



## The Hounds of God

*Judith Tarr*

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## **The Hounds of God** Judith Tarr

Alfred has settled down at last amongst his own people, as Lord Chancellor of Rhiyana. But old enemies will not let Alfred savor his new life, and he must prepare for the ultimate battle of wills against an evil whose power is even greater than his own.

## **The Hounds of God Details**

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Author : Judith Tarr

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## From Reader Review The Hounds of God for online ebook

### Maya Morikawa says

#### Great ending

With reluctance,I finished this.All the ends tied up,and lives going on.The characters still very much in my mind,thanks for a good read.

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### KA says

Gorgeously written but sad as all get out. Tarr's writing reminds me of Patricia McKillip's, but I prefer McKillip's magic-making and its joy to the real-world loss and strife of Tarr's semi-historical novels. Still, for folks with a higher angst tolerance, this is a very good book.

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### Margareth8537 says

Bitter ending to the trilogy.

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### Kes says

Meh. The writing is delightful, as always, but I found myself disliking Alf immensely.

I really didn't like how *good* Alf is - a fact that good people acknowledge. (The antagonists are all biased against Alf for not being human, rather than any personality defect, so there is no hint of Alf's poor character from that direction). Alf inherently behaves like a Christian (although this is not stated) - he turns the other cheek, does his best to hold his temper, forgives his enemies and recognises the good in them - and, well, is basically good. Contrast this with most other novels - I haven't read many fantasy novels about the main character carrying an unlimited capacity for forgiveness that reading about it feels annoying. I want the main character to be more active - lash out, exact retribution, anything other than his quiet passivity.

I actually like the underlying religiosity of the text - it's very subtly interweaved into the text and their actions. Perhaps my dislike of this book arises due to how alien Alf - and his sentiments - appear to me. You could even say that I don't really want to read about good people being the ideal of good.

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### April Steenburgh says

Alfred is a monk of St. Ruan's Abbey- devoted to his Brothers and his God, a scholar of rare talent, and very much more than a man. A foundling, he was taken in and raised by the Abbey as one of their own, and while his colleagues have grown to old men, he remains no more than a youth.

The quiet Abbey life that Alfred clings to is pulled away from him as he is sent out to the world, carrying a

message of violence to the Richard Coeur de Leon. Once out of the Abbey's comforting walls, Alfred cannot help but acknowledge something other than human blood runs through his veins. His eerie beauty and otherworldly skills catch the eye of the Hounds of God, who swear to purge him and all others like him from the Church, as well as the world itself.

From the temperate north to the sweltering heat of the Crusades, the Hound and the Falcon trilogy is a magnificent journey. There is a beauty, an acknowledgement of the sublime, that swells through every page. Pausing and closing the book was like coming up for air, almost disorienting, definitely displeasing as I wanted nothing more than to keep reading. Rarely have I been touched so by a book, but there is something bare, brutal and honest to Alfred and his search for identity and meaning that I could not help but be moved.

All else, all grand crusading and conflict aside, it reaches down to the root of identity and poses questions there that inflict an almost sympathetic bout of introspection upon the reader. And it is perfect.

Ms. Tarr has woven a depth of history and cultural detail in her books that make the world breathe. The characters and settings are whole, believable, and obviously lovingly researched.

Highly recommended.

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### **Kristyn Jensen says**

I loved this final book in the series!! So glad I finished the trilogy.

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### **Amy VanGundy says**

Man, I loved this series. Not every book is equally awesome, but the overall look at Europe in the time of the Crusades, the Church, Rome vs the Byzantine empire, the Church's heavy engagement in politics, the twisted use of doctrine and scripture to persecute those who don't fall in line, etc. is FASCINATING. It's like the Spanish Inquisition, but slightly different century. When Yale PhD's write historically-based fantasy novels....wow. Just wow.

As the final book in the trilogy we know bad things are coming and that sense of looming dread is more than met. It is a tough read, but well worth it.

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### **Arlene Allen says**

These were read at an awesome time in my life - was going for my MLS, working as a receptionist for an unopened facility (meaning I received no one!) so all I did all day was sit and read. Yes, essentially I was getting paid to sit and read. I read over 100 books that year. Why can't I get that gig now???????

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### **Helen says**

Despite the evils of the church, the kindred retain their faith. Why?

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## **Emilie says**

I know I read this near the time it was originally published, so the details are a little fuzzy in my mind this many years later. I remember that I really liked the series. I don't think I own the series anymore, so I'll look in the library for it. (This was decades before there were e-readers, and I had the books in hardcover.)

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