



Bloodfire Quest

Terry Brooks

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For the first time in his career, Terry will be publishing a book every six months from the start to end of this series: here is the second in a brand-new trilogy, following *The Wards of Faerie*, in the *New York Times* bestselling Shannara universe!

Long ago, many dangerous creatures were locked behind a magical barrier, bringing peace and prosperity to the land. But now those barriers are eroding, and generations of embittered prisoners are about to escape. War seems inevitable . . . unless a few brave souls can stem the tide. While some venture into the forbidden lands, others must undertake a perilous quest—a quest whose success will mean the death of a young girl who has barely even begun to live, but whose failure will have unimaginable consequences. From riveting start to cliffhanger ending, this is an epic for the ages!

Bloodfire Quest Details

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From Reader Review Bloodfire Quest for online ebook

Lola Et La Vie says

There is something about Terry Brooks' writing that I really love. I love his way of telling a story and the way he manages to keep things light even when the tale is dark. When I have been reading other fantasy books, coming back to the Shannara world always feels refreshing somehow. I have been reading about that world since I was a teenager and now, after all these years and those books it feels familiar to me like no other fantasy world does.

There is a lot of death in this book, but in true Brooks style, none of it is too graphic or lingered on. The characters are always moving forward, taking action. Many of the elements of this series are elements that have been told before, ie the dying Elcryss, venturing in to the Forbidding, demons, The Federation, an assassin. It is all classic Terry Brooks fare and nothing new, but man, do I enjoy that stuff! The only thing that bugs me slightly is that I don't feel as much of a connection to Railing and Redden Ohmsford as I have done to the Ohmsfords that have gone before. I also did not quite love the way the Elcryss was written in this book. However, I loved Alphenglow Elessedil and the overall storylines.

A lot happens in Bloodfire Quest without much getting resolved, but it had a awesome cliffhanger and I cannot wait to continue the series. Witch Wraith is the final book in this trilogy and is already waiting on my shelves.

Shawn Spjut says

Bloodfire Quest, number two in Terry Brooks three part "Dark Legacy of Shannara" series.

As my readers know I was not very kind to Mr. Brooks in my review of "Wards of Faerie" and felt like his writing style had/has become rushed and far more commercialized than his previous works. And I still think that's true but...I also said I believed that an author of his caliber would no doubt redeem himself...and he has, in spades.

Even though I miss the days when Terry Brooks spent a lot more time developing his characters, I don't miss the fact that it took forever for them to cross the mountain or whatever else it was they were crossing, wading, hiking or flying over/through or under.

I can also say that even though I felt the first book was rather stingy about giving us more background on the Druids, Elves and impetus for the journey they undertook, particularly the Aryd Rhys, again the author has more than made up for any lack I felt in the first book with the advent of the second.

Another change I have noticed about Mr. Brooks writing is that he never used to include anything more descriptive than 'G' rated scenes. But every since his "Word and Void" series (which I have to confess are some of my favorites reads) I've begun noticed the characters alluding to more than just 'holding hands'.

I know...its the prude in me getting my panties all in a bunch. But all the same...I preferred the innocence of his first books only because I never had to worry about my eight year old picking up one of his books and reading it. Like Tolkien, there were wizards and druids and elves and shades and things that go bump in the

night, but they still didn't allude to taking their clothes off. Just sayin...

That doesn't mean this series won't go on my bookshelves. It certainly will, it'll just have to be placed a little higher up, somewhere between Brennan Manning, Brother Andrew, Ann Rice, J. R. R. Tolkien, Rick Riordan and Cassandra Clare and Cinda Williams Chima.

On my readers scale of 1-5 stars, I'm giving Bloodfire Quest 4 for 'story well told' and, 4.5 stars for keeping the faith - Terry Brooks is still one of the best fantasy story tellers around.

Abhinav says

You can find the full review over at The Founding Fields:

<http://thefoundingfields.com/2013/01/...>

Shadowhawk reviews two of the latest novels from Random House/Del Rey – the second Coveted novel Kept by Shawntelle Madison and the second Dark Legacy of Shannara novel The Bloodfire Quest by Terry Brooks.

