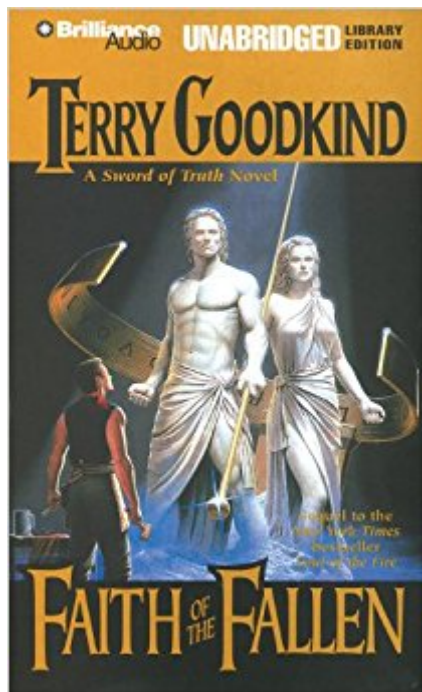


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Faith Of The Fallen (Sword Of Truth)



Synopsis

Terry Goodkind, author of the enormously popular Sword of Truth novels, has forged perhaps his best yet, pitting Richard Rahl and Kahlan Amnell against threats to the freedom of the world. They both must struggle at opposite ends of the world against the relentless, monolithic forces of the Imperial Order. A Sister of the Dark captures Richard and takes him deep into the Old World, to the very heart of the Order, while his beloved Kahlan remains behind. Free because of Richard's sacrifice for her, but unwilling to abandon the cause of the Midlands, Kahlan violates not only prophecy but her last pledge to Richard, and raises an army against the advancing horde of the Imperial Order. Separated and fighting for their lives, Richard and Kahlan will be pushed to the limits of their endurance, and tested in their love for one another. Once again, the master storyteller weaves a riveting spell that will captivate even more fans for this incredible series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fantasy series fans may argue over the relative merits of Terry Goodkind's Sword of Truth, George R.R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire, and Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time, but in a world of middle books that go nowhere and endless waits between episodes, Goodkind is certainly still serving up some of the best fantasy on today's menu. The Seeker of Truth and his Mother Confessor sweetie are both looking a little worse for the wear after their chime-hunt in Soul of the Fire. To top that off, Lord Rahl finds himself a reluctant prophet with the vision that their cause, the fight for freedom

against the Imperial Order, is essentially sunk. (Chalk that up to part of the Wizard's First Rule: people really are stupid.) The two lovers soon find themselves separated, Richard off to the Old World thanks to treacherous Sister of the Dark Nicci, and Kahlan left behind, forced to betray Richard and his prophecy by raising an army to fend off the approaching armies of Emperor Jagang. Whether it's fair or not, Goodkind will likely get beaten up a bit for visiting the trough once too often, *À la Jordan*. But fear not: Faith of the Fallen does progress at a good clip, and its conclusion--while by no means a final payout--should satisfy. --Paul Hughes --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Sequel to *Soul of the Fire* in Goodkind's popular *Sword of Truth* series, this extended barrage of sword-swinging fantasy pits the New World's Seeker of Truth, Richard Rahl, and his wife, Mother Confessor Kahlan Amnell, against the lethal totalitarian forces of the Imperial Order under Jagang "the Just" and his gorgeous masochistic minion Nicci, aka Death's Mistress, a dreaded Sister of the Dark. After Richard helps a desperately wounded Kahlan heal in a mountain hideaway guarded by their ill-tempered blonde bombshell bodyguard, Cara, Nicci ensorcells Kahlan and forces Richard to abandon her for inhuman bondage in the Order-dominated Old World. Kahlan defies Richard's prophecy that arms alone will never defeat the Order. She takes command of the D'Haran army, hopelessly outnumbered against Jagang's black-magicked hordes who are invading the New World. Untangling all this gives Goodkind an ample canvas for enough disemboweling, spit roasting and miscellaneous mutilating of men, women and children to out-Sade the infamous marquis. His fans--and they are legion--will revel in vicarious berserker battle scenes and agonize deliciously as Richard, reduced to slavery by Nicci, toils to establish a bastion of capitalism in the cold gray heart of the Stalinesque Old World. All the ponderous sound and fury of Goodkind's attack on socialist-style do-gooders who are destroying the world, however, founders in a welter of improbable coincidences, heavy-handed humor and a disconcerting dependence on misusing the verb "smirk." For sheer volume of its Technicolor bloodbaths and its bathetic propagandistic bombast, this installment of Goodkind's fantasy saga makes an indelible impact; anyone who yearns for Goodkind is going to be in high clover. \$250,000 ad/promo. (Aug.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I was looking forward to the next book in this series. So far he has written some entertaining plots with significant character development. This book, however, strove to drive home a stereotype of those who receive welfare as lazy and entitled. I can take some ideological commentary, but this

