



Confessor

Terry Goodkind

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Descending into darkness, about to be overwhelmed by evil, those people still free are powerless to stop the coming dawn of a savage new world, while Richard faces the guilt of knowing that he must let it happen. Alone, he must bear the weight of a sin he dare not confess to the one person he loves...and has lost.

Join Richard and Kahlan in the concluding novel of one of the most remarkable and memorable journeys ever written. It started with one rule, and will end with the rule of all rules, the rule unwritten, the rule unspoken since the dawn of history.

When next the sun rises, the world will be forever changed.

Confessor Details

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From Reader Review Confessor for online ebook

Christine Antonios says

The journey has ended. The quest is over. The last page has been turned. Yes, that's right, 161 days and 8,432 pages later, I have completed Richard and Kahlan's legacy. Back in January, I wrote a book review for Wizard's First Rule and, now that the series is over, I thought it only fitting to write a review for the final installment: Confessor.

Sword of Truth Series: Confessor

Confessor is the end of a three-part finale (Chainfire, Phantom, Confessor), which is a mini story amid the gigantic series. In Chainfire, Richard wakes up from an injury with Kahlan gone and her existence erased from everyone's memory. Since then, Richard has been racing to get Kahlan back, reverse the spell, AND save the world. As the finale unfolds, Kahlan (without her memory), Richard (without his magic), and Nicci are all captured by Jagang in different parts of the enemy camp and Jagang with the Sisters of the Dark have the Boxes of Orden. Here, the characters' individual strength and nobility shine even amidst unimaginable defeat. The plot line provided the author a unique opportunity to show Richard and Kahlan falling in love all over again, without ever having the luxury of a proper conversation. It explored what it means for Kahlan to be an individual apart from her upbringing, memories, duties, or past. The reader reaffirms that her intelligence, reason, convictions and abilities are her own and that our faith in her and in her love for Richard is justified. Exploring this side of Kahlan was the perfect move. While it was always easy to love Kahlan, because we see her through Richard's eyes, these final installments gave us a glimpse of how truly remarkable she is. When getting to know her in Wizard's First Rule, Kahlan was constantly bound by duty, prophesy, and her responsibility as a Confessor. It becomes very difficult to separate what she is doing because of her own convictions and what she is doing for the sake of the quest (think of the moment she was giving Richard away to marry another at the Mud People's village). Also, she always had her title and authority to back her up. Now, she is stripped of everything, not responsible for anyone but herself, and yet she manages to successfully fight for the innocent (Jillian) and triumph over evil (even in just small ways). Most remarkably, the series came back to Kahlan as the central figure (I have said this from day one but feel free to argue this point, my sister adamantly disagrees). It seems fitting that, while it was she that came searching for Richard in Book 1, Richard needs to find her in the end in order to save the world.

The eleven book series comes full circle in Confessor, paralleling the story from Wizard's First Rule and resolving all the conflicts we have encountered until now. It is truly a remarkable accomplishment considering that Richard was able to solve all the problems--the Imperial Order, the prestinely ungifted, the taint of the chimes, the sisters of the dark, and Kahlan's lost memory--all in one swoop. That is not to say that this resolution was too quick or underdeveloped. On the contrary, Goodkind has been setting us up for this finale since day one. Reflecting most on the first book of the series, the reader learns that the plot for Wizard's First Rule was a miniature mock up of the events concluding the series. The plot came down to the Boxes of Orden and the Sword of Truth, but now that Richard and the readers have matured, the plot is revealed anew.

Ultimately, it is the growth that Richard and the readers have developed along the way that makes this finale epic and appropriate. Since Wizard's First Rule, the series has evolved exponentially, and what was once a simple struggle against a tyrant became a battle between worldviews and a complex lesson in magic. The final moments reveal that the story was always about the Boxes of Orden, a struggle that was introduced in Book 1 but was never fully resolved. In fact, it was this struggle that was falsely resolved but ended up

spawning the rift in the veil, awakening Richard's powers, and eventually unraveling the entire world. It is appropriate that the battle come back to this moment because over the course of 11 books, Richard has taught us the value of life. The lessons learned created a rock-solid philosophy valuing life and the Boxes --the magic of life-- are the key to preserving that life and resolving the conflict. The final cherry on top was Sword of Truth being the key to the Boxes of Orden. Until Nicci discovers that Richard memorized a false copy of the Book of Counted Shadows in Phantom, the reader went 9 books thinking this was the key to opening the Boxes. But giving even more meaning to the series title, the Sword was the true key to the Boxes. A weapon of death was the key to the magic of life, emphasizing that life and death are always in balance.