On Kept: “A thoroughly engaging and flawed novel that failed on a very interesting premise.” ~The Founding Fields

On The Bloodfire Quest: “Mostly a rehash of The Elfstones of Shannara, the new novel has occasional flashes of brilliance but little else.” ~The Founding Fields

Second, The Bloodfire Quest by Terry Brooks. I've read three novels in the Shannara setting to date, in addition to this one: Sword, Elfstones and another novel I can't remember the name of, but it is the one with Allanon's adoptive Druid father and Jerle Shannara and the forging of the fabled sword. Of the three, I consider Elfstones of Shannara to be the best in the entire series, with the “prequel” novel being a decent second, and Sword of Shannara to be the poorer one, given the heavy allusions to Dragonlance Chronicles and Lord of the Rings, plus the rather trope-ridden narrative.

Unfortunately, The Bloodfire Quest is the same. In fact, I saw it as nothing more than a rehash of the events of Elfstones, because, once again the Ellcrys is dying and needs to be reborn, once again nobody knows where Bloodfire Mountain is, once again the Druid has to go to Paranor to learn of its location, and once again the Elf chosen to receive the Ellcrys' seed and perform the journey of traveling to Bloodfire and returning is a reluctant and often petulant character. There is little originality in the narrative, as far as I can tell.

I know that I'm quite disadvantaged by the fact that I'm entering the series in the middle and therefore lack all of the setup that came in the first book. Therefore, my perceptions of the novel may not be all that accurate. However, that could have been mitigated if the narrative was actually interesting, and if the characters had been far more enjoyable. Neither of those things happened, as it turned out.

The characters often felt like they were just going through the motions. For the lack of a better word, they were all mostly wooden with little in the way of distinctive personalities. This was exacerbated by the fact that the novel has a huge cast of characters and therefore many of them get very little actual page-time. The

Ard Rhys of the Druid order, Khyber Elessedil, and Railing Ohmsford were two of the most interesting characters in the novel, and yet we see very little of them. Khyber gets a very brief moment to shine but I would say that it was too little and too late. This highlighted another problem in the novel, that the characters were almost always reactionary, they responded to events around them, rather than being active participants. It is sort of a grey area, I'll grant, since both things happen in any novel, but I found the balance to be rather skewed. Motivational uncertainties in many of the characters, such as Arlingfant Elessedil (the Chosen character in question), made the novel that much more frustrating.

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

I enjoyed this one more than the first in this trilogy. Don't get me wrong - it is still fairly redundant - but now some of the characters have grown on me and have had a chance to develop into something more than just another generic fantasy tropes.

I enjoyed the pacing with this story. We follow a few different groups of people in differing plot lines and it breaks everything up nicely. I found all the story lines equally entertaining and was never disappointed when jumping from one to another.

Still, through it all, this is very much a Terry Brooks book. There is a lot of travelings and a fair share of teenage angst. I've come to accept that from a Brooks book, though.

All in all, I enjoyed it. Very typical Terry Brooks fare. And if that's your thing I see no reason why you wouldn't enjoy this one. I have high hopes for, Witch Wraith, the concluding chapter in this trilogy

Shawn Speakman says

A great book! The Dark Legacy of Shannara is quickly becoming one of my favorite Terry Brooks stories. I loved the set up in Wards of Faerie but Bloodfire Quest ratchets it all up to a new level. By the time I finished the book, I just couldn't believe what Terry had done!

Nothing is as it seems. For those people who say that Terry has become predictable, they are wrong, wrong, wrong. The last chapters of this book will leave you reading late into the night and the last page will have you fling the book across the room!

I have to say that Aphenglow Elessedil is quickly becoming one of my favorite characters. She is amazing in this book and so multi-dimensional it's hard to go into it. Like Redden and Railing, Aphen has a character arc that is unknown -- but fun to read.

Can't wait for Witch Wraith!

Allison Barron says

I usually only write a book review if I love the book; I know how much work an author puts into his writing and I don't want to drag him down just because his story wasn't my cup of tea. However, Terry Brooks is my

favourite author and I've written many good reviews of his work, so I don't feel bad telling you I was a bit disappointed by this book.

