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Temple Of The Winds (Sword Of Truth Series)



Synopsis

Book Four of The Sword of Truth—the series first begun in Wizard's First Rule—returns listeners to the world of Richard Cypher, a simple woods guide who never dreamed he would be named the Seeker of Truth and become caught up in magic, war, and dangers so extraordinary that the fate of his entire world would hang on his actions and decisions. The dangerous, fanatical Imperial Order, under the leadership of the power-mad Emperor Jagang and his multitude of demonic underlings, unleashes a deadly plague. To find a cure Richard Cypher and his beloved Kahlan Amnell must seek out the legendary Temple of the Winds, a fortress of evil sealed away for three thousand years. But the path of the Seeker of Truth is never an easy one—even if he can reach the Temple at all, there is no guarantee he'll ever return.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I am an avid fan of Terry Goodkind and I await each book with some anticipation, I must admit that this book was a little...windy (forgive the pun, please). The beginning was a little slow, and was it just me or did anyone figure who the sicko was w/in the first 5 lines of the first murder scene? The evidence was placed in this person's belongings too soon and the excuse they made was a little pathetic. Couldn't the evidence have shown up later in the book, just to sort of throw the reader off, and delay the eye-rolls? Anyway, there were also sappy love scenes that sort of made me want to put the book down. I understand Goodkind may have been trying to evoke some sympathy for

Richard and Kahlan's frustrating (and overly drawn out) wait to complete and consummate their love, but the stolen-kiss scenes sort of dripped with sap. Also, Richard's dealings with Kahlan and with the lords and delegates from different countries were a little drawn out and preachy. His long philosophical explanations, and Goodkind's seeming need to continuously refer us to Richard's "raking raptor gaze" and Kahlan's "sparkling green eyes" and tight, white, regal Confessor's dress, get repetitive and you end up skipping large chunks of the dialogue. The stubbornness of the main characters will at times frustrate you, and after all the waiting and yearning and restraint the main duo has endured, how could the writer snatch away the sanctity of their first union by turning it into such a horrid experience? It was so terrible, it worked. That part just killed me... But after all this passes, the book begins to pick up and roll with the formula that made Goodkind's first book such a riveting story. He did a good job at evoking irritation and murderous inclinations towards a new character, Nadine.

What began as an interesting fantasy in "Wizard's First Rule" and "Stone of Tears" has begun to devolve into episodic serialization and somewhat sophomoric heroic posturing. To be honest, I never felt this series to be among the best, an equal to Tolkein's "Lord of the Rings," Donaldson's "Chronicles of Thomas Covenant," William's "Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn," or Martin's or Jordan's ongoing series. There has always been the sense of Goodkind writing in the shadow of Jordan for reasons that are obvious, and, regardless of arguments over "The Wheel of Time's" flaws, the "Sword of Truth" series by Goodkind has never approached the scale of Jordan's work, and appears now to be flagging in both energy and focus. What began in "Wizard's First Rule" as a fantasy epic with a solid story line and much original content, despite a few obvious broad borrowings from past writer's, including Jordan, has become, with this book, a series of adventures only loosely connected to the grand conceptual story promised by the first book. The original premise presented in "Wizard's First Rule" is now forming the excuse for 800 page excursions into secondary stories that exist in large part separate from the larger struggle that is the premise behind this series. As a stand-alone, this book is unsuccessful, and succeeds only because it is propped by the previous works. Nor does it advance the earlier story established by those books. Instead, if you examine the plot closely, it revisits a lot of old ground. The thread of Goodkind's legend has begun to become unravelled. A further problem has begun to manifest itself in his characters: They have begun to become stereotypes of themselves.

Wizard's First Rule was amazing, Stone of Tears was good, Blood of the Fold was boring. With

Temple of the Winds, he got back on track. WFR and TOW are my favorites from this series. Now I see all these reviews and people complaining about Richard and Kahlan's love, the sex, lack of plot, blah blah blah. I couldn't believe my eyes when I read half of them. First of all, attacking Richard and Kahlan's love. Yes, we all know they love each other deeply and it's stated all throughout the book. Their world is collapsing around their ears, that love is the only thing keeping them sane. It's the only constant in their lives. I was ecstatic that they FINALLY got married, the poor dears. Although I wouldn't mind kicking Kahlan out and taking her place. ^_~Second, the sex. People, if you think this book is pornographic you obviously live sheltered lives. I've read much worse from several other authors. Finally, the lack of plot. I don't know about you, but I don't read a 600 page book in a day because it has no plot. I mean, you have Richard and Kahlan trying desperately to find a way to stop a horrible plague while at the same time Nadine shows up intent to marry Richard and Drefan mysteriously appears (I knew that guy was rotten from the start). Nathan is off doing gods know what and Zedd and Ann's predicament was hysterical. I found myself riveted by the pieces of information about the past and the temple. Now Drefan's cruelty to women did get a bit graphic, but there are actually people like him in the world. No one ever said Mr. Goodkind was writing for children. I also know that the dialogue did get a bit stale, but the emotion was there and it's the emotion that fuels this fantastic tale.

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