



Shroud of Eternity

Terry Goodkind

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***Shroud of Eternity* picks up where Terry Goodkind's *New York Times* bestseller *Death's Mistress* left off, promising a thrilling brew of bloodshed, sex, deception, and sorcery.**

The formidable sorceress Nicci and her companions—the newly powerless Richard Rahl and the youthful Bannon—set out on another quest after driving ruthless Norukai slavers out of Renda Bay. Their mission: restore Rahl's magic and, for Nicci, save the world.

Guided by the witch-woman Red's mysterious prophecy, the trio makes their way south of Kol Adair towards a wondrous city shrouded behind time, Ildakar. But the grotesque omens on their path to Rahl's salvation—severed Norukai heads on pikes, a genetically modified monster, and a petrified army of half a million—are just a taste of the unimaginable horrors that await within the Shroud of Eternity.

The Nicci Chronicles

1. *Death's Mistress*
2. ***Shroud of Eternity***

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Shroud of Eternity Details

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From Reader Review Shroud of Eternity for online ebook

J.A. Ironside says

No. I am just not doing this to myself again. No more reading the same plot barely recycled. No more supporting Mr Goodkind's views. And definitely not after the tasteless way he treated his cover artist.

Perry Gough says

Very disappointing.

Although not bad and the dark creativity of Goodkind is still rather warped I just felt that the characters nor the plot was very good this time round.

Nicci imo was made to look weak when compared to how kick ass she was in the last book. The villains are kind of stereotypes and really do nothing new.

Overall this book missed out on having a good villain, it made the main character look too weak and the action was lacking this time round.

I will definitely read the next book in the series but I just wasn't satisfied this time around.

Preston says

Oh Terry Goodkind. Some of your books are so captivating. It seems like you want to squeeze every penny out of fans like myself who can't help but seek closure with these series and even though the series should be done. So, in all fairness, I will point out what I believe to be the pros and cons of this book.

**** Some minor spoilers ahead ****

Pros: An expansive but connected world, well depicted fight scenes.

Cons:

1. The protagonist, Nicci is essentially a female Jesus who preaches to everyone she meets about how unjust they are in an attempt to proselytize them over to the ways of Richard Rahl. Her fighting ability is so inconsistent, she is supposed to be an extraordinarily battle hardened sorceress but when fighting a "mord sith" like opponent, she suddenly forgets that magic doesn't work on them, and then tries using magic twice?

2. Bannon is a shallow character whose maturity and fighting ability is really inconsistent. It is hard to accept he has this enormously painful and tragic upbringing but at the same time is extraordinary naive about the cruelties of the world. Sometimes he fights and he is near invincible with his sword, then other times he has trouble fighting a bear.

3. The narration in the book is really irritating. The book will repeat passages over and over to the reader, as if you had the attention span of a five year old. About every five chapters Nicci goes into a monologue about what a great guy Richard Rahl is. Every chapter we are told (as the readers) how slavery is bad, and the government is corrupt.

4. It doesn't seem feasible to me that you could lecture an isolated city's governing body repeatedly about how corrupt and evil they are and they would just politely listen. It isn't normal behavior for someone to repeatedly insult your way of life and you basically respond "well we really aren't so bad... just spend some more time with us!"

So anyway, this has gone on awhile. I wish this series would have ended with the Imperial Order, then it became a stretch to add a few more books, now it is just getting ridiculous. It is so enormously convenient that there is a hidden city isolated from the world that is suddenly exposed to the main characters...

Anyway, I know I will continue reading Terry Goodkind's novels but I do not recommend this book to anyone who hasn't started it.

Kayla Johnson says

Paige (TheBookVulture) says

I've never read one of Goodkind's books, and his behaviour assures that I never will.

Put up various posts on Facebook, publicly insulting and humiliating the cover artist. And then deleted comments from people who didn't agree with him, and blocked them. No apology to the artist, although did try and make light of the situation by saying that both of them got loads of publicity from this. Disgustingly unprofessional.

Lauren (Northern Plunder) says

anything but good or kind tbh

David Maldonado says

I'm happy to bring to you my thoughts and musings about Terry Goodkind's latest book. Anyone who knows me he's my favorite author, so I try my best to give my most unbiased opinion. He wrote The Sword of Truth series and began his spin-off series now known as The Nicci Chronicles just last year. The first book in this new spin-off series is called Death's Mistress. Be sure to check out his entire catalogue of books because he's an amazing Fantasy writer.

