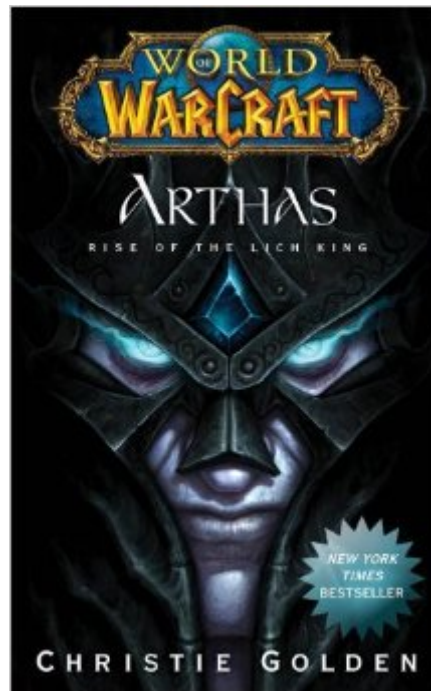


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World Of Warcraft: Arthas: Rise Of The Lich King (World Of Warcraft (Pocket Star))



Synopsis

The book *World of Warcraft* fans have been clamoring forâ€”the true story behind one of the *World of Warcraft* universeâ€™s most terrifying villains, Arthas the Lich King. Author Christie Golden does for Arthas what she once did for the Orc Lord Thrall in the bestselling *World of Warcraft: Lord of the Clans*, in another epic exploration of one of the key characters from the eleven-million subscriber massively multiplayer online role-playing game.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (266 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #29,152 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Gaming](#) #311 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations](#) #1359 in [Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic](#)

Customer Reviews

If you're a player of *World of Warcraft*, but not into the old RTS games or the books that have come before, this novel is the place to jump and see some of the story behind the game you've been playing. Christie Golden has crafted a strong character-centric tale following the life of Arthas Menethil. It shows him growing into a young man, joining the ranks of the paladins, and his eventual fall from grace in a way that is quick, concise, and yet still meaningful. Arthas is portrayed as neither a spoiled brat or an arrogant upstart, but as a well-meaning person with a good soul and a few very human and realistic character flaws that gets twisted into something horrible, partly by outside forces, but also by the lack of control he has over himself. As I read it, I found myself comparing it to the fall of Anakin Skywalker in the *Star Wars* Saga, and I hate to say it, Golden did a superior job with her take on how a hero becomes the villain. If this book has any weakness, is that it's a little too short. The first two volumes take place at a good pace, always moving but taking the time to really show us all that's transpiring. As the book moves through its third act, those familiar with *World of Warcraft*

III: The Frozen Throne will note at how briefly the events of the undead campaign are covered. In contrast to the first two thirds of the book, the last third skips over large chunks of the storyline to make sure the crucial points get the time needed, which is good. The main story in no way feels slighted.

I love Warcraft, have been playing since WC3 and own every collector's edition of WoW and its expansion packs since Vanilla. I mostly like playing games for their stories, so given the previous statement you might not be surprised to find out I am very familiar with the games lore. As such, I both like and dislike this book. My main fault with this book is that, after the first few chapters, the book is pretty much a plot summary of WC3/TFT with expanded narrative and the character's internal thoughts added. On the one hand, it was nice to be have a refresher on the pre-WoW lore for my favorite villain (the Lich King) and enemy faction (the Scourge), without having to replay the games since I'm not super fond of RTS gameplay (can anyone say warpten, whosyourdaddy and greedisgood?). On the other hand, I feel like the change in medium was not taken advantage of to provide a sufficiently differentiated experience from playing the games given that the plot is identical on a general level and also in more specific ways, like much if not all of the dialogue. The main differentiator was the plot details regarding Invincible, which I feel was extremely over used and kind of lame even if it hadn't been overused. I'm no Arthas fanboy, but I do enjoy his story and feel like his fall from grace could have been so much more compellingly elaborated upon without (literally) beating a dead horse. That isn't to say that Invincible couldn't have played a noteworthy role in the overall process, just that there should have been far more to it. Every kid who has a loved pet die does not turn into a monstrous shadow of their former selves, even in a World of Warcraft that routinely features good guys turned raid bosses "because crazy".

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