



Tanequil

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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 Inkrim-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.

Tanequil Details

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Author : Terry Brooks

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Mark says

Tanequil was hit and miss. I found myself very interested for a few chapters in a row, and then Brooks would change focus and the story lagged for another two chapters before picking up again.

Penderrin is developing well as a character, and most of the plots, especially Grianne's and the Federation/Free-Born War can easily hold their own. However, WHY didn't Brooks dedicate just a bit more time to the Tanequil? I was hoping for something more along the lines of the "Stone King" from *The Druid of Shannara* or "Antrax" from the book of the same name. Naming a book after an entity that doesn't really get explained very well, even when the character interacting with it can communicate with plants and animals a la Aquaman... it's just not cool. I was looking forward to the confrontation for a book and a half and it just fell, well, predictably flat.

At this point, I'm glad I only have one book left in the Shannara series before reading other books. I've really enjoyed reading all of the novels, and Brooks is an awesome storyteller, but his writing style isn't the best, and I really need to mix in some other styles.

Rick says

With *Tanequil* Brooks continues the ongoing theme of sacrifice in the face of love and for the good of one's people. This is very much a book about another quest. Brooks' writing style is what saves an otherwise average plot. Brooks has a way of wrapping a character in another humanity that you can easily relate. However, the more powerful characters always seem to be at the mercy of the antagonists simply because they refuse, for whatever lame reason, to use the power at their disposal. Many of the evils could have been easily remedied if the characters weren't all so lacking in the confidence department.

Jefferson Coombs says

I enjoyed this book. I thought he moved the story ahead well. It has a climax but leaves the right amount of suspense for the final book in the trilogy.

Bende Zsuzsanna says

Great story :)

Markus says

Pen continues the journey to find the Tanequil in order to save his aunt, Grianne finally faces her greatest

adversary yet inside the Forbidding, the century-long war on the Prekkendorran takes a drastic new turn as the Federation invents a secret superweapon to crush the Free-born, and the two most powerful Druids left in Paranor become lovers while each also plots to dispose of the other.

Forget *Word & Void*, *Genesis*, *Legends*, *Heritage* and *Voyage*. The *High Druid of Shannara* is the best series Terry Brooks has written since the early '80s. I'll take the chance of saying that now, before even starting the third book.

The series has only one downside that's worth mentioning, and the name of that downside is Pen Ohmsford. Pen is the young, reluctant Ohmsford hero on his epic quest to save everyone and everything while actually not knowing a thing about what he's doing. If this entire story was written from his point of view, I wouldn't hesitate to give this two stars. His presence in the first book is tolerable, but he is playing a bigger part in the second, and in the end he was the only reason I did not give this a full five stars.

The other parts of the book are more or less perfect. Grianne's story actually gets better, if at all possible, and she might be my new favourite character in the Shannara universe. The same is true for the storylines of the treacherous Druids at Paranor and the leadership of the Federation.

In addition to that, the book adds another POV character to the already solid bunch: Pied Sanderling, the Elven Captain of the Home Guard. He serves as the only voice of reason among the advisors of a useless excuse for a king, and he must rally the Free-born army to fight a desperate battle in order to avoid losing the war in a single stroke.

All in all, *Tanequil* is a solid sequel to *Jarka Ruus*, and a great continuation of the best Shannara trilogy yet.

Gregg says

Grianne Ohmsford is trapped in the Forbidding. Can her nephew find the mystical tree Tanequil and craft the dark and, to travel where she is trapped and rescue her? Terry Brooks continues his story of the Jarka Ruus...

Emily says

Just when you think thing will go good for the characters everything bad breaks loose. It seems like the good guys just can't get a break in this story.

Rose Boyer says

What fun and great imagination.

