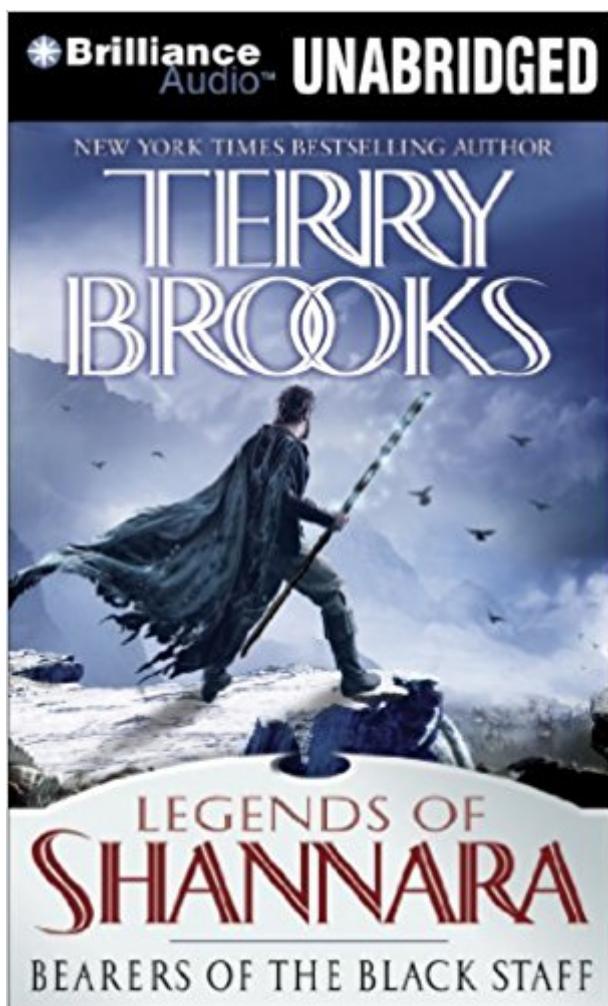


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Bearers Of The Black Staff (Legends Of Shannara Duology)



Synopsis

Five hundred years have passed since the devastating demon-led war tore apart the United States and nearly exterminated humankind. Those who escaped the carnage were led to sanctuary in an idyllic valley, its borders warded by powerful magic against the horrors beyond. But the cocoon of protective magic surrounding the valley has now vanished. When Sider Ament, the only surviving descendant of the Knights of the Word, detects unknown predators stalking the valley, he fears the worst. And when expert Trackers find two of their own gruesomely killed, there can be no doubt: The once safe haven has been made vulnerable to whatever still lurks in the outside wasteland. Together, Ament, the two young Trackers, and a daring Elf princess spearhead plans to defend their ancestral home. And in the thick of it all, the last wielder of the black staff and its awesome magic must find a successor to carry on the fight against the cresting new wave of evil.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The horrors of a war-ravaged world again invade a hard-won peace in Brooks's intense follow-up to 2008's *The Gypsy Morph*. Five hundred years have passed since Hawk led a tattered band of survivors into a valley protected by a magical barrier. Now the wall has been breached by demons. The last known Knight of the Word, Sider Ament, wields a powerful black staff that he hopes to pass to a new leader. After rescuing talented teen Trackers Panterra Qu and Prue Liss, Sider asks them to warn the Children of Hawk. Unfortunately, their council leaders don't share Sider's certainty of an impending invasion. While Sider explores the other side of the barrier, the young Trackers find help

from Arborlon Elves in this superlative Tolkien-style fantasy tweaked with a contemporary vibe. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This first volume of *Legends of Shannara* opens five centuries after the worldwide holocaust that ended the *Genesis of Shannara* trilogy. Elves, humans, and other races are slowly restoring a modest civilization in a mountain valley protected by their combined magic. Now this sanctuary is threatened by the assault of monstrous creatures that seem to be either magic wielders or creations of magic greater than the valley's and of mysterious origin. Another stalwart band of heroes, the title characters, is drawn from all the races to fight "although this time they are not marching out on a quest but fighting in the last ditch. The forthcoming sequel, *The Measure of the Magic*, will, as it were, measure their degree of success "for the time being. The author's success needs no measuring anymore "it is enormous, thanks to a growing gift for characterization, pacing, and world building, not to mention magic that may not be supremely original in conception but manages to be increasingly enthralling to literally millions of readers over what is approaching two generations.

