



THE FALL OF THE KINGS
NEIL GAIMAN INTRO. 6/2/13
NYC

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Hello, I'm Neil Gaiman and I'm delighted to present THE FALL OF KINGS by Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman, read by an award-winning cast. This book is part of the "Neil Gaiman Presents" audiobook label. I've picked books I loved and wanted more people to discover and part of the fun for me is that I get to tell you a little bit about each book.

THE FALL OF KINGS continues the constellation of "Riverside" novels Ellen Kushner began with SWORDSPPOINT and its sequel, THE PRIVILEGE OF THE SWORD. In the Riverside chronology of events, THE FALL OF KINGS takes place a generation after SWORDSPPOINT; in the present time, Theron [THAIR-on] Campion is the grown son of the man fans of the series will remember as the Mad Duke Tremontaine [treh-mone-TENN]. At the city University where Theron studies rhetoric (and drinks with his many friends in the local taverns), the unorthodox young professor Basil St. Cloud pursues an academic quest for truth that contradicts the established chronicles of the city's aristocracy. Under the guidance of long-dormant mythic forces, Theron and Basil's passion for each other impels them on a quest for truths personal and historic.

If you are new to the world of Riverside, I hope the richness of THE FALL OF KINGS will surprise and delight you, with multi-voiced scenes set like jewels in the gold of Ellen Kushner's own narration. And the fans of previous novels will recognize the show-stealing voices of Katherine Kellgren, Simon Jones, Nick Sullivan along with a strong supporting cast. I myself had a cameo role in THE PRIVILEGE OF THE SWORD, and enjoyed it so much that I campaigned for a larger role in THE FALL OF KINGS...and landed it!

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Throughout THE FALL OF KINGS, you'll hear the "Illuminated" effects that characterize the Riverside books produced by SueMedia; Sue Zizza and David Shinn bring out in audio format the detail with which Ellen and Delia embroidered the prose. But you don't have to take my word for it: these techniques earned SWORDSPPOINT the Audie Award in 2013 for Best Audio Drama.

So without further ado, here's THE FALL OF KINGS; whether or not you've visited Riverside before, your journey is well begun! Enjoy.

THE END

lots of love
Neil Gaiman