Kristen says

That moment your almost to the end of the story, and there is a page missing in your copy of the book! Yep

that happened, thank goodness I had another copy available (thanks to my mother) to finish the story. I really liked this book and the characters. This installment I read surprisingly fast, I think it was because I was really into the story and characters. More so than I have ever been in this series. I am excited to move on to the next installment and see what happens next. I just hope the next installment doesn't have a page missing, if it does I will be raiding my mothers bookshelf!

Darrell says

Loved the series.

Tara says

TBA

Shaheen says

The second book of the *High Druid of Shannara* series is arguably better than the first - Brooks manages to bring up the quality of the book by cutting down references to the previous series, *The Voyage of the Jerle Shannara*, and giving some air time to the Elves - and ends in a cliff hanger that had me reaching for book three immediately.

The highlight of *Tanequil* is the character growth. Brooks has developed a trademark style of writing about teens who have no clue about their place in the world, and takes them on perilous journeys so they can figure it out, but with Pen, Brooks follows someone who knows his power and is comfortable with it, who is well versed in his ancestry, and who is politically and socially aware. Penderrin's challenge has been one of leadership and self confidence, and this book focusses on it by dropping Cinnaminson into his care and placing the lives of the small company in his hands. Pen adapts and learns refreshingly quickly, and doesn't wallow in his misfortunes like some of the other Shannara protagonists were prone to.

Khyber Elessdil, determined to take over the role her uncle left behind, also undergoes some major developments, and she quickly becomes the voice of reason and caution for the group. It's a bit clichéd, given that she's an Elf, but given the sage-like qualities of her Arhen, with whom she was very close, I think it can be forgiven. Brooks finally allows us a look into the Elven kingdom in this book, and it's clear that the Elves are in trouble given their current monarch. I liked that the Elves aren't impeachable in this scenario - perhaps after centuries of sustained contact with humans, they have become susceptible to human foibles. In any case, I'm a big fan of this incarnation of the Captain of the Home Guard, and interested in the tantalising details Brooks has dropped about his relationship with the Queen. I look forward to this angle being explored in the last book of the series.

There are still far too much recounting of Shannara history for my liking - I know the rationale is that new readers and those who read the previous books a long time ago will benefit from the recaps, but I find them tiresome. The issue is that High Druid is set only 20 years from the events in *Voyage* - this is a comparatively tiny gap between Shannara series - and I feel like I'm reading one series spanning six books, rather than two that contain three books each. Brooks focusses a lot on what happened in the *Voyage* series: Bek and his wife

reminisce about it, the Elves still haven't gotten over the betrayal they chose to see, and the world's politics has stagnated.

Tanequil is a great sequel to *Jarka Ruus* and surpasses its predecessor for entertainment value. It doesn't suffer second-book-syndrome (when the second book feels like filler material until the finale), but does focus too much on retelling the past. The previous series left me doubting whether Terry Brooks could pull off any more Shannara books, but this novel contains the spark that I felt *Voyage* lacked. A must read for fans of the series, but interested newcomers would benefit immensely beginning the adventure with *The Sword of Shannara* and continuing the behemoth of a series in publication order (a personal preference, but you can also see Terry Brook's recommended reading orders for newcomers and revisiting readers, or read the books in the canonical chronological order).

You can read more of my reviews at **[Speculating on SpecFic](#)**.

Ronda Tutt says

Another great read by Terry Brooks. I love the way he leaves you hanging at the end of the story so you will jump right into the next book. As soon as I finished this book, I jumped right into *Straken*, the third and final book in the High Druid Of Shannara trilogy.

The journey continues for Penderrin and along the way he even picks up more help to get him to the *Tanequil*. Kermadec and his fellow Trolls join the journey along with Cinnaminson.

Grianne Ohmsford finds herself captured and brought to Tael Riverine, *Straken* Lord of Kraal Reach. She also finds out why he brought her there and why he arranged for her to come to the forbidding. His goal is not only to mate with her to have his offsprings but to trade his Moric for her in order for Moric to accomplish his goal of destroying the barrier (Ellcrys)that keeps the forbidding locked away.

