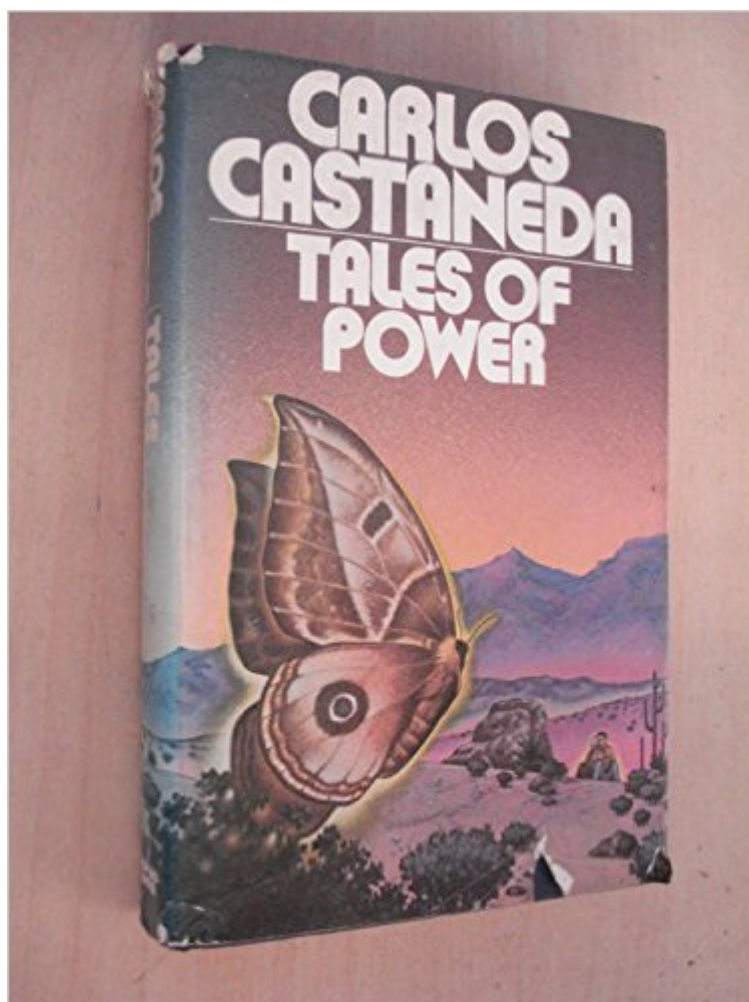


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Tales Of Power



Synopsis

In this astonishing work, Carlos Castaneda at last completes the long journey into the world of sorcery that began with his now-legendary meeting with don Juan. Drawn back by the knowledge that the sorcerer's task has not been completed, Castaneda returns to plumb the final, awesome secrets of the sorcerer's explanation of the world-to learn, in don Juan's world and his own, the last lesson of a unique and arduous apprenticeship. For until now don Juan has performed his acts of power in his world, the dry, barren deserts and mesas of his birth, a world in which he seems to exist as naturally as the chaparral and the rocks. Now, in an unexpected encounter, don Juan appears in Castaneda's modern urban world, at ease in a well-tailored suit, demonstrating his lessons of power in the crowded, busy streets, using the city scene, as he uses everything, to unfold the wings of Carlos Castaneda's perception. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Hardcover: 287 pages

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Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 5.3 x 0.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (67 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #313,581 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #241 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Shamanism #656 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies

Customer Reviews

The Castaneda series has become one of the most controversial in literary history, abetted by the fact that the author himself swore to the truth of every fantastical event he described in their pages until his dying day. That Castaneda died an old, frail man when the books promised an extraordinarily long and healthy life seemed to give lie to his words, but in fact this does not take away from the philosophical beauty of works like "Tales Of Power", which is my favorite of the six I have read so far (there are ten in all). The first book, "The Teachings Of Don Juan", is easily the slightest--although it introduces the saga and provides the reader with some of the terminology, it is clear that Castaneda had yet to grasp what was happening to him, and much of it is (as he later

admits) a strange cross between far-fetched prose and overly-analytical text. "A Separate Reality" is a vast improvement, even as the stories get wilder and wilder; some readers have howled with laughter over tales of invisible 'allies' which guard the sorcerer, or of an astral "yoke" which can give a man superhuman powers, but the imagery is extraordinary and the philosophical lessons behind such truly bizarre events are unique and important. The third book, "Journey To Ixtlan", is the easiest to swallow for most people, since it concentrates on the self-help and ethical aspects of the teaching and keeps the wild stories to a bare minimum (as such, it is highly recommended).

If you could only choose to read one of Carlos' books, this has to be the one. For those who aren't familiar with the books, this is the sixth. The first three, expected by most readers at the time of publication to be a "trilogy", describe the first several years of Castaneda's apprenticeship to a native nagual, or shaman in Sonora and other parts of Mexico. In the first volume Carlos describes the weird rituals and exercises that his teacher puts him through as he trains him in the ways of his line of sorcerers. It concludes with a quasi-scholarly analysis, really nothing more than an outline of the concepts of his teacher's world-view. This book focuses on the concept of living like a warrior and the book is structured as a question and answer sequence between student and teacher. In the second book, whose time frame has a good deal of overlap with the first book, Carlos' activities center around coming to believe that the world is an artificial construction of the human ego, a fantasy that we all choose to agree on. Don Juan batters Carlos with psychotropic drugs to break down his ego and force his consciousness over to the other side of awareness, beyond normal human perception. The trilogy concludes with Carlos pursuing "stopping the world". This offering portrays the final challenge along the path to becoming a sorcerer. The apprentice will be faced with his own imminent death, and either stop the world, disassembling and reassembling "reality" in a way that ensures his survival, or accept death and enter the eternal realm. Obviously Carlos survives, as he wrote a book about it, and in the process spawned an immense controversy. What was all this bizarre stuff? Was it real? Was there a real Don Juan? A Don Genaro?

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