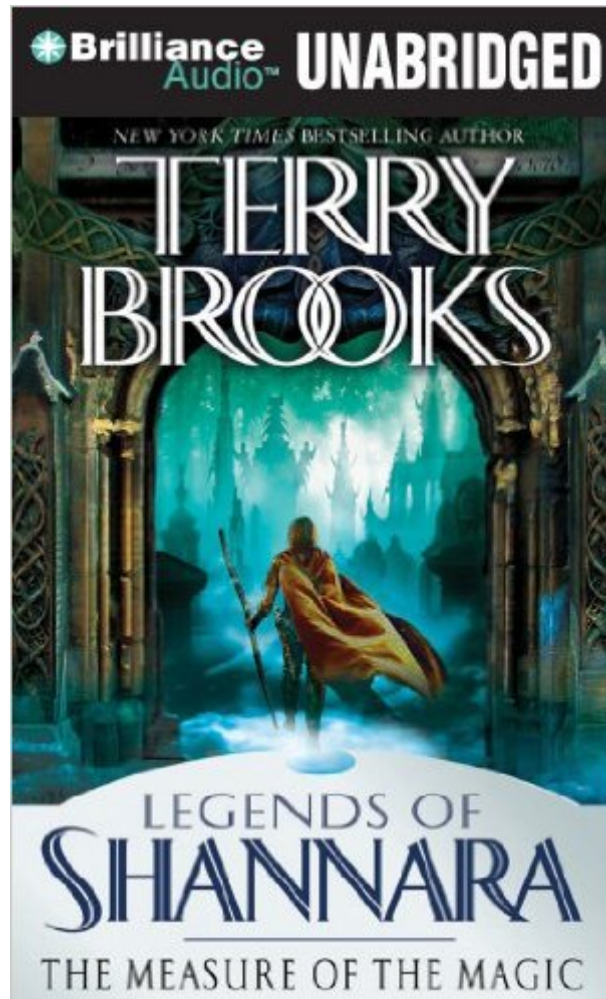


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The Measure Of The Magic: Legends Of Shannara (Legends Of Shannara Duology)



Synopsis

For five hundred years, the survivors of the Great Wars lived peacefully in a valley sanctuary shielded by powerful magic from the blighted and dangerous outside world. But the enchanted barriers have crumbled, the borders have been breached by predators, and the threat of annihilation looms large once more. Sider Ament, bearer of the last black staff and its profound power, devoted his life to protecting the valley and its inhabitants and, in his final moments, gave stewardship of the black staff to the young Tracker Panterra Qu. Now the newly anointed Knight of the Word must take up the battle against evil wherever it threatens: from without, where an army of bloodthirsty Trolls is massing for invasion; and from within, where the Elf king of Arborlon has been murdered, his daughter, Princess Phryne Amarantyne, stands accused, and a heinous conspiracy is poised to subjugate the kingdom. But even these will pale beside the most harrowing menace Panterra is destined to confront a nameless, merciless figure who wanders the devastated land on a relentless mission: to claim the last black staff...and the life of he who wields it."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have always been a big fan of Terry Brooks. The Shannara novels were amongst the first fantasy books that I read, and I have always turned up to the book store every August to purchase the latest offering from Brooks. There has been plenty of reason for optimism over the past 5 years - the new Landover novel and the Genesis of Shannara novels have been some of Brooks' best work, and my expectations for concluding novel in The Legends of Shannara series were very high. Unfortunately

The Measure of Magic was a massive let down, a boring and uninspired conclusion to a series that failed to cash in on the superb foundations that had been laid previously. Sider Ament has been killed. The magical veil protecting the valley has fallen, trolls have amassed outside the valley waiting for a chance to strike, and the responsibility for leading the inhabitants of the valley back into the wider world has fallen to young tracker, and newly appointed Knight of the Word, Panterra Qu. While this premise has the makings of a very exciting story, we were promised by Brooks that this series would clearly define the transition from the world of the Word/Void to the world of Shannara. It was a very bold promise that was not adequately fulfilled, and having invested so much of my time into these five transitional Shannara books, I feel like the series was cheated out of the ending it deserved. Not only did we not get the story we wanted but the story we did get was well below par, something made more apparent given the quality Brooks has produced over the past five years. To put it a bit more bluntly I became very bored reading The Measure of Magic, which is quite concerning as I don't think I have ever been bored reading a Brooks story.

It has been a while since I read a Terry Brooks novel. I loved the original Shannara books, but stopped reading them at some point. I decided it was time to reacquaint myself with Terry Brooks as an author and to see what was happening in the world of Shannara with this book, though this story is actually part of a prequel to the Shannara stories, "Legends of Shannara," and a sequel to "Bearers of the Black Staff." I enjoyed this story and I would read it again. The story opens with the Ragpicker. We quickly learn that the Ragpicker is a demon and he is on the hunt for the bearer of the black staff. The Ragpicker is also after Prue Liss. Indeed, the Ragpicker would have caught Prue Liss had there not been timely assistance from an unexpected source. At the same time, Panterra Qu finds himself the new bearer of the black staff. Pan struggles with his new role and alternates between overconfidence and doubt. Fortunately, once Prue Liss joins Pan the pair is much more than the sum of their parts. Of course, if this story was only about Pan and Prue Liss, it might be interesting but relatively unimportant. Pan and Prue live in a valley long hidden from the world. The valley did have protection from those who would be quite happy to eliminate the inhabitants of the valley, to enslave them, or worse. Unfortunately, the protection is gone and the trolls know how to find the valley. Pan and Prue are working against the inevitability of discovery to try to get defenders for the valley. Complicating matters is that princess Phryne Amarantyne's stepmother has imprisoned Phryne (where have we heard this one before?), accusing Phryne of killing her father, the king. Phryne's stepmother has a completely separate agenda from protecting the valley or even the Elf city.

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