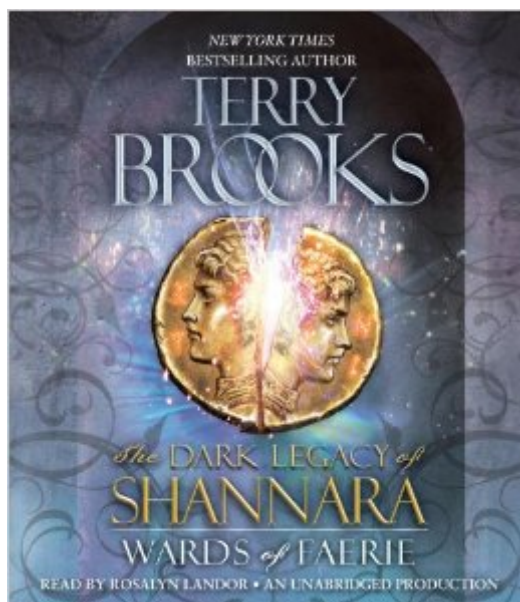


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Wards Of Faerie: The Dark Legacy Of Shannara



Synopsis

Seven years after the conclusion of the High Druid of Shannara trilogy, New York Times bestselling author Terry Brooks at last revisits one of the most popular eras in the legendary epic fantasy series that has spellbound readers for more than three decades. When the world was young, and its name was Faerie, the power of magic ruled and the Elfstones warded the race of Elves and their lands, keeping evil at bay. But when an Elven girl fell hopelessly in love with a Darkling boy of the Void, he carried away more than her heart. Thousands of years later, tumultuous times are upon the world now known as the Four Lands. Users of magic are in conflict with proponents of science. Elves have distanced their society from the other races. The dwindling Druid order and its teachings are threatened with extinction. A sinister politician has used treachery and murder to rise as prime minister of the mighty Federation. Meanwhile, poring through a long-forgotten diary, the young Druid Aphenglow Elesedil has stumbled upon the secret account of an Elven girl's heartbreak and the shocking truth about the vanished Elfstones. But never has a little knowledge been so very dangerous as Aphenglow quickly learns when she's set upon by assassins. Yet there can be no turning back from the road to which fate has steered her. For whoever captures the Elfstones and their untold powers will surely hold the advantage in the devastating clash to come. But Aphenglow and her allies—Druids, Elves, and humans alike—remember the monstrous history of the Demon War, and they know that the Four Lands will never survive another reign of darkness. But whether they themselves can survive the attempt to stem that tide is another question entirely.

—[Terry Brooks is] the most important fantasy writer since J.R.R. Tolkien. —Rocky Mountain News

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Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of Terry Brooks since a friend of mine pestered me until I finally agreed to read 'The Sword of Shannara' back around 1979. I have been forever grateful to my friend, and also to Mr. Brooks for being as sure a thing as death & taxes seem to be. Not all fantasy authors are created equal, which is a very true statement--and in my opinion, Terry stands head & shoulders above the rest, and I do mean ALL the rest. I know that may not be the case with everyone, but for me, it's 100% true. Not once has he let me down in over 30 years. Now THAT'S a pretty good track record. I've enjoyed some books better than others, but they have ALL entertained me. Here we go back to the world of Shannara. Always a great place for me to visit...and this time, the trip was no less entertaining--in fact, I've got to admit I'm back to that feeling I had years ago when I'd see a new Shannara novel at the bookstore. It's amazing how a novel can transport you--body & soul--to a place that is populated with entirely fictional and fantasy in nature and yet take you there all the same. Wards of Faerie picks up a few years after events which ended in the High Druid series. As usual, the Federation is a problem for essentially all good characters in the Land, and while the Druid Order isn't what it used to be, it's still there and there are some members who still take the oath of a Druid seriously. The story begins with Aphenglow Elesedil, who seems bent on a quest (aren't they always?). She is searching ancient books one after the other, looking and looking. For what? I'm not entirely sure if we figure that totally out. She makes a discovery pretty early on in the story, which sets her (and others) on a quest. She discovers an old diary which chronicles what may have happened to the lost Elfstones.

This book is the beginning of another trilogy set in the world of Shannara. As has been the norm in this series, this book begins several decades after the conclusion of the previous one. It is set in the same world, and some of the characters and scenes from the previous series are still very much with us. For instance, Khyber Elesedil is still around as the druid chieftain. However, most of the other characters from before have died off and there are new generations of Ohmsfords, Leahs, and the like. The twist to this trilogy is that while it takes place in the next future, the key element that it entails are those magic talismans - the elfstones - that disappeared millennia ago. The first chapter lays out what happened when a diary is discovered that explains how the elfstones, other than the blue and black ones, disappeared. It involved a love affair between an Elf and a Darkling. While this

diary is pretty explicit about what happened, and why, it appears that it was totally forgotten until it was discovered by chance by an Elf druid named Aphenglow Elesedil. This discovery sets up the main quest as Aphenglow brings the diary to Khyber, who immediately organizes a party of folks to find and recover the missing elfstones. Since the main concept of Shannara has to do with the balance of all things, including good and evil, this chance discovery leads to an immediate reaction by other forces who are inimical to the druids and so we have the Federation looking to cause trouble - and incidentally gain control of the druid keep Paranor and its magic - with their science-based armies. Also, the book hints at the fact that the evil side of the world, the followers of the Void, are also aware of what is going on and are attempting to ensure that the Elfstones remain hidden.

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