



BOOK REVIEW

Book Title	God of Broken Things
Author	Cameron Johnston
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Stars	

The sequel to *The Traitor God* is everything you demand of a follow-up. The threats, like its monsters, are bigger; its villains are a greater menace; the scale of conflict even greater. Yet, despite its galloping inflation, what made the first novel work so well, remains constant.

Its characters.

Edrin Walker is no different in some ways; he's still the smart-mouth he always was. He's still disrespectful, unpredictable and distrusted by everyone because of his Gift. After all, he is a tyrant, he can bend everyone to his will. If that's what he wanted. And that desire is what keeps him grounded, forcing him to confront the monster he could become. After his killing of a god in the first novel and the consequences of those actions, Edrin Walker's Gift has grown. Now he really is powerful. The kind of power that demands Spiderman's Uncle Ben to render those famous words, "With great power, comes great responsibility."

But that power is needed as Edrin faces danger far greater than before. The secret of any successful novel is to scale the threat level so it's greater than the protagonist and his/her allies can defend against. Cameron Johnston does this so well here because of the way mind-control works. When fighting a talented magus who can manipulate people's minds what do you do? You create an entire race who can do the same thing.

But, as I've said, this story is about its characters. Plural.

Equally as vulnerable, almost as powerful (albeit in a different way), is Eva. Like Edrin, she's severely damaged after the events from the first book, but she is still formidable. Their relationship grows, despite the odds and antagonism, into something akin to friendship but it is not an easy journey for either of them. Yet they rely on each other in many ways and its this need which makes their story so fascinating.

There are lots of minor characters who feature throughout but they're all detailed studies of different aspects of humanity that collectively make a statement about people as they fight against unbelievable odds and know they will never survive.

The final character is the landscape of this story. Wild, complex, unpredictable like its protagonist, dark yet with glimmers of hope. And truly amazing in its originality. This is a story that has everything and is written with wry Scottish wit that you can hear in the background all the time, that leads you to suppose Edrin Walker is a character Cameron Johnston must love very much – and has every reason to do so.