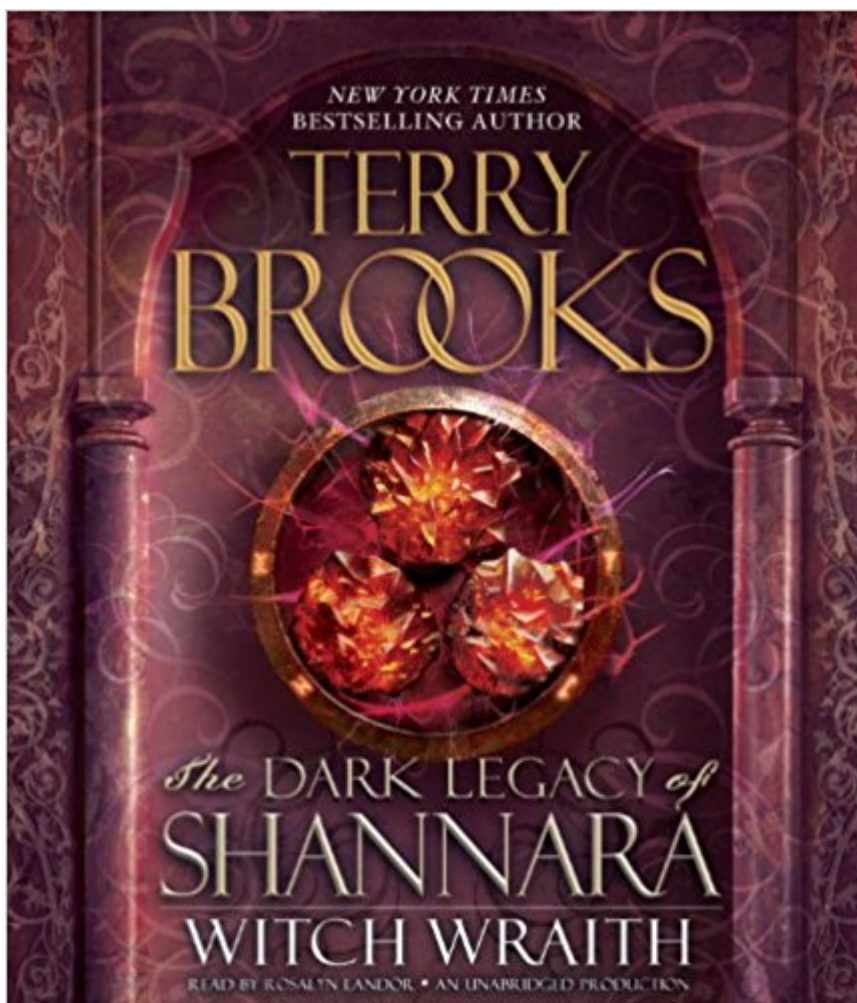


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Witch Wraith: The Dark Legacy Of Shannara



Synopsis

From bestselling author Terry Brooks comes the final thrilling novel in a brand-new trilogy—*The Dark Legacy of Shannara*! A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER For centuries the Four Lands enjoyed freedom from its demon-haunted past, protected by magic-enhanced borders from the dark dimension known as the Forbidding and the profound evil imprisoned there. But now the unthinkable is happening: The ancient wards securing the barrier between order and mayhem have begun to erode—and generations of bloodthirsty, monstrous creatures, fueled by a rage thousands of years in the making, are poised to spill forth, seeking revenge for what was done to them. Young Elf Arling Elessedil possesses the enchanted means to close the breach and once more seal the denizens of the Forbidding in their prison. But when she falls into the hands of the powerful Federation's diabolical Prime Minister, her efforts may be doomed. Only her determined sister, Aphen, who bears the Elfstones and commands their magic, has any hope of saving Arling from the hideous fate her captor has in store. Meanwhile, Railing Ohmsford—desperate to save his imprisoned brother—seeks to discover if his famed but ill-fated ancestor Grianne is still alive and willing to help him save the world . . . no matter the odds or the consequences. Praise for *Witch Wraith* “Terry Brooks has written a slam-bang conclusion to his *The Dark Legacy of Shannara* trilogy with the stellar *Witch Wraith*. . . . He has a keen eye for great world-building as well as unforgettable characters. . . . The *Dark Legacy of Shannara* trilogy is arguably his best work to date.” —Associated Press “The final chapter in Brooks's latest trilogy set in his beloved world of Shannara peaks in a bittersweet conclusion that seems to set the stage for future books. A must for the numerous die-hard Shannara fans.” —Library Journal 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.” —Karen Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *Swamplandia!* “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. 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.

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

Witch Wraith is the final book in Brooks's Dark Legacy of Shannara trilogy and a title that will be a mainstay in the public library's fantasy collection. Wards of Faerie, Bloodfire Quest, and Witch Wraith are set 100 years after the events of Brooks's High Druid of Shannara trilogy. The magical barrier that keeps the people who live in the Four Lands safe from the most evil and dangerous creatures is crumbling, and horrific revenging acts, thousands of years in the making, seem inevitable. The young Elf Arling can seal this barrier, but she has been brought under the control of the diabolical prime minster, making her efforts impossible. Her sister, Aphen, may be the only one who can save Arling and the fate of their world. For the first time in his career, the New York Times best-selling author Brooks is publishing each book in this trilogy just six months apart, ensuring readers will be clamoring for this conclusion of the Shannara universe story. --Alison Downs --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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From the Hardcover edition.

