

# Analysis of the Witcher Saga and Short Stories by Andrzej Sapkowski

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## Abstract

I have a deep affection for the Witcher saga, written by Andrzej Sapkowski. This remarkable series portrays contemporary issues in a fantasy world. Moreover, it captivates readers with its intricately crafted characters and engaging narratives, making it a truly fascinating and enjoyable read.

## 1 Introduction

The book delves into the life of the Witcher named Geralt, who perceives himself as a solitary figure during the day. However, despite his self-perception, he inadvertently draws people towards him. His intelligence and wit serve as a magnetic force. Nevertheless, he occasionally exhibits bitterness and pessimism due to his past experiences. While he is engaged in the daily pursuit of hunting monsters for a fee, he holds the belief that the true monsters in the world are, in fact, human beings.

## 2 Narrative Overview

### 2.1 How it all started

Andrzej Sapkowski, the author of the Witcher saga and short stories, reveals that his motivation to write and publish the book stemmed from his son. The initial publications appeared as individual stories in the monthly *Fantastyka* magazine in 1986. The Witcher garnered substantial enthusiasm and interest from readers following regular releases. As a result, two volumes of short stories were created, paving the way for subsequent volumes in the Witcher saga.

I first encountered the book when a friend lent me the stories to read. Captivated by them, I eagerly sought out the next volumes. My aunt, an avid fantasy fan and collector of *Fantastyka* magazine, generously made her collectible foiled copies available for me to read. From that moment on, my connection with the series was unwavering. I acquired my own books and regularly revisited them, deriving great joy from each story. My love for The Witcher led me to replay each of the computer games released by CD Projekt Red studio several times. In the following years, I personally collected the first edition of The Witcher and issues of *Fantastyka*, in which single stories were published. I also shared this passion with my sister, and this multifaceted story firmly took root in my heart.

### 2.2 Wandering Monster Slayer

The life of a Witcher involves constant wandering and risking one's life for a meager reward. During challenging times, people tend to be mistrustful and hesitant to pay for the services of a professional. There are instances when they not only refuse payment but also attempt to rob or negotiate the Witcher's life. Geralt, a Witcher with modest expectations, lives day by day, until he encounters individuals who draw him into various intrigues, romances, and political conflicts.

Despite undergoing rigorous tests in childhood that should theoretically strip him of emotions, Geralt harbors a smoldering spark within, enabling him to follow his heart. His path crosses with the sorceress Jennefer, leading to a complex relationship marked by intense passion, anger, sadness, and

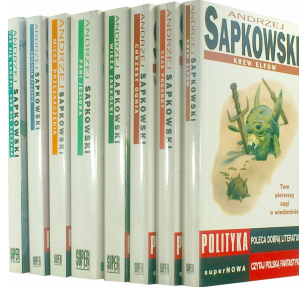


Figure 1: First edition of the Witcher books

Name	Description
Jennefer	A powerful sorceress and love interest of Geralt
Ciri	A princess with a mysterious destiny
Jaskier	A charismatic and witty bard
Regis	A vampire, known for his philosophical outlook on life
Triss	Another sorceress, plays a significant role in the series
Zoltan	A loyal friend. Helpful with a fight and a bottle

Table 1: Books characters with brief description.

longing. Cirilla becomes like a daughter to him, while the renowned bard Jaskier, the dwarf Zoltan, and the vampire Regis become akin to brothers.

As Geralt becomes entangled in political intrigues through a series of events, he is compelled to save his loved ones. In doing so, he makes decisions that have far-reaching consequences for the entire world.

## 2.3 Characters

The characters in the Witcher book series are intricately complex, each harboring stories that significantly impact the narrative. From Geralt, the stoic monster hunter, to Yennefer, the powerful sorceress with a complex relationship, and Ciri, the princess with a mysterious destiny—each character weaves a tale that profoundly influences the life of the Witcher. Their stories, laden with depth and change, contribute to the rich tapestry of the fantasy world crafted by the author.

## 3 Books

The Witcher books and stories have been published since the early 1990s. The main series consists of five novels released between 1994 and 1999, while there are also several short story collections. Each book varies in length, with novels typically around 300 to 400 pages and short stories around 200 to 300 pages.

Title	No of Pages
1.The Last Wish	292
2.Sword of Destiny	384
3.Blood of Elves	416
4.Time of Contempt	352
5.Baptism of Fire	464
6.The Tower of the Swallow	464
7.The Lady of the Lake	531
8.Season of storms	404

Table 2: The Witcher stories and saga

## References

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