Through out the book, things seem to be leading to the success of Moric with everything falling into place. The Druid's keep is unsure of the new Ard Rhys Shadea a'ru and not everyone trust her even her friend Iridia who so happened to disappear. What they don't know is that the Moric has taken over her body and has went to the Prime Minister to be his personal advisor.

The Prime Minister has come into a new weapon - a lazer gun and the Moric has plans to put it to use by using the Prime Minister and trying to talk him into destroying the Elves Home, their wives and children, while the men are off trying to fight in the war between the federation and the free-born.

Penderrin makes it to the *Tanequil* but in order for him to receive the darkwand, he had to give up something of himself, a part of himself and a part of his heart. So the *Tanequil* took two of his fingers in exchange for a limb from the tree and it took Cinnaminson, the love of his heart - she became a spirit in order to help him to retrieve the darkwand.

Penderrin's parents are capture and are locked away at the Druids Keep but eventually escape and are now on their way to find Penderrin.

The Druid's Keep gromes finally catch up with Penderrin and his friends at the *Tanequil* and in exchange for his surrender they would let his friends go - to top it off, Penderrin had it in his mind that he could get back

to Pandora the Druid's Keep faster in order to free Grianne from the forbidding. However, the Druids aboard the airship that captured Penderrin find out why he went to Tanequil and take the darkwand away from him.

Weka Dart, Grianne's new friend is deciding if he should rescue her or not from Tael Riverine - gotta read the next book to find out if he rescues her.

So Terry Brooks leaves us hanging on what will happen:

Will Grianne be rescued? Will Penderrin free Grianne from the forbidding? Will Penderrin make it to the Druid's Keep and get back the darkwand in order to rescue Grianne? Will Bek and Rue, Penderrin's parents find him? The next book should be awesome finding out the answers.

Geoff Battle says

After the Voyage of Jerle Shannara I was left disappointed that Brooks had somehow maintained a formula, but the magic of the company's tale was not as strong as his previous work. With the first book in the High Druid of Shannara series, Jarka Ruus, came a stronger storyline, a more entangling series of events and an underlying political plotline which allowed Brooks' mastery to come forth. In Tanequil it all moves up a notch. It's fast paced, full of backstabbing, intrigue, character development and, of course, magic. It's compulsive emotionally charged reading. The only regret you'll have is finishing it and not having Straken to read.

Kelly says

Intense.

Carmine says

Chiacchiericcio nel Divieto

Tael Riverine, dal suo castello nero come la pece, racconta a Grianne di quanto fossero belle le antiche epoche con i demoni liberi a pascolare nel mondo, mentre gli umani stavano zitti e muti; e che i tempi erano ormai maturi per il ritorno (migliaia e migliaia di anni in attesa non si sa bene di cosa).

Insomma, nel Divieto si sparano fregnacce a destra e sinistra; addirittura a un certo punto si fanno riferimenti sibillini a piani d'accoppiamento tra l'umana e il demone per partorire una progenie infernale che...dovrà fare qualcosa di importante.

Quello che sfugge a tutti è la credibilità di Tael Riverine come leader all'interno del Divieto, visto che l'unico piano che ordisce in migliaia di anni è quello di liberare sulla terra il Moric e, nel frattempo, accoppiarsi con Grianne (lo farei anche io eh, ma da un'entità infernale ci si aspetterebbe una sottigliezza mentale n'attimino più articolata).

Tutto quello che resta della storia è un ripescaggio poco convinto di dinamiche stantie e già lette, con l'unica simpatica eccezione dell'ingegnere federale che riscopre il laser con applicazioni in campo bellico (collegamento con il mondo antecedente alle guerre atomiche).

Squire says

#22/29 in my Epic Shannara Quest.

