



Forging the Sword

Hilari Bell

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THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENT CHAMPION, SORAHB, WAS REBORN INTO THE BODY OF A DEGHAN YOUTH.

There is not much time left on the Hrum's self-imposed limit -- only a few months. If in that time they don't take all of Farsala, then the Farsalans will regain their independence.

Ceaselessly, Soraya, Kavi, and Jiaan work to keep control of what little land remains free from Hrum rule: parts of the countryside, the badlands, and the walled city of Mazad. They have many people helping them, but there is still one important piece missing: a sword that is able to withstand the Hrum's watersteel. In the end Farsala will fall if it can't win in battle.

But one thing none of these young heroes can foresee is the growing desperation of the Hrum leaders. It will lead some to break their own laws and sacred pacts and will reveal truths to Kavi, Soraya, and Jiaan about the nature of war, the nature of human beings, and -- most importantly -- the nature of themselves.

Hilari Bell builds the action and intrigue to a crescendo in the final installment of this critically acclaimed trilogy.

Forging the Sword Details

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Author : Hilari Bell

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From Reader Review Forging the Sword for online ebook

Mike says

I can not stress enough how much I loved this trilogy! It is masterfully written and one that you will want to devour, put down, pick up, and devour again....

Susanna says

"Forging the Sword" draws the illustrious-- and surprising!-- conclusion to 'The Farsala Trilogy.' The story shines with brilliant characters and sparkling dialogue, but it goes a step further by compelling readers to think about true leadership and true nobility. Furthermore, this was the first war story I read in which the lines get a little blurry: Who exactly are the bad guys? And why?

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Bell, Hilari Forging the Sword 494 p. Simon and Schuster -

The Hrum have only four months left to completely conquer the country of Farsala and the resistance fighters are well organized and getting even smarter. Soraya, Jiaan and Kavi all lead important groups that work together and apart to sabotage the Hrum and the Hrum leaders resort to breaking their own laws in a desperate attempt to defeat the country and its mysterious leader "Sorahb".

The fitting finale of the Farsala trilogy that students will love and enjoy. Bell's original thinking is welcome after watching poorly written copy-cat novels become topsellers and blockbuster movies. Point your students towards this excellent series as an antidote!

MS, HS -ESSENTIAL

Bushra says

ok

Aubry says

I really liked how the book ended. In this book I finally liked all three main characters at the same time. They learned what they were suppose too and changed for the better because of it. They became stronger and better people in a time of adversity. I liked how it pointed out that in war not everyone you are fighting against are bad and not everyone you are fighting with are good.

Caleb Haley says

I didn't think this book could be as good as the last one, but the author really outdid themselves. Sorabh's story throughout this novel is very well written. It does a great job of wrapping up the trilogy and still giving you a great story.

Evelyn says

This book had me up until 1 a.m. It was a fantastic conclusion to the Farsala trilogy: The battle plans had verisimilitude (though honestly, I know nothing of war so I can't judge). The importance of honor rang true with me. Jiaan's character development was absolutely stunning, and I particularly enjoyed his interactions with Fasal. A perfect ending. But the best part, for me, was the twist in who "Sorabh" ended up being. This trilogy is highly recommended.

Lauriek says

This trilogy should be read by all. It deals with issues of society, class, war, myth, heroism, hope, despair and change. The multifaceted characters are jewels with unbelievable depth. The precious stones are polished and refined with each turn of the page.

D.L. Morrese says

A satisfying conclusion to an enjoyable fantasy trilogy. It cleverly pits heroes and villains against one another in a rousing tale of war without glorifying it. Nicely done.

Amber says

A great ending to a great series. I enjoyed it. The characters were each unique and I came to care about them and be frustrated with them in turn, and as normal people, not all their actions were perfect. The story was still far fetched in some aspects and repetitive in others, but overall a quick, entertaining read.

