

[Chapter 30](#)

[Chapter 31](#)

[Chapter 32](#)

[Chapter 33](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 3](#)

[Interlude 4](#)

[Day Three](#)

[Chapter 34](#)

[Chapter 35](#)

[Chapter 36](#)

[Chapter 37](#)

[Chapter 38](#)

[Chapter 39](#)

[Chapter 40](#)

[Chapter 41](#)

[Chapter 42](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 5](#)

[Interlude 6](#)

[Day Four](#)

[Chapter 43](#)

[Chapter 44](#)

[Chapter 45](#)

[Chapter 46](#)

[Chapter 47](#)

[Chapter 48](#)

[Chapter 49](#)

[Chapter 50](#)

[Chapter 51](#)

[Chapter 52](#)

[Chapter 53](#)

[Chapter 54](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 7](#)

[Interlude 8](#)

[Day Five](#)

[Chapter 55](#)

[Chapter 56](#)

[Chapter 57](#)

[Chapter 58](#)

[Chapter 59](#)

[Chapter 60](#)

[Chapter 61](#)

[Chapter 62](#)

[Chapter 63](#)

[Chapter 64](#)

[Chapter 65](#)

[Chapter 66](#)

[Chapter 67](#)

[Chapter 68](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 9](#)

[Interlude 10](#)

[Day Six](#)

[Chapter 69](#)

[Chapter 70](#)

[Chapter 71](#)

[Chapter 72](#)

[Chapter 73](#)

[Chapter 74](#)

[Chapter 75](#)

[Chapter 76](#)

[Chapter 77](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 11](#)

[Interlude 12](#)

[Day Seven](#)

[Chapter 78](#)

[Chapter 79](#)

[Chapter 80](#)

[Chapter 81](#)

[Chapter 82](#)

[Chapter 83](#)

[Chapter 84](#)



[Chapter 85](#)

[Chapter 86](#)

[Chapter 87](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 13](#)

[Interlude 14](#)

[Day Eight](#)

[Chapter 88](#)

[Chapter 89](#)

[Chapter 90](#)

[Chapter 91](#)

[Chapter 92](#)

[Chapter 93](#)

[Chapter 94](#)

[Chapter 95](#)

[Chapter 96](#)

[Chapter 97](#)

[Chapter 98](#)

[Chapter 99](#)

[Interludes](#)

[Interlude 15](#)

[Interlude 16](#)

[Day Nine](#)

[Chapter 100](#)

[Chapter 101](#)

[Chapter 102](#)

[Chapter 103](#)

[Chapter 104](#)

[Chapter 105](#)

[Chapter 106](#)

[Chapter 107](#)

[Chapter 108](#)

[Chapter 109](#)

[Chapter 110](#)

[Chapter 111](#)

[Chapter 112](#)

[Chapter 113](#)

[Chapter 114](#)

[Chapter 115](#)

[Chapter 116](#)

[Chapter 117](#)

[Chapter 118](#)

[Chapter 119](#)

[Chapter 120](#)

[Chapter 121](#)

[Chapter 122](#)

[Chapter 123](#)

[Chapter 124](#)

[Chapter 125](#)

### [Interludes](#)

[Interlude 17](#)

[Interlude 18](#)

### [Day Ten](#)

[Chapter 126](#)

[Chapter 127](#)

[Chapter 128](#)

[Chapter 129](#)

[Chapter 130](#)

[Chapter 131](#)

[Chapter 132](#)

[Chapter 133](#)

[Chapter 134](#)

[Chapter 135](#)

[Chapter 136](#)

[Chapter 137](#)

[Chapter 138](#)

[Chapter 139](#)

[Chapter 140](#)

[Chapter 141](#)

[Chapter 142](#)

[Chapter 143](#)

[Chapter 144](#)

[Chapter 145](#)

[Chapter 146](#)

[Chapter 147](#)

[Epilogue: Majestic Improvisation](#)

[Postlude to the Stormlight Archive](#)

[Endnote](#)

[Fiction by Brandon Sanderson](#)

[Copyright](#)

## Illustrations

NOTE: *Many illustrations, titles included, contain spoilers for material that comes before them in the book. Look ahead at your own risk.*

[Map of Roshar](#)

[Shallan's Sketchbook: Starspren](#)

[Shallan's Sketchbook: Musicspren](#)

[Shallan's Sketchbook: Urithiru in Shadesmar](#)

[Shallan's Sketchbook: Shardplate](#)

[Navani's Notebook: Rewarding Spren](#)

[Folio: Takamas](#)

[A Study of the Oathgate Dome of Azimir](#)

[Map of Shin Monasteries](#)

[Shash: Heavenly and Flowing Ones](#)

[Shash: Regals](#)

[Coalition Stronghold at Narak](#)

[Shash: Focused Ones](#)

[Shash: Altered and Deepest Ones](#)

[Folio: Ko-takamas](#)

[Page from \*Mythica\*: Ba-Ado-Mishram](#)

[Plan of the City of Azimir](#)

[Thunderclasts](#)

[Shash: Magnified Ones](#)

[Shash: Husked and Devastating Ones](#)

[Navani's Notebook: Honorblades](#)

[The History of Man](#)

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Welcome to *Wind and Truth*, Book Five of the Stormlight Archive. This is the midpoint in the series, and the ending of the first major arc. As such, I have wrestled with this book more than most, giving it a great portion of my thoughts, passion, and effort over the last four years. This is, to date, the longest book I've ever written—and this is among the longest amounts of time I've ever spent on a book. (Probably the longest, if you don't count projects I set down and came back to years later.) I hope you'll find the result worth the effort!