Many have criticized Goodkind's later books due to his constant "preachy" spiel. I do concur with the masses that his later books in The Sword of Truth series were filled with religious rants and constant repetition. However, Goodkind seems to be taking a turn for the better and is showing some of his old writing prowess. Death's Mistress while a great start to this new spin-off series, I will admit Goodkind seemed to include too many different things which threw off the cohesiveness of the story. For one, there were too

many "villainous" characters in the story which made it hard for a reader to take any of them serious. However, Goodkind rectified those few pitfalls from that book and completely transformed everything in Shroud of Eternity.

We find our ragtag pairing of Nicci and Nathan trekking deeper into the Old World, past Kol-Adair to the ancient and mysterious city of Ildakar. We quickly find out the city is in tact and inhabited with the wizards whose powers rivals of that of old, reason being their city has been around for over 15 centuries. Ildakar protected itself with a powerful enchantment known as the shroud of eternity, which took the city out of time and space. This shroud was a protective measure against an invading army that sought the destruction of the city. It's ruling class of gifted nobles are damn near immortal. They have created what they believe to be a Utopia, but like all Utopias, something sinister plagues the city underneath its picture-perfect image the gifted nobles try to uphold.

The mysterious sinister element is what immediately draws you to the story. Nicci as always is leery of what she has walked into, while Nathan, a scholar in every sense of the world, seeks to find out everything he possibly can about the city and its inhabitants. After all, Nathan and Nicci are on a mission (I won't reveal what it is just in case you haven't read the first book), so they hope to find answers in Ildakar. We see the magical city show it's rot when we see the fighting area where people are forced to fight to the death against each other and against sinister magical creatures that were created with "fleshomancy". We see blood magic, slavery, but fleshomancy seems to be the most cunning and dark element to Ildakar. Humans seem to be dolls, mere matter to use to create new creatures through magical creation. Through this magical creation the gifted nobles have created a race of human cattle that are used for pleasure, hard labor, and worse of all, food. YES! You read that right! CANABALISM! Goodkind uses these sinister world-building tid-bits to remind us of his views of social justice, social hierarchy, and social engineering.

Nathan for the most part struggles to make a dominant presence in the book. He complains about something (I won't say what, since it's a spoiler for book one), and bemoans the entire time. His obsession with fixing his problem causes quite a hardship for him because he gets himself into some sticky situations, particularly the wizard that does the "fleshomancy". Bannon ironically, the non-magical one, spots the rotten element of Ildakar a lot sooner than his magical friends. He finds ways to show his own form of heroism, despite being in a city full of powerful gifted. Nicci in my eyes struggled more in this book. She was the most vulnerable I have ever seen her. She's in a city full of men and women who easily overpower her, despite having both Additive and Subtractive forms of magic. However, the last few chapters are her redemption and are some of the best Nicci scenes.

Goodkind reminds us of his critiques on the world with this installment. Power corrupts and when left to its own devices, breeds the kind of rot that is hard to get rid of. Shroud of Eternity takes great strides in being more cohesive than its predecessor and we find our characters the most vulnerable than we have seen, allowing for us as a reader to see how far they have come and how far they have to still grow. The cliffhanger at the end will have you reeling and make you curse Goodkind for his devious antics. It leaves readers off with many questions, but sets up the next book beautifully. It shall be a great book.

Bob Milne says

Although Shroud of Eternity feels like a step backward from Death's Mistress, a retreat into some of the narrative the flaws that mired the later books of The Sword of Truth, it was still a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Terry Goodkind continues to follow the odd coupling of Nicci and Nathan deeper into the Old World, beyond Tanimura and Kol Adair, and into the ancient city of Ildakar. An interesting bit of fable and myth, it

is a realm hidden from time and space by a magical shroud, raised at great cost over a thousand years ago to protect against an invading army. Its ruling class of magically gifted nobles are all but immortal, enjoying their glorious Utopia, but there is clearly something rotten beneath that perfection.

It's that rotten element that makes the novel so intriguing, especially with its corruption of magic and humanity. Blood magic and bloodsports, slavery and sacrifice, and fleshomancy are all dealt with over the course of the story, but it's the latter that is truly chilling. Human lives are mere playthings, raw material for magical experimentation, used to create monsters, super soldiers, and a race of human cattle. Goodkind uses those creations to explore some of his most familiar themes of social justice and social engineering, but somehow glosses over the question of cannibalism in a glaring fashion.

Nathan doesn't have a lot to do here, other than bemoan his lack of magic and desperately grasp at any the chance to restore his power. It sets him up as a victim, and leads to some foolish choices that are not in keeping with his character. Bannon fares much better, smelling the rotten underbelly of Ildakar long before the others, and coming around to a truly heroic role following a clichéd (but exciting) plot twist. It is Nicci who shines brightest here, and while it takes some time for her to do much more than sulk and skulk through the halls, she is a complete bad-ass in the final chapters.