Another thrilling chapter in the development of the Shannara saga. Exciting with some shamelessly cinematic sequences that still manage to entertain. Nothing unexpected happens (the demon plot to subjugate the Four Lands was obvious halfway through the previous book in this trilogy), but the continuing dark tone of *Tanequil* maintains the tension throughout. Eerily beautiful climactic scene.

Tony says

Tanequil tells a story that is mixed with hope and despair. The characters introduced in *Jarka Ruus* are faced with further challenges that test their resilience. Penderrin Ohmsford has a unique ability which is limited, yet essential, in his quest to rescue his aunt, Grianne, the High Druid, from the alternate demon world of the Forbidding. Along with his apprentice druid companion, Khyber Ellesedil, and his physically blind (but with otherworldly sight) girlfriend Cinnaminson, he enlists the help of the sturdy and powerful rock trolls.

It's not often in a Brooks story that the druids are the enemies, yet unbeknownst to them, they are being manipulated from demons behind the Forbidding with secret ulterior motives. The irony is that druids are usually the ones doing the manipulating! Brooks creates political intrigue in the druid order, and also reveals how the implications of events effects the world at large, including the Federation and Free-Born war that has divided the Four Lands for decades.

Tanequil is a direct continuation of the first book in the series and as such, is very similar. Brooks unveils more mysteries and has a fitting conclusion with a big reveal. He doesn't create mysteries he doesn't know the answer to and is accomplished at tying all the threads together. The love story may not be preferable to some (myself included) but it serves a great purpose which makes it justifiable.

I look forward to the High Druids enemies receiving retribution for their crimes in *Straken*

Mike says

A much better improvement. I enjoyed book 1 (*Jarka Ruus*) quite a bit, but I loved *Tanequil*. Terry Brooks again excels at creating breathtaking imagery and inserting you.

I highly recommend it if you're a Terry Brooks fan.

Lucinda says

Terry Brooks is a masterful writer who takes fantasy fiction to extreme heights, with his outstandingly unique creation of Shannara. Beginning with the series on Shannara where readers are introduced to the most

original and inspired creation of a distinctive world, continued with the heritage of Shannara and the voyage of the Jerle of Shannara which takes you on an epic journey that is so exceptional. In the high druid of Shannara series following on from book 1 (Jarka Ruus), Tanequil takes you on the most exciting quest that opens ones mind to all the possibilities and innovative ideas that can be created within this genre that is comparable to JRR Tolkien. Here is an author who captures ones imagination so that you loose yourself within his work, lost within another world that is so spectacular it can be quite overwhelming to comprehend. Following the main character of Penderrin Ohmsford one is immediately hit with the mighty battles and treachery that is happening all around, making it such an intense storyline that is so hard to put down as you become engrossed within a gripping plot.

Penderrin Ohmsford's quest is simple; he wishes to return to the natural world and escape the harsh mirror-world of the Forbidding, by journeying into a region called Inkrim that is dangerous and perilous. A dark and most evil creature also threatens Penderrin's passage home, adding to the potency and thrilling action that is constantly fast-paced. I was fascinated and totally mesmerized by Terry Brook's worlds and the elements that he added in to make the story even more spine-tingling such as the creatures, magic and mystery surrounding the unknown ingredients that keep you guessing. Sitting on the edge of my seat throughout I was reluctant to leave this world and concepts of Shannara, which has delighted so many readers who adore fantasy fiction at its very best. Here is a writer who displays all the qualities of Raymond E Feist, the epic JRR Tolkien, Kate Elliot, Stephen Donaldson and Janny Wurts but with a modern 21st century twist that is current with which you can relate to easily.

Full of drama, intensity, suspense and thrills here is a book that you will devour within a few hours and which will keep you hooked unable to let go. Terry Brooks has written many fantasy series surrounding his creation of Shannara, being something truly unique and immensely rich that cannot be compared to any other writer's work. He is an accomplished and highly acclaimed author whom deserves all the praise that he receives, due to his in-depth knowledge of this genre that is combined with his passion and creativity.