Below is a list of all the people who worked on the novel behind the scenes in various capacities. It's getting more and more like movie credits, with how many people help. I still write every word, and am the sole author of the books, but wow ... Dragonsteel as a company has become something spectacular. While for most books we keep a pretty normal work schedule, Stormlight novels are generally an "all hands on deck" situation—with some pulling extra hours to meet deadlines, and others spending a great deal of their working days focused only on helping get the book edited, publicized, and distributed. So if you ever get a chance to meet them, give them a handshake and a thank-you.

Then please, sit back and enjoy the show. A highstorm is brewing.

Artists who worked on this book: Michael Whelan, Donato Giancola, Miranda Meeks, Dan dos Santos, Audrey Hotte, Kelley King, Petar Penev, Howard Lyon, Greg Call, Isaac Stewart, Ben McSweeney, Anna Earley, Hayley Lazo.

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At Dragonsteel: COO Emily Sanderson. Operations & HR: VP Matt “Why do you write my name like this, Brandon?” Hatch, Operations Director Jane Horne, Kathleen Dorsey Sanderson, Jerrod Walker, Braydonn Moore, Makena Saluone, Christian Fairbanks, Becky Wilson, Ethan Skarstedt, Finance Director Emma Tan-Stoker, Matt Hampton.

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Publicity & Marketing: VP Adam Horne, aka He for Whom the Book Is Dedicated (huzzah!), Marketing Director Jeremy Palmer, Octavia Escamilla-Spiker, Taylor Hatch, Tayan Hatch, Donald George Mustard III.

Narrative: VP Dan Wells—our lone member of the Narrative Department, except for his imaginary friend Bob the Banjo Player.

My writing group, Here There Be Dragons: Kaylynn ZoBell, Kathleen Dorsey Sanderson, Eric James Stone, Darci Stone, Alan Layton, How’s That Ben? (Olsen), Ethan Skarstedt, Karen Ahlstrom, Peter Ahlstrom, Emily Sanderson.

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Gamma readers: Many of the beta readers plus Ari Kufer, Brian Magnant, Collin Abeln, Dale Wiens, Ellie Frato-Sweeney, Lingting “Botanica” Xu, Nisarg “Strifelover” Shah, Philip Vorwaller, Ram Shoham, Spencer White, Valencia Kumley, William Juan.



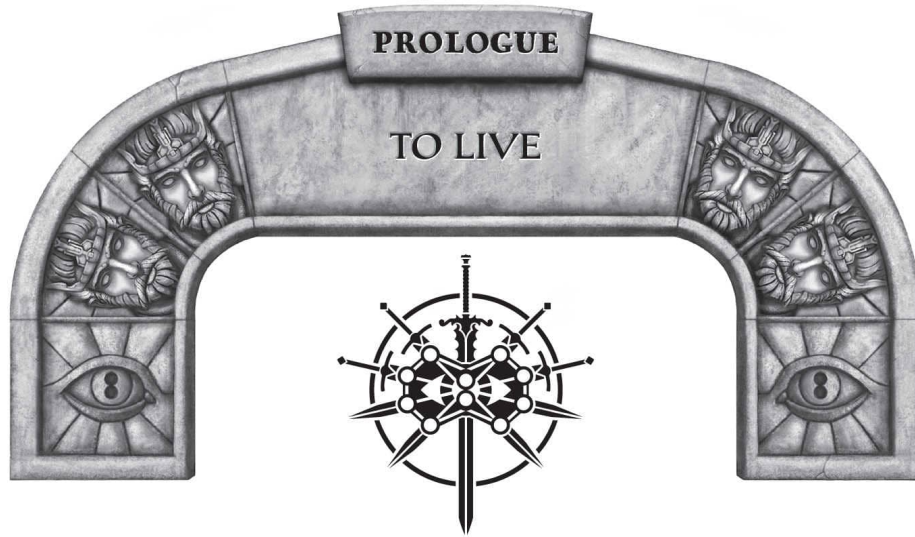


BOOK  
FIVE



WIND AND TRUTH





## SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS AGO

Gavilar Kholin was on the verge of immortality.

He merely had to find the right Words.

He walked a circle around the nine Honorblades, driven point-first into the stone ground. The air stank of burned flesh; he'd attended enough funeral pyres to know that scent intimately, though these bodies hadn't been burned after the fighting but during it.

"They call it Aharietiam," he said, trailing around the Blades, letting his hand linger on each one. When he became a Herald, would his Blade become like these, imbued with power and lore? "The end of the world. Was it a lie?"

*Many who name it such believed what they said,* the Stormfather replied.

"And the owners of these?" he said, gesturing to the Blades. "What did the Heralds believe?"

*If they had been entirely truthful,* the Stormfather said, *then I would not be seeking a new champion.*

Gavilar nodded. "I swear to serve Honor and Roshar as its Herald. Better than these did."

*These words are not accepted,* the Stormfather said. *You will never find them at random, Gavilar.*

He would try nonetheless. In becoming the most powerful man in the world, Gavilar had often accomplished what others thought impossible. He rounded the ring of Blades again, alone with them in the shadow of monolithic stones. After dozens of visits to this vision, he could name each and every Blade by its associated Herald. The Stormfather, however, continued to be reticent to share information.

No matter. He *would* have his prize. He ripped Jezrien's long, curved Blade from the stone and swung it, cutting the air. "Nohadon met and grew to know the Heralds."

Yes, the Stormfather admitted.

"They are in there, aren't they?" he said. "The correct Words are somewhere in *The Way of Kings*?"

Yes.

Gavilar had the entire book memorized—he'd taught himself to read years ago so he could search for secrets without revealing them to the women in