The heavy-handed political and moral philosophy of *The Sword of Truth* makes an unfortunate return here, and it telegraphs some of the key plot twists in the second half. There were too many moments where I found myself thinking "Yup, saw that coming," but there were still some surprises.

Shroud of Eternity wasn't as solid as *Death's Mistress*, but it does have a fantastic cliff-hanger that promises some fun in the third volume.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary ARC of this title from the publisher in exchange for review consideration. This does not in any way affect the honesty or sincerity of my review.

Eric Allen says

<https://twitter.com/deharme/status/967636173626757120>

I think that pretty much sums up my opinion of Terry Goodkind as a person.

Your behavior is deplorable, Terry. You'll never see a cent of my money ever again. And once I've finished reviewing the last three of your *Sword of Truth* books, I doubt I'll ever bother picking them up again. You're a very hateful, vengeful, and pompous asshole. I still remember the time when I came to you with a book that I loved. A book that you could probably say saved my life. And you were annoyed with me because I wanted you to sign that, instead of your newest book. You were very flippant with me, and you audibly sighed when I tried to tell you why that book meant so much to me, like you couldn't be bothered to take the time to listen to someone whose life one of your books changed. I remember how you called your fans idiots when none of them could figure out the confusing mess that was the climax of one of your books. I remember how you broadcasted the name and contact information of someone you caught pirating your books on Facebook. Yes, he broke the law and stole from you, let the lawful authorities deal with it, rather than destroying the man's

life and reputation. The list goes on, but for the sake of brevity, I will end there. You have done so many things that show to the world what a horrible person you are. For me, this business with the cover of your latest book was the last straw. I'm done with you, Terry Goodkind. Some people deserve their fame. Some writers are genuinely decent, caring individuals who remember that their fans are the ones writing those royalty checks, and that the editorial and publication teams at your publisher are just doing their jobs to make your book a success. You're not one of them. What, exactly, do you plan to do when there are no artists left willing to work on your book covers for you, because they don't want to be publicly ridiculed and blasted by an ungrateful author? Blank or crudely photoshopped covers really grab the eye, don't they? Whatever tattered shreds of respect I may still have had for you, sir, are now gone. Goodbye.

Della Putri says

I don't need to read this book to know that it's trash

Anadia says

Laughably bad, if you know what I mean. The cover art is the only good thing about this book.

Ojo says

In Shroud of Eternity, Nicci, Nathan and Bannon encounter a society so thick with a strange kind of evil that the light of Lord Rahl's truth cannot permeate it. Instead, all of their efforts are focused on achieving their objectives while escaping the alluringly deadly city of Ildakar before the shroud is raised once more.

While they're in the city, each one of the three of them is sucked into whirlwinds of cruelty, rebellion and hidden agendas. They must each find their way across their different paths, paths riddled with deep secrets, dangerous women and powerful destructive magic.

In Shroud of Eternity, Terry Goodkind once again shows that he can consistently churn out first-rate epic fantasy all set in one big world.

The storytelling is smooth and easy. There are no needless embellishments in the form of plot-distracting world-building. The author continues his trend of writing books in such a way that they can be read as stand-alones.

The themes are typical Terry Goodkind: good, evil and the ideology of freedom. While other readers could complain about the recurring themes, the author's ability to present these themes in these kinds of stories is worthy of commendation.

Another cliffhanger ending! Hopefully the next book will be out soon!

Jonathan Wilson says

4.5 Stars

Lydia Wednesday says

This was just bad.

From the character descriptions to the dialogue, it was full of lazy writing. The amount of characters that ended almost every conversation with my boy or my dear was excessive and so frequent it completely took me out of the story every time. The main villain was somehow both willowy and voluptuous at the same time. Don't know how that works, but sure Goodkind. The big reveal of the rebel leader was lacking in any real suspense. The main character Nicci was completely mishandled. Her main motivation is to fulfill her vow to Richard, whom she loves but doesn't love her back. Gurl get over him, and maybe help other people because YOU want to. Also, how are you so great and agile in fighting when you are wearing an austere black dress. The cover art was HIGHLY misleading. I would have been more on board had Nicci been dressed in appropriate adventurer's garb. Also, thanks for making her backstory about her being abused and raped. Because that's the only motivation a woman can have, right.

This is my plea to you Terry Goodkind,

PLEASE STOP WRITING! RETIRE! JUST STOP!

Kthnxbai

I would not recommend this to anyone.

? Half Blood Prince ? says

yikes. maybe word it a little better next time.

to be honest, though, publishers really *should* start to work closer with authors and take their concerns into consideration throughout the cover art process, just so they dont screw up on some key details (plus can i just say no more whitewashing).

that said, the facebook post did *not* make it clear that the beef was with the publishers. plus, having a laugh at the publishers' decisions at the expense of the cover artist? not cool.