I loved the first book in the series, Wards of Faerie, as it set up the story just right with a perfect amount of suspense and adventure. Bloodfire Quest, however, just seemed to drag on without progressing the plot much at all. Not only that, but I'm confused as to why it is called "Bloodfire Quest" in the first place, as I didn't think that was the main part of the tale. They do set off to find the Bloodfire, but I felt the heart of the story was with the Ard Rhys and Redden who are trapped in the Forbidding.

Also, I liked the love story brewing between Cymrian and Aphenglow since the previous book, but then it abruptly came to a climax without really climaxing--I didn't feel as tense or involved as I should have.

Eventually the story did progress about half way through the book, and it was still a good adventure, just not what I've come to expect from Terry Brooks. I will still read the next one, of course, and I hope it will draw me in more like Wards of Faerie did.

Sam Charlton says

I was hesitant to buy this novel after the first book in the Dark Legacy series, which I didn't enjoy due to poor characterisation, lack of originality and a mind-numbingly slow pace. However, I found 'The Bloodfire Quest' a pleasant surprise. Although the book does have a few too many similarities to the Elfstones of Shannara, I found this book a lot more exciting, darker and faster paced than the last.

The highlights of this book for me (without spoilers) were:

- some exciting, well-written fight scenes
- development of some characters: Mirai, Aphen, Cymrian especially
- the assassin, Stoon, was quite intriguing in this book. I'd found him a bit boring and stereotypical in the first book but Brooks developed him well in this story
- I enjoyed the descriptions of Kraal Reach and the Forbidding, dark and scary
- some interesting romantic interest started to develop throughout the novel...although I sometimes feel Brook's treatment of love and romance is a bit simplistic.

I would have given this novel four stars but there were a few things that let it down:

- the Ohmsford twins are quite simply, boring. Plus, I can't tell them apart. Their personalities seem identical
- there were too many quests in this book - too many discussions about the next journey before packing up to leave. It lessened the impact, and the excitement, after a while.

On the whole, I found this book an enjoyable read. There were some classic moments that lovers of epic fantasy will really enjoy - but, unfortunately, Bloodfire Quest lacks the originality that made Elfstones one of Terry Brook's best books.

Gary says

Hope this is just an issue of being the middle book of a trilogy but i didn't enjoy this one very much.

NocturnalBlaze says

Come secondo capitolo di una trilogia, questo romanzo funziona benissimo e testimonia quanto Brooks sia un autore esperto, capace di creare le giuste atmosfere, di azzeccare la narrazione e di farsi amare, nonostante l'impianto della trama e gli espedienti utilizzati in questo romanzo non siano poi così diversi rispetto a un qualunque altro racconto della sua produzione.

La storia scorre velocemente, complice la buona dose di azione: i capitoli dedicati al Forbidding risultano avvincenti e si riesce ad entrare maggiormente in connessione con i personaggi mentre si seguono le loro peripezie in questo mondo oscuro e pieno di pericoli, e l'altro filone narrativo, quello legato all'Elcrys è altrettanto ricco di colpi di scena e di approfondimento psicologico. Confermo che per chi è più pratico dell'autore le trame potrebbero risuonare in qualche modo familiari (vedi la minaccia dei demoni su Paranor, la necessità di scegliere una nuova persona che possa incarnare l'albero, la presenza di personaggi delle solite centrali famiglie), eppure c'è quell'elemento di novità e di coinvolgimento che riesce ugualmente a rendere avvincente questa nuova avventura a Shannara.

Si percepisce chiaramente la sua natura di "libro di mezzo", che si concentra molto sul gettare le basi per l'epica conclusione della trilogia, ma non per questo si ha la sensazione che non accada nulla di significativo, anzi. I personaggi vengono esplorati con un approfondimento maggiore rispetto al primo libro, ai nuovi misteri si affianca comunque la risoluzione di alcuni conflitti precedenti e l'introduzione di ulteriori filoni narrativi viene fatta sapientemente, creando aspettativa, ma, allo stesso tempo, fornendo una lettura godibile anche sul momento.

