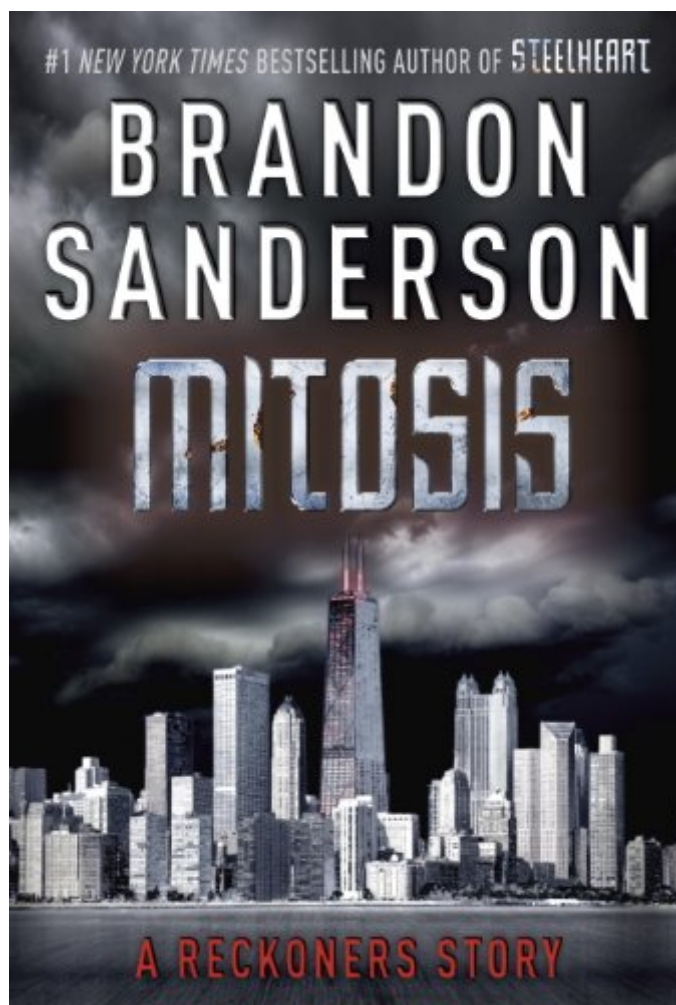


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Mitosis: A Reckoners Story (The Reckoners)



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Customer Reviews

There's so much to like about Mitosis, and almost all of it comes down to one thing: Brandon Sanderson's nearly unparalleled ability to build and describe action. Mitosis takes place in the period between the events of Steelheart and Firefight, but really is just a snap shot, a moment in time to give a flavor of the changes that are happening in Newcago and the villains that the Reckoners are fighting as they protect the city and keep it clear of the super powered villains that occasionally try to plant their flag. Because I had read that the story wasn't necessary in order to enjoy Firefight, and because I generally only buy books in paper form I know, a bit anachronistic I decided I wouldn't read Mitosis before I read Firefight, if at all. I was less than twenty pages in to Firefight before I realized that even if I could get by without reading Mitosis, there were enough references to the book, and the references were sufficiently obscure, that reading it was a good idea. I put down my cash and read it on my Kindle app shortly thereafter. It didn't take long, and I am glad I did. It's a valuable addition to The Reckoners series. That said, I think Sanderson would have served his

series better by putting it right into Firefight, maybe as a prologue or as an opening chapter. The opening pages of Firefight seem to stutter a bit, and Mitosis provides a seamless transition between the two novels to help the story fly.