--Roland Green --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a necessary book in the series, tying together the (6) prequel novels with the rest of the *Shannara* series. It ties a lot of stuff together and I noticed a lot of things I thought were important. I noticed that when the world was destroyed because of the machinations of man and the remnants escaped to be protected until it was safer, they still didn't learn. You can see several places where greed and selfishness are causing the same types of problems as before and how no one seems to have learned from their mistakes. You get to see what has become of the Knights of the Word, as well. Also, while it's never clearly stated that I can see, it seems to me like a lot of their power is a precursor to druidic magic. I noticed that in the prequels, though it had more impact in these books that had a setting more closely resembling the *Shannara* world. The Knights of the Word shoot blue fire out of their staves and devote their lives to helping people. That sounds to me an awful lot like the basic tenant and the more powerful abilities of the druids, though some practice it more than others. The KotW are pretty badd***, but I can totally see Allanon as a KotW who is so awesome he doesn't need a staff. You also learn about the origins of the trolls and other creatures throughout the four lands. It's definitely worth the read and I recommend fans of the series jump on it. Assuming you've read the (6) prequel novels.

First off, I am a huge Terry Brooks fan and an avid reader of many genre both Fiction and Non-Fiction. This book, one of three in the series, is the glue that binds the Old World to the World of Shannara. Brooks has captured the essence of the struggle for survival in a magical and post-apocalyptic world. The book flows as well as his first book, "The Sword of Shannara" and continues to surprise me just as he has done since 1977. Highly recommend this book and the series. If you are new to the World of Shannara or Terry Brooks then I would recommend also purchasing his other books as well. As for the cost of the book for Kindle, I was actually surprised at the low cost. Keep in mind that not all of his books are the same cost. I had zero issues on the download and there has been no glitches or missing data. This is a great book in Hardcover, Paperback and Digital. I guarantee you will be satisfied should you choose to buy this book.

This book was worth it. I have enjoyed all the books of the series but I was less thrilled with the story of Hawk and was short of hesitating to get this book. I ended up devouring it. Just bought the second in the series and I will start reading it now. It is almost midnight...

I have to admit - most of the reviews are accurate between 2 and 4 stars. Brooks is such an established writer whom I have been reading for over 20 years now. I eagerly await any of his Shannara/Void books (never caught on to the Landover series) every year including this one. With his last series Genesis of Shannara I felt he was back on track in his skill of incredible character development and ingenuity in plot. This two book series, unfortunately is falling flat. On his recent video readings that you can see from his official website [...] Mr. Brooks mentions his traditional character woes and when things can't get worse they actually do and he prides himself on that. Again, unfortunately, all the character woes are getting predictable for the seasoned Brooks reader. Even the twists in this first book of the series, I kept thinking "really, are we going to go there, again?" The twists, some not so predictable, were rushed. Except I loved the Troll son/spy twist - that was one not used before by Brooks. Maybe the clumsy developments were intentional with the falling of the protective barrier, the men and elves became complacent and could not think strategically. Although I have complained in the past about Brooks' series all being trilogies I wish this one could have been a three book series. There's still time, scrap the current conclusion and extend it to three books! I have no idea how he will successfully address the Elf mutiny, the "men of the Hawk" religious conflict, as well as the outside world coming inside story lines. All this said, I am wondering if it is time for the incredible, creative mind of Terry Brooks to close the World of Shannara off and focus on something new. I loved it when he jumped over to the Word/Void plot. It

was new, and the magic was different. Better yet, get some of these trilogies on TV or in the Movies. The entire Shannara history could be a great sequence of mini-series on the SciFi channel but be sure to tie in the Word/Void. I think after I read the sequel to this book I would prefer to revisit his classic Shannara writings. It is Mr. Brooks' own fault, his skills are so superior that he has set the bar very high when it comes to Shannara worthy story lines. What's next, we jump back to the Druids? Brooks is still my favorite writer EVER and I have confidence he will regroup after this mess passes over.

All Shannara series Terry Brooks books get as many stars as I can give them. They are great books and he is a wonderful author.

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