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The First King Of Shannara (The Sword Of Shannara)



Synopsis

Horrified by the misuse of magic they had witnessed during the First War of the Races, the Druids at Paranor devoted themselves to the study of the old sciences, from the period before the collapse of civilization a thousand years before. Only the Bremen and a few trusted associates still studied the arcane arts. And for his persistence, Bremen found himself outcast, avoided by all but the few free-thinkers among the Druids. But his removal from Paranor was not altogether a terrible thing, for Bremen learned that dark forces were on the move from the Northlands. That seemingly invincible armies of trolls were fast conquering all that lay to their south. That the scouts for the army--and its principal assassins--were Skull Bearers, disfigured and transformed Druids who had fallen prey to the seductions of the magic arts. And that at the heart of the evil tide was an archmage and former Druid named Brona! Using the special skills he had acquired through his own study of Magic, Bremen was able to penetrate the huge camp of the Troll army and learn many of its secrets. And he immediately understood that if the peoples of the Four Lands were to escape eternal subjugation they would need to unite. But, even united, they would need a weapon, something so powerful that the evil magic of Brona, the Warlock Lord, would fail before its might... --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dark forces are on the move from the Northlands, and Bremen, an outcast Druid, learns of the huge Troll armies on the march and the Skull Bearers who act as their spies. To save the Druids, Bremen must convince the people of the Four Lands that their only hope lies in uniting -- and in using the

magic they fear above all else. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

You can't find the Four Lands on any map of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth; but, given all the elves, dwarves, warlocks, trolls and gnomes that run rampant in the setting of Brooks's many Shannara novels (The Talismans of Shannara, etc.), readers can be forgiven for trying. Tolkien's influence is so strong in this prequel to *The Sword of Shannara* (1977), which launched the series, that many of the events here seem predictable or repetitive. Set 500 years before the events of *Sword*, the novel chronicles the destruction of ivory-towered Paranor and its Druid scholars, tracing the subsequent adventures of the outcast Druid-magician Bremen. With a handful of companions, he must find and hide the Black Elfstone from the Warlock Lord and forge a magic sword for Elven King Jerle Shannara to wield against the warlock. Brooks's prose generates a breakneck pace, but it lacks depth of characterization and also the wealth of linguistic invention that the most satisfying high fantasy offers. As an allegory of the eternal struggle between good and evil, the vital basis of fantasy, Brooks's mythical universe also suffers from a crucial dearth of those magical moments of heart-stopping revelation when, against all hope, against all reason, against all the forces of evil, salvation comes at last. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I read the book many years ago but had a traumatic brain injury in the interim. And of course it is nothing like what I remember and it seems to be written for the teen crowd.

Wow I can say that sums it up. It start with the dark lord dwarfs, elves, druids, humans and other races. Ends with dark lord defeated. Read on for more.

If you enjoyed *The Sword of Shannara* trilogy you will enjoy this prequel that fills in historical details for those of us who have become immersed in this world. I will most likely return to read more of Shannara, but not right away as the theme of epic battle strategy between the living races and the next to invincible evil mostly dead creatures of darkness has become temporarily tedious to me. I enjoy this author's work and will be back.

I love Goodkind and the message he sends with his books. And of course the amazing and fantastic creatures and magic, but I find in all of his books that the characters make speeches more than they talk. After the first paragraph of dialogue the characters really just repeat themselves for another 2-6

paragraphs. I like to think that I am bright enough to get the idea the first time. And these books are a bit rapey. Not something I want to read to my daughter no matter how much I approve the political message.

Greetings Reviewer, The 1996-3rd writing about the "Sword of Truth" series by Goodkind, excites our imaginations with a world of good vs evil in the dark ages; magic, love and truth. The well chosen reader of this CD book series varies his voice for the different characters and emotional tone adds a realistic dimension to the story. Unlike Kindle type devices which has a mechanical voice void of tone and emotion which flat-lines the story. Also I recommend these CDs be played on more current mp3 format devices. My 2006 car audio system and some of my older CD player devices I tried using will NOT play mp3. I did purchased a portable mp3 CD player unit which works fine with these CD mp3 disks. For those lengthy trips, listening to these CD book series keeps my mind engaged on those long travels. Enjoy the series, SacMac1

This guy can really spin a tale. I love sword and sorcery stories, and have read 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings' many times over. Never heard of Terry Goodkind before, but thought I'd give him a shot. I found myself getting really angry at some parts, because Terry pulled me deeply into the action. We've all heard the expression, "I couldn't put it down", but few books can say this. 'Wizard's First Rule' got me started, and I'm halfway through Book Four. I think there are at least eleven already published in this series, and I just heard of a twelfth. If you're like me, I re-read books because they all end way too soon. Terry has startled me with his gift of imagination and eloquent prose...and it just keeps on going. The second book, Kindle Edition, is fraught with thousands of typos, which I find REALLY aggravating, but the others only have 3 to 5 per book...so far. My favorite new writer, who has no doubt been around for quite a while, or extremely prolific, though I never heard of him before. Highly recommend you read 'Wizard's First Rule' for yourself. Not a stream of consciousness writer like Stephen King, who I absolutely detest and refuse to read.

Terry Brooks continues a well balanced, thrilling adventure. That has well thought main characters as well as supporting characters.

Standard fare Terry Brooks. Well written but tends to follow his heroes quest formula. Enjoyable story as part of the Shannara series

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