This is a super short novella involving how the city has changed after the ending of Steelheart. It is not necessary to read for the next Novel but it probably just ~30 minutes of reading time if you have some time to kill. The Good: We get a glimpse of how the people in the city are changing and a few bad metaphors from David. *“I like it. The colors are different. Not like the city was before Calamity, but also a big change from how it was under Steelheart. They make the city look like a big chessboard. Um, one painted a lot of colors.”* Abraham asked, sounding amused. *“Or perhaps a quilt?”* Sure, I suppose. If you want to use a boring metaphor. *“A quilt.”* Why hadn’t I thought of that? Most of the story is a long action sequence against an epic that comes to the city looking for the Reckoners. He has some interesting traits and might be a clue to how to discover the epic’s weaknesses. I liked seeing the lead into where the next book will pick up. The Bad: Well really there isn’t much bad except that I wanted more, but I always want to read more in any Sanderson story. And my Reckoner future boyfriend Cody wasn’t in this one I missed him.

I’m an adult who enjoys the Reckoner series by Brandon Sanderson. You can definitely tell he’s writing for a juvenile audience, but it doesn’t bother me. I found this to be a fun short story, though not up to the level of the regular series in my opinion. Feels like a story that got cut from one of the main novels for length or pacing, but still worth a read if you like this universe.

(Contains spoilers for Steelheart). One of the few series’ outside of Brandon Sanderson’s Cosmere universe, the Reckoners is about a renegade group that brings down super powered individuals called epics. Mitosis takes place shortly after the events in Steelheart, and acts as a lead in to its sequel Firefight. While this can be an entertaining story, it really doesn’t really feel special in any sort of capacity, and instead comes off as a decent, but flawed, filler in between Reckoner’s books. Shortly after David and the rest of the Reckoners defeat Steelheart, another high powered epic named Mitosis heads to Newcago, the city formerly known as Chicago. Mitosis has the ability to make tons of clones of himself, and he can’t be killed until every single clone is killed. It’s up to David and the Reckoners to stop Mitosis and prevent Newcago (formerly Chicago) from falling into

the hands of another epic. I decided to pick this short-story up after a number of references to its titular character in the early goings of my reading of Firefight. I was hoping this would be some what relevant to the sequel, but it's really a story that didn't need to happen. It feels like a rough draft for the start of Firefight that didn't quite work out right. In fact Firefight's intro achieves the same results as the story of Mitosis does: the heroes are minding their own business when another epic shows up in town leading to a decision that needs to be made about where to next take the fight against epics. If this short story has any larger implications for the series, it is in discussing how epic weaknesses are in someway related to fear. After using Chicago as the setting for his last book, Sanderson never really went into too much detail about the city or certain cultural aspects of living there. That aspect kind of disappointed me, living in Chicago I was kind of hoping to see his take on the city. There's some make up time for that in Mitosis with a lengthy opening about eating Chicago style hot-dogs. You don't put ketchup on those, and for anyone who's come to Chicago and tried, you'll probably have an experience similar to Abraham's. There are parodies of rock music, namely Metallica albums and other forms of heavy metal and terribly written lyrics. I can't help but relate to Mitosis as he laments about how a lot of rock music has denigrated into using four chords to structure a rehashed writing of the same song over and over again. Despite these nuances, which I appreciated, I never fully got into the story. The ending kind of resembles the ending of Mars Attacks, and that was an ending I was never really fond of. The story as a whole resembles the beginning of Firefight too much. Fans of the Reckoners may enjoy this, and for the most part I did, but this is not Sanderson's strongest effort, nor is it essential to the Reckoners series.

I like the idea of not so super heroes. Sanderson yet again, pulls no punches in creating a world with many layers. I bought this without realizing it was going to be a series. While I am waiting on the edge of my seat for the next release, I am cursing myself for getting so invested in yet another Sanderson series. It's not that the series isn't amazing. It's just that with all of the books he is going to write in between the sequel to this one, I'm going to be waiting too long. (too long being more than a day)

I loved Steelheart, along with most everything Brandon Sanderson writes. Despite that, I wasn't expecting much from this short story... big mistake there. "Mitosis" not only defines a way forward into future Reckoners tales, it drops some hints that could lead to revelations in the larger mythos of this world. On its own, "Mitosis" stands out as an entertaining, gripping read. You can't ask much more than that from your superheroic fiction.

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