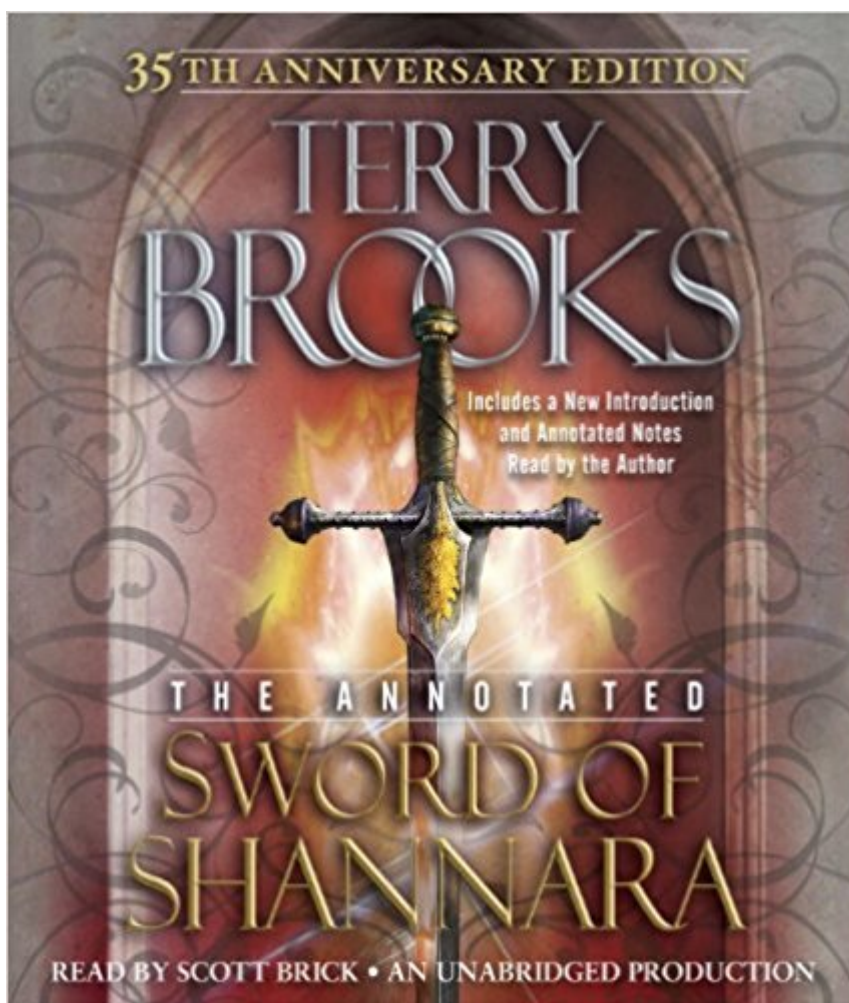


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The Annotated Sword Of Shannara: 35th Anniversary Edition (The Sword Of Shannara)



Synopsis

THE PHENOMENAL EPIC OF GOOD AND EVIL LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE

Thirty-five years ago, Terry Brooks brought to life a dazzling world in *The Sword of Shannara*. Nineteen more *Shannara* volumes would follow, making the series one of the most popular fantasy epics of all time. Now comes a fully annotated collector's edition of the novel that started it all—featuring never-before-shared insights into the classic tale, an all-new introduction by the New York Times bestselling author, and replicas of the original sketches for some of the long-lost, black-and-white paintings by the Brothers Hildebrandt that decorated the original edition, and a replica of the original Hildebrandt central color plate on the back of the jacket.

Long ago, war ravaged the world. In peaceful Shady Vale, half-elfin Shea Ohmsford knows little of such troubles. Then the giant, forbidding Allanor reveals that the supposedly dead Warlock Lord is plotting to destroy everything in his wake. The sole weapon against this Power of Darkness is the Sword of Shannara, which can be used only by a true heir of Shannara. On Shea, last of the bloodline, rests the hope of all the races.

