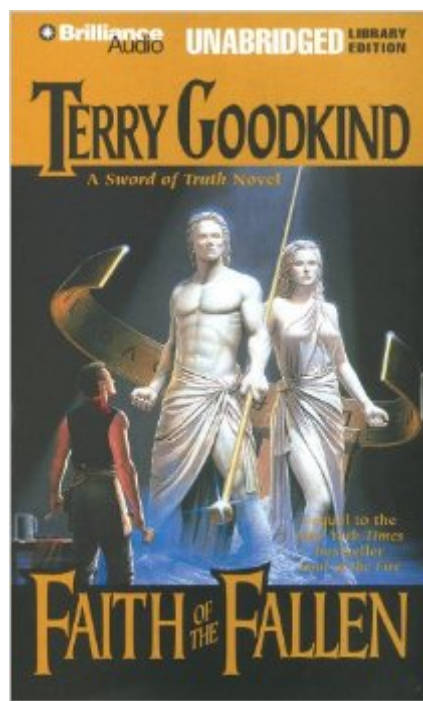


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Faith Of The Fallen (Sword Of Truth)



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

I have to admit, after the last bomb, Soul Of The Fire, I wasn't sure if I wanted to buy another Terry Goodkind novel in hardcover, but finding myself unable to wait until the softback came out, I went and bought it anyway. I'll first state that the entire work isn't a masterpiece, there were passages where I was a bit bored and read quickly to get through them, but there were also very good parts where I would slow down and read them slow to savor them. One of the things I enjoyed least about the book was the fighting aspect of it, mainly the battles, and the constant reference to how huge the

enemy was. I'm not a huge fan of war, though some reference to it isn't bad, but it seems as if that's the only aspect Kahlan is allowed to participate in anymore. The main blocks of the story that she has appeared in in several of the novels were in battles, leading the people against the enemy, again and again. I sympathize with and like her character, but wish there was more for her to do, but constantly have to keep coming up with another last ditch effort to turn a major disaster into a temporary victory for the army. On the other hand, I deeply enjoyed Richard's journey into the heart of the enemy territory, as he is led to Jagang's home city by the Sister of the Dark, Nicci. Having arrived at his own revelation of prophecy, that the war was hopeless, and that he couldn't lead until the people were able to prove themselves to him, it was interesting to see how this was developed, without him even realizing that Nicci was unintentionally leading to the proof of his prophecy. Instead, we are given more of an insight into the character of Richard as he views the horrors of the Old World, from the hideous stone carvings to the despair and hopelessness of the people.

My husband and I have been reading Terry Goodkind's Sword of Truth series for some time now, and have enjoyed them a great deal. In my opinion, however, "Faith of the Fallen," Book 6 in the "Sword of Truth" series, is by far the best book to date. Each book expounds upon one of several rules of magic -- beginning with the "Wizard's First Rule," that people are stupid -- and we have had fun trying to figure out what each rule was before one of the characters, usually Zed, got around to announcing it. "Faith of the Fallen" is, like its flap copy states, a novel of ideas. In it, Richard Rahl is captured by a sorceress, Nicci, and taken to the heart of the Imperial Order, its crown city in the Old World. There, he sees and confronts the Order's effect on the lives of its citizens firsthand. The Old World in sway of the Imperial Order bears more than a superficial resemblance to the failed regime of Communism in the former USSR, although its lessons can also be applied when contemplating our own society's ongoing efforts towards greater equality and the continuing welfare debate. Goodkind is not the first writer to tackle the issue of socially engineered "equality" -- Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron" is another fine example of this genre -- but he does so in a way that is compelling and thought-provoking. It goes without saying that Richard will save the day, but this time we see a new side to the War Wizard, that of creator. Put simply, the Sword of Truth is not the only blade that Richard can wield with almost supernatural skill. Goodkind is very adept at description, and his passages about carving seem very realistic and vivid.

FOF ends with such a terrific and moving conclusion that I almost forgave it all the problems that it seemed to have in the first part of the book. As other reviews have indicated, the 6th installment in

the Sword of Truth series is a great, if flawed, read. Goodkind reintroduces us to Nicci, a Sister of Dark (who I remember last reading about in Stone of Tears) who sets out to capture Richard and drag him to the New World. Nicci's reasons for capturing Richard are not revealed until the very end and I can't say I'm entirely satisfied by the reasons given (I won't reveal them except to say that they didn't seem all that compelling). Richard, meanwhile, is fed up with leading a battle when he feels that the Midlands are not willing to stand up to Jajang. Nicci tracks down Richard and kidnaps Richard by threatening Kahlen's life by way of a special "Corsican brothers-type bond" with Kahlen: so, any injury done to Nicci will also be inflicted on Kahlen. When I first got to this part, I admit it seemed that Richard's capture was a cheap and simple plot device to get Richard to (a) go to the New World; b) be subservient to Nicci; and (c) created sexual tension between Nicci and Richard (will she or won't she force Richard to have sex with her). While Richard is on his months-long journey to the New World with Nicci, we are treated to some great battle scenes between a Kahlen-led Midlands army and the great horde of the Order. The battle scenes are well described and there is good drama in this section of the book (which is the middle of the book). When we return to Richard, he's in the New World with Nicci. Here, Goodkind gets his Ayn Rand hat on and depicts Richard as a self-made capitalist in the fantasy version of Stalin's Russia.

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