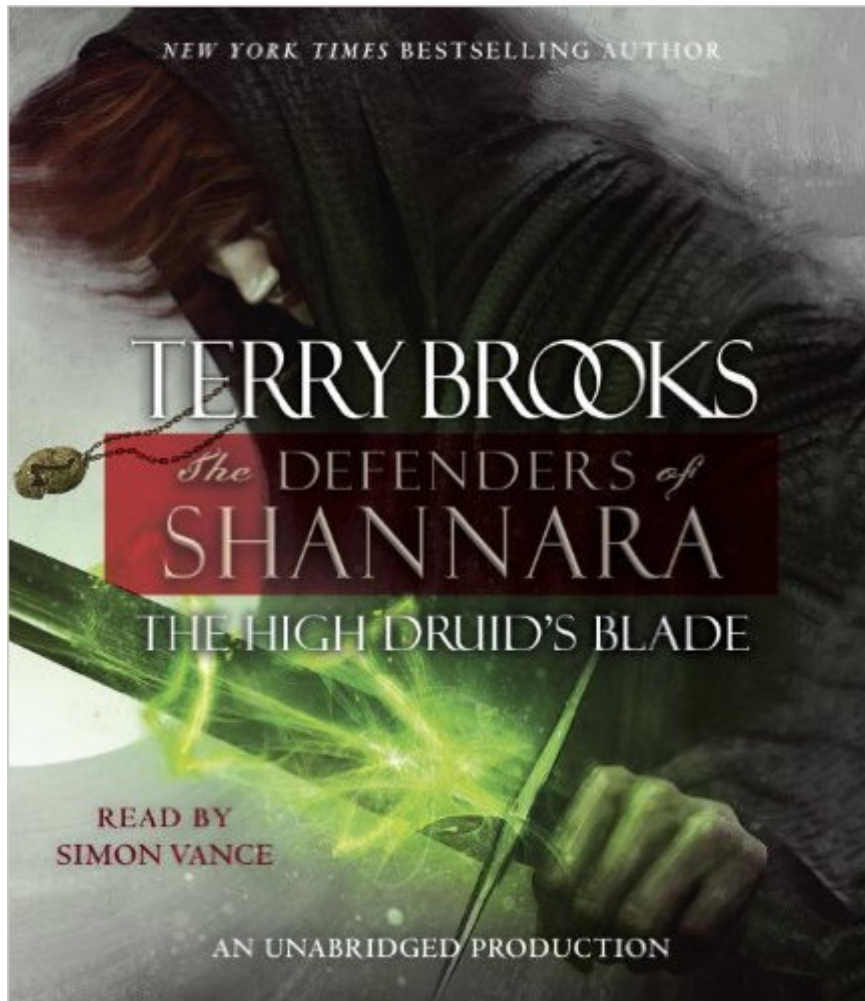


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The High Druid's Blade: The Defenders Of Shannara



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Legend has it that Paxon Leah is descended from the royals and warriors who once ruled the Highlands and waged war with magical weapons. But those kings, queens, and heroes are long gone, and there is nothing enchanted about the antique sword that hangs above Paxon's fireplace. Running his family's modest shipping business, Paxon leads a quiet life until extraordinary circumstances overturn his simple world . . . and rewrite his destiny.

When his brash young sister is abducted by a menacing stranger, Paxon races to her rescue with the only weapon he can find. And in a harrowing duel, he is stunned to discover powerful magic unleashed within him and within his ancestors' ancient blade. But his formidable new ability is dangerous in untrained hands, and Paxon must master it quickly because his nearly fatal clash with the dark sorcerer Arcannen won't be his last. Leaving behind home and hearth, he journeys to the keep of the fabled Druid order to learn the secrets of magic and earn the right to become their sworn protector. But treachery is afoot deep in the Druids' ranks. And the blackest of sorcery is twisting a helpless innocent into a murderous agent of evil. To halt an insidious plot that threatens not only the Druid order but all the Four Lands, Paxon Leah must summon the profound magic in his blood and the legendary mettle of his elders in the battle fate has chosen him to fight.

Praise for *The High Druid's Blade*

- "High adventure, lots of action, and appealing [characters] . . . a good place for new readers to jump into the author's world." *Library Journal*
- "Terry Brooks is a grandmaster of the fantasy genre, and his latest will both captivate and surprise readers. . . . It's truly magical." *Associated Press*
- "Brooks once again gifts readers with a breathless adventure in this new Shannara trilogy, the *Defenders of Shannara*. The action begins in the first chapter and doesn't end until the last page." *RT Book Reviews*
- "A great place to introduce yourself to all of Brooks' novels . . . [*The High Druid's Blade*] is a great stand-alone book and will definitely throw you headfirst into the world of Shannara." *Whedonopolis*
- "The *High Druid's Blade* is an intriguing, action-filled novel that you are sure to love." *Faire's Fair Book Reviews*
- "Readers both new [and old] will enjoy reading *The High Druid's Blade*." *The Arched Doorway*
- "An enjoyable read . . . I will definitely be picking up the next book when it comes out." *Jessie Reads Everything*
- "Praise for Terry Brooks: The *Sword of Shannara* is an unforgettable and wildly entertaining epic, animated by Terry Brooks' cosmically generative imagination and storytelling joy." *Karen Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *Swamplandia!**
- "J.R.R. 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'

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*

From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: The Defenders of Shannara

Audio CD: 9 pages

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (July 8, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804190631

ISBN-13: 978-0804190633

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (505 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #761,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (B) > Brooks, Terry #345 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy >

Science Fiction #417 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Three or four generations have passed in Shannara since the events depicted in the Dark Legacy of Shannara trilogy and it's time to revisit the lands and see what the current denizens are up to. It appears that not much has changed: the Federation is still in place, with its restrictions on the use of magic; the land of Leah is still verdant farmland; and the Druids still occupy Paranor. Some things have changed: Since the days of Railing, Redding and Mirai, the Ohmsford line seems to have disappeared while the Leah line is currently contained by only two. A brother and sister pair. One thing that is still constant though, is that the Ard Rhys of the Druids is Alphenglow Ellesedil. She is now 150 years old and has managed to live this long by liberal uses of the Druid Sleep. As is usual with Terry Brooks novels, we have the two young people who are the inheritors of a long line of magic users who are aware of the legends, but have not displayed any way of using it. This changes within the first few chapters, of course, and off we go on quests and adventures and start finding out what's really been going on in the world. Of course, there must be a villain involved who is the current master of the dark arts, and who is plotting to take over the world. In this book, we are introduced to him very early on - his name is Arcannen. Arcannen kidnaps Chrysallin, and her brother - Paxon - takes the family sword from off the mantel and is off to help her escape. As it

happens, the family sword is the fabled Sword of Leah and we are off on the romping adventure. Reading a new Terry Brooks novel is always enjoyable for me. He tends to release his works as trilogies and they have become somewhat formulaic over the years.

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