I waited a long time before writing about this series because I wanted to be sure my disappointments were not due to some kind of 'mood' which colored my impressions. I own all of the books Terry Brooks has published through to the end of this series. While some are better than others, up to this trilogy I found them enjoyable if not riveting. Having read them all, I feel it is safe to confirm that this trilogy is mediocre at best. Other reviewers have already spelled out the problems with its recycled plots and characters that are not very endearing. The twin's competition for the same girl was the freshest plot device employed, but its resolution in this final book, "Witch Wraith," was so poorly conceived and written it only engendered feelings of disappointment and disgust at the finale. Brooks slammed out these books, throwing on a quick final ending in this third book so it could be rushed to press. To what end? Was it in order to alleviate overwhelming pressure for more tales from his fans? Or was it to generate quick income by milking his fans? Whatever the reason, I hope he will once again strive to provide the kind of excellent storytelling he has been capable of capturing our imaginations with in the past. I do thank Mr. Brooks for all the other wonderful books

he has created for our enjoyment in the past.

I don't know if his books are ghostwritten now, or if he's just gotten really lazy, but this is yet another paint-by-numbers Shannara book. No characters that aren't carbon copies of previous characters. No plots that aren't recycled. I loved his books for years, but I think I'm done at this point.

Although the trilogy starts off slow and plodding, things begin to pick up after Brooks does a great deal of prep work on the characters and plot intro. One of the things I liked was the author's exposure of the moral dilemma regarding the Forbidding. What criteria put those creatures there? Who made the rules for the criteria? Who is to say X is evil and Y is good? When I finished the 3rd book, I was so excited, I wanted to go and write the next Shannara book myself because I didn't want to wait on the author. Oh, well. I guess I'll just have to have patience. Concerning the negative criticisms of Brooks repeating history and re-hashing old characters, I think this is an accurate reflection of the real world. History does repeat itself and heroes do conquer evil. I like the "tried and true" rather than some of the esoteric mumbo-jumbo that passes for fantasy fiction these days. It's easy to digest and I don't have to keep turning back several chapters, asking, "Now WHO is this person, again?"

This series starts a bit slow and meanders around a bit, but the storyline is good. I would definitely recommend this series and will probably read it again in a few years. If you see Terry at a book signing, cast in a furtive glance, ok? Read his books and you'll figure out what I'm playing at. :-)

I'm a longtime Terry Brooks fan. Although this Shannara trilogy (and the one before it) wasn't as engrossing as some earlier novels in the overall series, it was TERRY BROOKS, and interesting enough to keep me going. SPOILER ALERT* I can see why many felt these books had a rehashed plot (the deterioration of the Forbidding, the quest for the Bloodfire and renewal of the Ellcrys, etc.), but it did have some new elements (the new Elfstones, the origin of the Ellcrys). I would have liked to have seen more twists in the plot -- example, the discovery of a way to maintain the Forbidding without the need for someone to sacrifice herself. There were also some inconsistencies. If the Ilyse Witch was drawn into and trapped in the Forbidding because she aligned herself with the Jarka Ruus, why couldn't/didn't Tekla Dart stay in the Four Lands because she aligned herself with/helped the outsiders? In Elfstones, Amberle quickly changed into the new Ellcrys. In this book, Arling's transition to the new tree took longer. Perhaps that was because there was always action taking

place in other locations and it had to be coordinated, but still. Also, in Elfstones it sounded like Amberle became the second Ellcrys and that the life span of the first Ellcrys was much longer (maybe a thousand years or so?). The time period between the Amberle Ellcrys and the need for the Arling/Ellcrys seemed several hundred years shorter. After Aphen's conversation with Ellich, it wasn't clear what she was going to do because she still was leaning towards staying with the Elves in Arborlon. We can only assume that she must have changed her mind because in the last chapter or so it briefly mentions that she came at intervals from Paranor to visit Redden and tried to heal him. My biggest grip, however, is the death of Cymrian. In the second book, it seemed like the author might be planning to kill him off; I got so upset that I'd decided not to even read the 3rd book if that happened. When he survived the battle in that book, I bought/read this one, only to be VERY disgusted, disappointed, and unhappy when he died in this installment. I kept reading ONLY because there was a hint that he and Aphen might somehow be reunited. When that didn't happen, I was doubly disgusted. I just wasn't as invested in the romance between Railing and Mirai; they weren't as interesting. I know that fantasy is not all about romance, but a touch is nice. And by a touch, I DON't mean to kill off half of the most interesting couple. Far as I'm concerned, he could have killed off Railing and/or Mirai instead. If there are more Shannara books, I think I'll wait and read some reviews before buying them or get them from the library. Things I'd like to see in a new Shannara series: Cymrian and Aphen reunited somehow (and NOT as "shades" or middle-aged/elderly people!) Tekla Dart brought to the Four Lands More info about the new Elfstones/maybe getting the new Elfstones back The mystery of the crimson Elfstones explained

I have liked Terry Brooks for a long time. His writing style made Phantom Menace excellent even though the movie was BORING (except for the fight scenes, Hell, he even made jar jar tolerable). As for this ending to the saga, I liked how he brought back the Ilse Witch in a haggard, disturbed, evil form. She was practically a demon herself and even though some critics would consider it a poor ending, the fact that there was nothing left of Grianne Ohmsford to be redeemable and she killed Tael Riverine and took his command from him was awesome. Truly a good fight and her being transferred to the Forbidding was cool too. At first I was shocked that he would end the Ohmsford line (true ohmsford that is, descendants with new names throw it off a bit). The new series, years later cleans up the storyline and brings in the old (wishing, druids, etc) with the new (Arcannen). Read these later novels with an open mind and you will enjoy them.

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