Brooks sa chiaramente quello che fa e riesce a mescolare sapientemente ottime scene di combattimento con momenti più riflessivi e conflittuali, intrighi politici e colpi di scena - che in questo libro hanno una parte molto importante - con la tessitura di relazioni amorose, il tutto in un equilibrio evidentemente calibrato dalla lunga esperienza. Il risultato è un secondo capitolo che funziona bene, si legge piacevolmente e che crea delle buone basi per un interessante conclusione, strizzando l'occhio agli appassionati del mondo di Shannara con tanti riferimenti a personaggi e situazioni passate (nel bene e nel male di questo tipo di approccio) e riuscendo a creare una buona continuazione di avventura anche per i nuovi arrivati in questa dimensione fantastica.

Qualche difettuccio è comunque riscontrabile, vedi la già citata sensazione di "già visto", ma anche alcuni momenti che possono essere considerati banali o superflui ai fini della narrazione, però nel complesso direi che si è rivelato un discreto volume di mezzo, che intrattiene e non delude, sempre conservando la classica impronta di questo autore.

Albert Riehle says

I need to preface my comments by saying that Terry Brooks is one of all-time most favorite authors and that I have a really hard time reading other writers in the fantasy genre because I find that they simply don't compare. He's a master storyteller, his characters are rich and full, they stay with you long after you've put one of his books down. At his worst, a Terry Brooks book is better than most other author's best. And even one of his less-than-stellar books is worth reading.

That said, I'm afraid this is one of those less-than-stellar ones. I found the plot lines to be redundant retreads and I say that as someone who was excited by the prospect of a new twist on those same quests when I found out that's what this book would be about. But frankly, the new twists were lacking. I don't want to go into specifics because this will be a spoiler-free review, but it just seemed to me that there were parts of this book that were almost the exact same as scenes from the previous books where these particular quests happened before.

Even more disappointing for me is that the actual "bloodfire quest" is such an obscure undertaking. In Elfstones of Shannara, where the original bloodfire quest happened, the characters were in the dark about what was happening. Everything was unknown. They had to find their way the best they could. And even though we have strong, competent, intelligent characters who survive that book in positions of power apparently not a single one of them decided to write anything down with even the slightest specificity, essentially guaranteeing that somewhere down the road people would have to go through it all over again, as blindly as they did.

No. Nuh-uh.

I also understand that there have to be obstacles, but I'm tired of incompetent Elven kings and princes. I'm tired of the Federation leader with their assassins. It seems to me it's time for some new obstacles--especially in a book where so many previous plot lines are reused.

I looked down at my Kindle display at the point in which I finally got excited about something and was sad to see I had read 80% of the book. I hope that means that this was mostly just a "middle book" problem more than anything else but frankly, even at 6-month release intervals I'm tired of this format where a story is told over three books from Brooks. I think that's part of the problem. Everything is drawn out. The plot's meander a bit. The pacing is slower. I'm tired of cliffhangers. I really want some of the old, sharp, amazing, self-contained stories that Brooks writes when he's at his best.

I'll keep reading. There will never be a Terry Brooks book that I fail to buy the day it comes out. And as I began, even at his worst, he's still the best--but when you're the best you are judged to a higher standard and your fans should hold you to that higher standard. This one just didn't meet it.

Pam Blome says

Wow! I just finished this book! My copy of this book was an ARC copy from NetGalley and the publisher, Del Rey Books. I was first introduced to Terry Brooks and Shannara in the 1990s when I took a young adult literature class as part of my Library Science program, and I was hooked! All the books are well written, the world building is spectacular, the characters well developed. I loved being back in this world and catching up with these wonderful characters. Bloodfire Quest is the second book in the Dark Legacy of Shannara trilogy. It continues the adventures of the Ard Rhys, Khyber Elessedil, Aphenglow and Arlingphan Elessidil, the Ohmford twins, Railing and Redden, and others as they strive to recover the Elfstones, save the holy tree, the Ellcrys, and restore the evil to the Forbidden. The Federation leaders have their own agenda in all this, too. All in all, there is a lot of captivating action right through the last page. In fact when I read the last page, I tried to turn the electronic page, and there was no more! I literally said, "No!!, I need to know what happens next! You can't leave me hanging like this!" Needless to say, I can hardly wait for Witch Wraith!