Soon a Skull Bearer, dread minion of a mighty evil, flies into the Vale, seeking to destroy Shea. To save his home, Shea must flee, drawing the Skull Bearer after him in menacing pursuit.

Thus begins the enthralling *Shannara* epic, a spellbinding tale of adventure, magic, and myth.

PRAISE FOR TERRY BROOKS

"The *Sword of Shannara* is an unforgettable and wildly entertaining epic, animated by Terry Brooks's cosmically generative imagination and storytelling joy. This was one of my favorite fictional worlds growing up, and I look forward to many return trips."

Karen Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *Swamplandia!*

"Terry Brooks has been my constant companion over a lifetime of exploring my beloved fantasy genre. I say with all honesty I would not be writing epic fantasy today if not for *Shannara*. If Tolkien is the grandfather of modern fantasy, Terry Brooks is its favorite uncle."

Peter V. Brett, New York Times bestselling author of *The Desert Spear*

"I can't even begin to count how many of Terry Brooks's books I've read (and reread) over the years. From *Shannara* to *Landover*, his work was a huge part of my childhood."

Patrick Rothfuss, New York Times bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind*

"Terry Brooks is a master of the craft and a trailblazer who established fantasy as a viable genre. Not only do I owe him for many hours of reading pleasure, I owe him my job. He is required reading."

Brent Weeks, New York Times bestselling author of *The Night Angel Trilogy*

"The *Shannara* books were among the first to really capture my imagination. I didn't just enjoy reading the novels—the world became so real that I would spend hours creating *Shannara* fan-fiction in my mind. My daydreams and therefore my stories will always owe a debt to Terry Brooks."

Brandon Mull, #1

New York Times bestselling author of the Beyonders and Fablehaven series
From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR TERRY BROOKS
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"Karen Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *Swamplandia!*
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Brooks.â•†â•† "Brandon Mull, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Beyonders and Fablehaven series Â âœ When Terry Brooks hit the New York Times bestseller list in 1977, it opened my eyes to the limitless possibilities of the fantasy genre and the determination to see my own dreams fulfilled.â•†â•† "Michael J. Sullivan, author of The Riyria Revelations From the Hardcover edition.

Terry Brooks is the New York Times bestselling author of more than thirty books, including the Dark Legacy of Shannara adventure Wards of Faerie; the Legends of Shannara novels Bearers of the Black Staff and The Measure of the Magic; the Genesis of Shannara trilogy: Armageddonâ™s Children, The Elves of Cintra, and The Gypsy Morph; The Sword of Shannara; the Voyage of the Jerle Shannara trilogy: Ilse Witch, Antrax, and Morgawr; the High Druid of Shannara trilogy: Jarka Ruus, Tanequil, and Straken; the nonfiction book Sometimes the Magic Works: Lessons from a Writing Life; and the novel based upon the screenplay and story by George Lucas, Star Wars:Â® Episode I The Phantom Menace.â„¢ His novels Running with the Demon and A Knight of the Word were selected by the Rocky Mountain News as two of the best science fiction/fantasy novels of the twentieth century. The author was a practicing attorney for many years but now writes full-time. He lives with his wife, Judine, in the Pacific Northwest.

I vacillated between One-dimensional or developed characters. The point is that this is classic epic fantasy of the Tolkien genre. Therefore, the characters are drawn relatively thinly. Yes, we do hear their thoughts, know about their fears and misgivings. But it is kept at a level that a child could relate to (and many people have read this early trilogy in childhood). This is certainly not the earthy grim fantasy so popular now. If you want a taste of the ton, think again of Tolkien. Everyone is brave when needed, and there is loyalty and trust. I value these traits very much. I also enjoy all the Shannara books for what they are: epic fantasy of the classic sense with vulnerable but stalwart heroes on a quest. There is a lot of geography traveled in this trilogy, since it seems a major part of the classic epic fantasy is for the main characters to cover a lot of ground in search of the holy relic or magical talisman that will defeat the consummate evil. I found the entire trilogy very charming and sweet. I have loved Tolkien from an early age, and I am 65! What I love about Terry Brooks is that he extends that type of world into over 30 books. It would be equivalent to Tolkien having lived to share the adventures of Sam and Frodo's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. The evil (which is implied to be from beyond this world) always finds a new way to manifest, so each generation much stand alone to defeat the latest incarnation. If you love epic fantasy, you will love the trilogy, which Brooks' comments inserted. If you disdain such an idealized form of fiction, stick to

