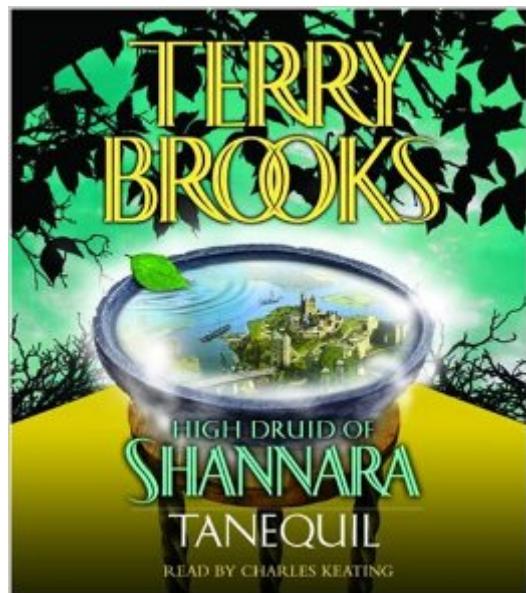


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High Druid Of Shannara: Tanequil



Synopsis

Dark magic has opened a gateway to the Forbidding and trapped within it Grianne Ohmsford, rightful High Druid of Shannara. Rescuing Grianne will be merely the beginning of the effort to return the Four Lands to some semblance of peace. Only her young nephew, Penderrin, has any hope of returning her to power. But to breach the Forbidding and bring Grianne back to the natural world, Pen must find the fabled Tanequil . . . and the talisman it alone can provide. That means journeying into the Inkrimâ "a dreaded region thick with shadows and haunted by harrowing legends. And there, Pen will strike a bargain more dire than he could ever imagine.

Book Information

Series: High Druid of Shannara

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (August 31, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739314971

ISBN-13: 978-0739314975

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,375,610 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (B) > Brooks, Terry #2599 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy #7026 inÂ Books > Books on CD > General

Customer Reviews

Most fiction I read has a plot to it and those that don't I wonder how they get published. Terry Brooks has written many a book, most of which I have read, and some so long ago I have forgotten what they were about. I am still reading his books and he still puts character names in these books from previous works. He knows not all readers will have read his earlier works so he must give a back story on these characters but not too much to cause his faithful readers to be disappointed in his new stories by being overwhelmed by too many old facts to them. It is a tough road to hoe and I think he falls short in "Tanequil". Sen Dunsidan is introduced in Book 1 of "High Druid of Shannara" and is further developed in Book 2 but not by much. He is the one where Brooks displays the correct touch, a portrayal, not a painting; the man is only a minor character. Then we are introduced to others but told nothing about them and they seem to be important, more so than Dunsidan. There

is Moric, and who is he? There is Tael Riverine, who is he? Why go on, there are others in the same category, Weka Dart may be overdeveloped, is he a major character? No, the protagonists are supposed to be Pen Ohmsford and Grianne Ohmsford, The Ark Rhys has been developed in an earlier series, and Pen is new but we have his father and mother, how much development do they need? So much to watch, wait and see what is necessary and what is not, whom to watch for and who can be evaded. That is solely for the characters, Then there is the plot to develop. "Tanequil" is the middle book, it has no beginning or ending of its own, there is a predecessor and a successor, how far can the plot be developed if it is only a weak plot to start with?

"Tanequil" is the second volume in the "High Druid of Shannara" series by Terry Brooks. It continues the story which was begun in "Jarka Ruus". The former High Druid of Paranor, Grianne Ohmsford (the Isle Witch from the last trilogy) has been betrayed by one of her druids and sent into the Forbidding. The Forbidding, if you remember "The Elfstones of Shannara", is the demon dimension which is sealed shut by the power of the Elcrys. It is a nasty, nasty place and Grianne is now stuck there. Her nephew Pen Ohmsford is on a quest to find the Tanequil, a tree which holds the key to rescuing Grianne. Like many other Shannara novels, he was put on this path by the King of the Silver River, a mythical creature who has guided many Ohmsfords over the course of the Shannara series. While Pen is searching for the Tanequil, he and his companions (there are always companions) are also running for their lives. They are being tracked by a fearsome killer which has already killed one of their own. Grianne is left by herself to find her way in the Forbidding when she is captured by some of the demons. Rather than slaughter her like an animal, there seems to be something of a culture (such as it is) among the demons. Dealing with torture and captivity and isolation, Grianne fears that she may once again become the unfeeling Isle Witch which once terrorized the Four Lands. She doesn't want to, but it may be the only way to survive. At what price is survival worth it? The previous trilogy, "The Voyage of the Jerle Shannara" was something of a disappointment, but "Jarka Ruus" and now "Tanequil" have been something of a return to the earlier quality of the "Scions of Shannara" quartet.

As the second book in the "High Druid of Shannara" trilogy, Brooks picks up right where he left off; with his heroes in dire straits. Betrayed by the treachery of her fellow Druids, Grianne Ohmsford has found herself transported into the Forbidding, the dimension that all the demons and monsters of the world were banished into thousands of years ago. Despite making a somewhat flimsy alliance with a creature called Weka Dart, Grianne has now been captured by the terrible Straken Lord Tael

Riverine, who has a terrible future in store for her - as well as plans for her world. Only her niece Penderrin "Pen" Ohmsford and a small band allies carry the hope of releasing her from her prison, travelling to the region of Inkrim in order to find the magical tree tanequil and request from it the use of one of its boughs in order to make a talisman through which Pen may retrieve Grianne. Despite the fact they have managed to destroy a Druid airship hunting them, they still have to content with the frightening figure of Aphasia Wye, a monstrous Druid assassin who has taken over their airship and holding Cinnaminson - Pen's beloved - hostage. All this is under the orders of Shadea a'ru, who has taken over as Ard Rhys of the Druid Council and taking drastic measures to prevent any chance of her rival's return. As well as this, Brooks explores several other storylines within the context of the book; a new weapon has been created that could tip the balance of war in favour of the Federation, Shadea is still juggling the loyalties of the Druids now under her command, and - as in the previous book - an even darker plan is at work, that threatens to undermine everyone's plans for the future.

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