Mike Walsh says

I read my first book in the Shannara series 19 years ago, when I was 12 years old.

I will read them for as long as they exist. The more fantasy books I read the more I come to realize that while there are more technically sound authors out there and better stories to be found, Terry Brooks delivers a consistent read again and again, once or twice a year for the last 30 years.

This book feels like something of a greatest hits... The Ellcrys failing, characters trapped inside the Forbidding, a hint of Grianne Ohmsford coming back in to play, dragons (rarely seen throughout the 20+ books that comprise the series), and a healthy dose of Federation plotting and potential Elven treachery.

As the middle book in the Trilogy - this book is essentially in 2 sections. The first half cleans up the first book (Wards of Faerie) and resolves the conflicts and cliffhangers that we were left with - with our main characters scattered in 3 main plot lines. Terry isn't really messing around here, as side characters fall by the wayside at a rapid rate. The middle of the book (somewhat abruptly) signals the transition to new quests and puts the wheels in motion towards the events that will signal the end of the trilogy.

This book has some big time highlights - most notably the one on one battle between Khyber Ellessedil and Tael Riverine and the assassin vs. assassin square off between Stoon and Cymrian towards the end of the book.

Fans of Terry Brooks will already know that some efforts are slightly better than others - this is one of the better ones. This trilogy takes the sting off the slightly disappointing Legends of Shannara 2 book set that comprised 2010-2011. Best part - only need to wait a few months for the final novel to be released in June.

For those who haven't read Terry Brooks before - it would take some time but it's worth investing some time in the world of Shannara. It hasn't let me down in 19 years. I liked it when I was 12, I still enjoyed it when I was in college, and now that I'm an adult I always make sure my schedule is clear whenever new books in the series are released.

Lighthearted says

Bloodfire Quest picks up where Wards of Faerie left off. The quest to find the missing Elfstones has hit a serious snag — some of quest members are trapped in the desolate Forbidding with a scary assortment of dangerous creatures. The others remain in the Four Lands, besieged by vicious predators and unable to find a way to rescue their friends. Meanwhile, back in Arborlan, the Ellcrys communicates to one of her Chosen that she is dying. Unlike Amberle in The Elfstones of Shannara, this Chosen knows exactly what this means for her and she's terrified.

I may need to re-read Wards of Faerie — I know the Shannara books are all very similar to each other but I found myself confused — I thought that all of the Chosen had been murdered except for one but I must be remembering the very first Elfstones book. Sigh. Other than my confusion, I mostly enjoyed this return to the world of Shannara. I am still hoping for more of a story within a story — I want to know more about the romance between the Elf girl and the Darkling boy. Is he now the creature known as Tael Riverine and he is focused on Grianne Ohmsford because she resembles his first love? As far as the Ring goes . . . it has a

different sort of power than Tolkien's but I think I would have gone another direction. We'll see how it plays out when Witch Wraith comes out this summer!

Cameron says

I am really enjoying this latest installment of the Shannara series - dark being the operative word in "Dark Legacy". This is a soft 5 star; it is not great literature but I would strongly recommend it to anyone who reads fantasy and recommend this series as start point for people who don't.

By linking "The Word and the Void" to Shannara the adult level of this series has stepped up with truly vicious antagonists of such power that not everyone is going to make it out. As much as I enjoyed the fleshing out of the world of Shannara with "The Voyage of the Jerle Shannara" and "The High Druid" series, they seemed a little formulaic in terms of most characters surviving and the baton is handed on - this is not the case in this series! I was really interested to see the Federation villain in this series creating once-men - could it be we get to see the difference between chaotic badness (Jarka Ruus) and pure evil unseen since the "Genesis of Shannara"?