the more gritty and earthy authors like Joe Abercrombie and GRR Martin.

If you're the type that likes to watch a DVD with the directors commentary on, then you might like the annotation of this book, but if you're like me, you'll find it extremely annoying. It's mostly annoying because most of the author's comments are just plugs for his other books. You'll get to an exciting part of the story, and then Terry Brooks breaks in "you can find more about this character in my other book the Blah Blah of Shannara". To the point were he actually tells you that's its available at . I would give this 5 stars if I could turn off the commentary. I know the title says it's Annotated, but I could not find it without, and I never would have thought it would be that annoying. But it is. As far as the story goes, it's great and I would get some of the others if I can find it without the commentary. The only negative on the story, is that several times I found myself thinking "he just stole that from Lord of the Rings".

What's to say? "The Sword of Shannara" has earned its place as one of the classic works of fantasy, even if it does lean quite a bit on the derivative side. While not Brooks' best work, it is an ideal starting point for new readers, but new readers would best be served by an ordinary copy I think. The annotated copy is best reserved for the true Brooks fan who has everything he has ever written (guilty of that myself). That being said, I was honestly kind of underwhelmed by how few annotations there seem to be in the book. There's maybe a handful every chapter, and with most I felt like it didn't actually tell me anything new or interesting. I'm not sure what I was expecting, not an annotation every page, but more than what we got. I certainly don't regret my purchase or reading it, but I don't recommend it to anyone other than die-hard Brooks fans who love behind the scenes stories, and even they may feel underwhelmed as I did by the additions. I know I'm sounding negative, and I don't mean to be. It is a classic tale, and as Brooks' first it does lend itself to some stories the likes of which are interesting. Honestly, you should know if you feel a pull for this one or not, and just trust your gut.

IMPORTANT to know - the audio CD is poorly arranged; in that, ANNOTATED means that while the story is being read to you, out of no where comes Terry Brook's nasally shrill voice to provide you with unneeded information. You can't turn the annotation segments off. This format really breaks the flow of the story. Scott Brick reads the story in a soft, calm tone and he has an appealing tempo. I like that he doesn't over emphasize his pronunciations. He does a relatively good job with changing his voice for the different characters. I enjoy listening to his story telling. I do not like Brook's voice

or what he has to say most of the time. The story is good but predictable, and Brooks totally ripped-off of the Lord of the Rings. An annotated audio cd should have the authors' remarks at the beginning of each chapter and on it's on track so one may skip over it when they want.

I originally read this when it was published in 1977, and loved it completely. It was my first introduction to the epic fantasy novel. I picked up this copy hoping that the annotations would give insight to the creative process and inspiration the Terry Brooks used to create the world and characters of Shannara. What I found instead was footnotes that only stated what I had just read. Save your money by buying the paperback version and enjoying the story. What you pay for the annotated version is not worth the cost, and is nothing but a money making scheme that I will solely place on the publishers.

Haven't read this since I was a kid and wanted to reread the first three in preparation for the upcoming TV show. Note: my selection about the character's being one-dimensional is a little misleading; there needs to be a selection between one-dimensional and developed. Clearly, this is Brooks first book and he is at the start of his learning curve with his writing. He gets better and better with every book. Wish I didn't get the annotated version. The annotations are more annoying than illuminating.

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