book droned on and on, striving to reiterate a point at the cost of the plot. I don't think I will continue in this series as there is plenty of entertaining reading available which does not strive to make a political statement based off of a "drunk uncle" sort of logic.

These books are starting to feel like wading through thick mud. I love the content but everything seems to be soooooooo drawn out! There is so much filler that doesn't seem necessary and then it kind of seems like the author gets sick of writing and just ends abruptly. I think this will be the last of the series I will be reading.

I am thoroughly enjoying this series! I have a hard time putting it down. I recommend it to anyone who loves getting involved with characters for the long haul.

I read this for the first time years ago and the originality of the world building and character development occupied most of my thoughts. This time around, the political and philosophical commentary stood out much more clearly. I can see that turning some readers off, but I find it adds considerably to the narrative. There is less action than the earlier books, but is still able to maintain interest.

For anyone who has any love for Richard and Kahlan, this part of the series is absolutely heartbreaking. I love the struggle with the Sister of the Dark, Nicci, as it gives us an inner understanding of her thoughts and builds a sympathy for her, while still allowing you to become unbelievably frustrated with her world views. And with war raging in the New World, I like that we get to see the Old World and meet some of its inhabitants. It puts the war against the order in a different, unexpected perspective. This is one of my very favorite books in the series. (And anyone who loves this series as I do probably knows how hard it is to pick a favorite)

After reading several opinions condemning Mr. Goodkind for expressing his beliefs in fiction, ie: how DARE he?, I was pleased to find this book both enjoyable and thoughtfully provocative. This sixth of the series is definitely not for the religious or politically intolerant for it exposes the underbelly of all too many institutions in society here and abroad which is guaranteed to tweak the vested. Richard remains entirely sympathetic as he faces extremely hard choices while under captivity by Jagang's mistress, the dark sister Nicci. He is forced to leave his beloved Kahlan to deal with her own desperate challenge to save their new world from being overthrown by the Order. It is a wrenching

story of loss of freedom and self determination as they face betrayal by alleged allies, and desperation when they realize that they cannot win the war and must help their people flee the ravenous juggernaut of the Order's army ruled by a craven religious fanatic, the Emperor Jagang. Richard states the story's main theme when he says: "Freedom requires effort if it is to be won and vigilance if it is to be maintained... People just don't value freedom until it's taken away." This bedrock is the concept of freedom from tyranny, whatever its form. Richard makes the single most powerful statement that defines his character and his actions throughout this story: "The only sovereign I can allow to rule me is reason...what exists, exists; what is, is...this is the foundation from which life is embraced". The story is one of unravelling the lies, the terror of power in the hands of the corrupt and the question of whether a person is ruled by emotion or logic, fear or choice. It is a powerful image of courage. This book is for the thinking person for it is very deep and a welcome change from fantasy that tells a story but has no story. Richard's sculpture of the man and woman called "Life" becomes the symbol of hope and a call to the people of the old world to break free from the Order's crushing tyranny. "Your life is yours alone. Rise up and live it." He does not want to supplant one form of tyranny with another, nor is he interested in ruling. Richard's call is for individual self empowerment. Faith of the Fallen is a modern story within an ancient story in the context of fantasy. And, perhaps, Mr. Goodkind's invitation for each of us to examine our own concepts of freedom, quality of life, self determination and courage. If so, BRAVO.

This was an excellent book, as all the Sword of Truth books have been. The writing and storytelling are great, and I would recommend the series to anyone who likes fantasy. That said, I only give it 4 stars because the way some characters end up in the same place is a bit too heavy handed in this one. Terry Goodkind usually does a good job of making this a bit smoother, but here it seems like maybe it could have been handled a little better.

This was a great read. I've read it before and decided to give it a go again. I've enjoyed the series so far and am blasting through the rest. Give it a try, I think you'll like it.

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