Another hats off to Terry Brooks for keeping the interest up and being very readable - the book I read prior to this was about 540 pages long, but was so ponderous and dense to read to that I took 10 days to get through it - I knocked off the 340 pages of this book in a bit over a day!

Beth says

This book did not progress much from the first one and felt like ground already covered. I will read the next one because of the characters.

Darcy says

The Shanara series was my first introduction to fantasy. I read the first one while in high school and loved it. But I am thinking that this series need to come to an end, especially as the author is starting to recycle his own story lines, not once, but twice. We once again need a new Elcrys and are back in the forbidding. I loved the first book with the Elcrys, was shocked to learn just what it took for the tree to be reborn, the second time around, not so much. The same can be said with the action in the forbidding. I will probably keep reading these books because after so many years I want to know how it ends, but I won't be waiting for them like I used to.

Geoff says

This book picks up right after the first book "Wards of Faerie" and it just gets worse for the group of heroes. The Ard Rhys and party are still in the Forbidding and that is bad, very bad, and Aphenglow Elesedil has taken her sister to the Bloodfire to renew the Ellcrys, but the idiot humans are pursuing them thinking there is magic to be found. And the elves are starting to get ready for the failing of the Forbidding. And another

quest to bring back a former druid is underway (which I won't spoil). There are a lot of storylines going on, and some get skipped for a while, but it's all good, because it's like chaos is going on in The Four Lands, and that's how the story flows.

Brooks is not being nice here, it's one of his darkest series (and this book specifically) that he has ever written, and I like it. It reminds me of his earlier work like The Elfstones of Shannara" which is his best work, in my opinion, and so far these first two books are as good as anything he has written. You know somehow this is going to end up fine in the end, but right now after reading this second book in the series I don't know how, as he's just decimated everyone that was introduced in the first book in this series. It's very exciting, and it's been making me turn the pages as fast as I can read wanting more. Great stuff; the best Brooks in a long while, and highly recommended!

eyes.2c says

"Forgiven; embraced; remembered."

"It all came down to Aleia Omarosian—the first of the Chosen, the original Ellcrys, but also the one responsible for the theft of the missing Elfstones."

I'm with Arlingfant Elesedil. When Ellcrys really chooses you run from the scene screaming. After all we know what happened last time.

Who wants to turn into a rooted tree even if it does live for age upon age?

Arlingfant and her sister Aphenglow Elesedil are of the Chosen who live at Arborlon and tend to the tree Ellcrys. The tree that maintains the barrier between the Four Lands and the Forbidding. But Ellcrys is dying and needs a successor.

Ellcrys has chosen Arlingfant.

"You will carry my seed to the Bloodfire and immerse it and then return to me, and through you I will be renewed and the Forbidding will hold".

Arlingfant knows what this will mean for her!

Aphenglow knows about the elf stones and knows that these might be all that stand between her sister and her frightening future. The search is on. Aphenglow also knows that she and her sister are linked by heredity back to Aleia Omarosian and that this is not coincidence.

Once again Brooks had me wading through a sea of unbelievable action, a quest for the magical Elfstone, the terrifying Forbidding and the race to save the Four Lands. The choices to save the four lands and block the creatures from the Forbidding is growing slimmer. A maelstrom of relentless action from the opening pages.

A NetGalley ARC

Dan says

I've been a fan of Mr. Brooks since I was a kid and first read Magic Kingdom for Sale: Sold. I've been keeping up with his work, always reading and enjoying the new books as they come out. So it really pains me to say this, but I can't help but think that he's either getting old or lazy or both.