Beth says

Forging the Sword is the final volume in the excellent, non-European political fantasy Farsala trilogy. The first book, *Fall of a Kingdom*, is good; it establishes the world and its lead characters' motivations very well. The second book, *Rise of a Hero*, is better. This, the final volume, is the strongest of them all. It's exciting, to read and reread a series that gets better as it goes.

The trilogy is about the attack of the Hrum empire on the kingdom of Farsala. That summation leaves out the meat of the story, though. The series begins with the ruling class of Farsala - their politics, their class system, their treatment of subordinates. It continues as the story of the cities and countrymen, the miners and desert-dwellers and peddlers that comprise the kingdom. It becomes an examination of the lengths people will go to fight for freedom - and where they'll draw the line - and what exactly freedom means. It's about governance. It's about trust and betrayal and rebellion, and how individual people can affect empires and kingdoms. It's about how far people will go for revenge. It's about war, and what goes into a war beyond the actual fighting; it's about teamwork and spies and prisoners. It's about risky - and entertaining! - plans and clever tactics.

The Farsala trilogy is a smart, thoughtful story with good and bad on both sides, a story with a strong eye toward political implications and the imperfections of kingdoms and human beings. (There are times when it could be more nuanced - not because the story lacks nuance, but because sometimes it's hammered home a bit strongly.)

I'm spending a lot of time talking about the books' themes and how they really work for me, but the reason they work as well as they do is because of the characters who live the story.

There are three protagonists, three points of view: Soraya, the spoiled daughter of the noble commander of Farsala's army; Jiann, her unacknowledged illegitimate half-brother in the Farsalan army; and Kavi, the peddler with the painful past and complicated future. I find Kavi's point of view the most compelling, but all three grow, and that growth feels earned and remarkably well done. These are three journeys with surprising, but fitting, destinations.

And then there are the little snippets, almost unconnected to the plot, about the legendary hero Sorahb. In a way they're the story's heart, a hint at its greatest theme. The ideas these snippets suggest about history and myth, truth and lies and ambiguity - they give the series a greater historical perspective, an overview of how history is shaped and about the stories we tell ourselves.

It's something that connects very well with Kavi's characterization, something that makes the book feel more complete. Something that makes the ending very satisfying.

I haven't even mentioned the Suud or the Kadeshi or the Hrum swordsmanship. Or Mazad. This is fantasy that's smart and political and detailed. A story where every apprentice who spills a keg of nails on the road before a Hrum patrol passes is Sorahb.

Or is he?

Mailee Pyper says

This third book in the Farsala trilogy was great! I truly enjoyed reading it, and the entire series. It was fun, exciting, and unexpected.

Spoiler

I especially like the lack of romance. It was really nice to explore the intricacies and depth of relationships that are not remotely romantic in nature.

While the setting and overall story were great, I loved the characters best. Kavi is probably the coolest

peddler/rebel/spy ever. The official story of Sorahb side by side with the actual events is truly interesting. Hilari Bell is such a fun author to read! I have not yet read anything of hers that I didn't like.

Peace says

How does a ragtag volunteer army in need of a shower
Somehow defeat a global superpower?

Sooooooooo I was super surprised these books didn't whip out a romance in the last act.

Maybe a real review coming someday.

Parthenia says

Forging the Sword is the final installment of the Farsala trilogy by Hilari Bell and it leaves none to disappointment. With the three main characters Jiaan, Kavi, and Soraya, we come to see history become legend and legend into myth as they invoke the name of the Farsala's folk hero Sorahb to fight the Hrum out of their lands. Armed with nothing but a small army of peasants, age-old magic and their wits, we see the transgression between these estranged allies to almost friends, in the complex novel that shows that enemies in war both have good motives for doing so, while it's just some who are ethically and morally corrupt.

Gail says

Powerful story - I enjoyed the development of the characters as they had to learn to rid their hearts of hate and realize what is most important. To see the strength come from within to endure pain for the good of a righteous cause, to change ones struggle with hate to understanding and even forgiveness, and how to work together to create the tools necessary to fight the enemy. This author did a great job in painting the picture so realistically to be able to envision what is happening. This book series was hard to put down, truly enjoyed it.