I was first disappointed with the Legends of Shannara duology and now the Dark Legacy of Shannara continues the trend. I felt like in The Bloodfire Quest Mr. Brooks is just recycling all his old books. I know

that there are certain tropes that always happen in the Shannara series. Some Druid goes to the Hadeshorn for guidance. Some Ohmsford kids is visited by the King of the Silver River. Lots of redshirted Elven Hunters and Troll Guards die for no good reason just after being given a name. But those are small, formulaic things. They are Mr. Brooks' signature between the lines. The Bloodfire Quest goes way beyond that. Oh no! The Ellcrys is in danger (The Genesis of Shannara, The Elfstones of Shannara, High Druid of Shannara). Oh no! The forbidding is coming down and we need a Chosen to become the new Ellcrys (The Elfstones of Shannara). Oh no! The Ard Rhys is trapped behind the forbidding and some Ohmsford kid needs to save her (High Druid of Shannara). Oh no! Paranor is under attack (Sword of Shannara, High Druid of Shannara, First King of Shannara). All those were cool ideas the first time they happened, but I don't really want to see them done again. Oh no! Demons are coming to destroy us all (Word and the Void, Landover, The Genesis of Shannara, Legends of Shannara, The Sword of Shannara, The Elfstones of Shannara, The Wishsong of Shannara, High Druid of Shannara).

I'm also sick of all the Ohmsford kid clones. Every single one of them is essentially the exact same person. I really have a hard time telling the differences between them. I'll admit, sometimes the Wishsong expresses itself a bit differently, and once one of them was a girl, but after that, they're just the same person over and over again. But here in the Dark Legacy trilogy, it's even worse. Mr. Brooks cloned Ohmsford twins who are indistinguishable besides being in different places.

In the more recent Shannara novels, it seems like characters spend interminable hours searching records and histories, looking for the precious kernels of information vital to their quest. This has happened enough times and there are enough people doing it that you'd think that maybe someone would figure out the need for some good indexes for this information, or maybe they could even compile info on specific topics into some good summaries or treatises. Come on! It gets really boring having pages and pages devoted to this stuff. I'm also sick of following every viewpoint characters minute thoughts. Mr. Brooks finds it necessary to follow every meandering thought process chronicling the evolution of viewpoints and opinions in excruciatingly exhaustive detail. Not needed.

There is one thing that I think is cool about the Dark Legacy of Shannara trilogy. I'm glad Mr. Brooks finally had the great idea to have one of his characters think of using the blue SEEKING elfstones to find all the lost elfstones. I'm sure I'm not the only fan to have thought of that giant plot hole. I'm just disappointed with how he's going about it.

Mr. Brooks, I want to see more about what's going on outside of the Four Lands. There's an entire world out there! Surely western North America of the post-apocalyptic magical future isn't the only place with some action and cool mutant races. Why haven't airships made it out there? Going to Korea/Parkasia in the Voyage of the Jerle Shannara isn't enough.

I miss some cool stuff from the old books, tropes I wouldn't mind seeing again. The awesome Sword of Leah and the men who wielded it, bad-A Borderlanders, and sweet druids like Allanon and Walker Boh.

I give The Bloodfire Quest three stars rather than two because as a stand-alone novel it's still good, but in context of the greater work, it's quite repetitive. Really Mr. Brooks, maybe it's time to leave Shannara alone and try out something new and different (not Landover).

Sergio says

This series is much better than the preceding two (High Druid of Shannara and Legends of Shannara). However, there's still too much repetition in the story, characters, situations, settings for me to rate it better than three stars. I'm enjoying it, but feels too familiar. Another complaint I have with this volume in particular is that the story doesn't move along that much. There's a lot of filler here, interesting, but filler none the less. I feel that this volume served the only purpose of creating as much chaos for our heroes. I hope things become clearer in the third volume, things are hectic and jumbled at this point to say the least. Also,

the magic use is frustrating at best. There are so many things that can be resolved with correct use of the Wishsong or the Elfstones but there's always a convenient 'something' that prevents its use. Either fear of being discovered, or lack of imagination or experience. That sometimes gets on my nerves, but I guess that it would make things too easy for the protagonists. A logical counterargument would be: Brooks shouldn't have given this round of Ohmsfords/Ellessedils such a powerful gift to begin with. Finally, when I was reading I remembered the red shirts in Star Trek. I imagined Elven Hunters, Rovers and trolls wearing them, it seems that they're less than cannon fodder. It doesn't pay well to be one of these guys. So If you've already invested time reading the first volume, or have been reading about Shannara for a long time like myself, it's not a bad idea to read the latest, just don't expect anything really original.