Mike (the Paladin) says

At last! We've tied it up! (unless you want to go get the prequel Debt of Bones, I didn't)(Well and unless more books are released later and stumble out into the world like the results of Victor Frankenstein opening up an assembly line). We made it, Kahlan is saved (again) and Mr. Goodkind gets to pontificate seemingly endlessly about his views, beliefs, and the weaknesses and foolishness of anyone who disagrees with him. More of the book is dedicated to his dogma than the story.

But, I survived, with the help of library audio copies.

I liked the first few books in this series. When I picked up the first one back around '94 I hadn't read an epic fantasy I liked for a while and was glad to find it. there was a bit of humor and action. We got the "heroic" love story...the young hero hidden away by the old wizard and reared in secret by a foster parent...a magic sword (haven't I read those story elements elsewhere? Oh well). Anyway....

As the books progressed they began to, fade. First we hit a sort of formula. Richard loves Kahlan, Richard looses Kahlan, Richard and Kahlan will (for some insurmountable magic reason) never be able to be together again, "amazingly" Richard surmounts the insurmountable problem. You can only do this so many times thus the story began to branch out a bit.

Over time more and more however Mr. Goodkind gave more and more book space to his own ideas and beliefs. More and more his diatribes became a bit, vitriolic. Do you disagree with Mr. Goodkind's view of life and reality? Well, apparently you're an idiot, possibly a malevolent idiot.

The story here really takes a backseat to the lectures and by the time we get to the end, the climax, the answer to it all Mr. Goodkind is well wound up.

So, if you agree and so forth, why enjoy.

Why did I finish the series? I was trapped. I got started with my son and some friends. They were still plowing through them, so with the help of the library I finished, got closure and can now call my life my own again. Well it will be as soon as Brandon Sanderson ties up the Wheel of Time saga...I got trapped in that series to. (Since I wrote this that series to has been tied up...Free at last!) Another one that started out well and sucked me in!

As you read this if you can stay with the story as Mr. Goodkind ties the threads together (and you almost need a program for that as all the players from the other ten books get called into the action) you'll at least

get an end to the story. (view spoiler)

If this/these books are for you, enjoy. I can't really recommend them much past the first two or three.

Leila says

Not a lot to say about this book. I began reading Terry Goodkind's 'Sword of Truth' epic fantasy a long time ago with the first in the series. I loved it and continued to buy each following one he wrote with great enthusiasm. I read to book six and then moved on to other fantasy books. I was given this one from a friend as I was told it is the last in the series. I found it a disappointing end to a set of books which for me began so well.. Perhaps there are just too many in the series to maintain the same level of interest. The book is almost 700 pages too. I persevered but to be honest I'm glad I am finished.

Nik says

This series degraded quickly. What started out as a raw and realistic twist on standard high-fantasy fare, became instead a series of violent rape fantasies, unnecessary violence, and philosophipolitical pablum.

Why was I reading it, you might ask? Well, I put some time into the first five or so books, so when I saw the last one was on the way, I figured I'd catch up for a little summer reading.

I've had better ideas.

This book gets an extra star because it ended the series. Way to go!

Sam C says

Okies well I'll say that I liked the book it was enjoyable. But I didn't think it was great really. It started off VERY SLOWLY, with the first two hundred pages or whatever being all these magic theories and whatnot being explained o us in very simple terms, meaning one theory or whatever took them like 20 pages to explain and i will say that I didn't appreciate being viewed as a retard who didn't' get it from the first page or so! But that's just me!

And as I said the beginning was slow, it didn't grip me at all and I kinda had to force myself to keep going even though my mind was wandering so badly. It was just a little disappointing seeing as how the rest of his books generally suck you in from the very beginning.

But that aside, the book really picked up and got more actiony and gripping about halfway through and I was flipping pages like you wouldn't believe! Usually I'm not really caught off-guard by thins that happen in books, a few of the twists he chose to make really did take me by surprise so that was pleasant!

So despite my whining about the beginning, I really did like the book and thought that it was a good conclusion to the series, it may not have been as good as some of the other books in it (like the first or sixth) but it did manage to draw the story to a close in a believable and interesting way. I honestly didn't really see

that ending coming, I had no idea how he was going to solve the whole giant problem but he pulled it off nicely if a little quickly! It was also cute, if not predictable, how he brought all other characters from the beginning of the series into the ending to tie it all up.

So yes, as a whole the book was not disappointing as an ending to the series. I still think it lacked a bit of oomph to make it a great book but it was a good read! =)

Kyndall says

I will say this, I think Terry Goodkind is the mother of all deus ex machina's. Pretty much all of his books end up with some kind of magical or coincidental savior. That being said, I have most of these books in hardcover. The first three or so were golden, and then it went a down hill from there (although I did also love Faith of the Fallen).

It's just, where to begin?

The whole Chainfire book was awful. This book was also awful. Instead of feeling sad for either Richard or Kahlan you are just annoyed that everyone else so stupid. They've been fighting this huge Empire for books and books now, and you're expecting Richard to come up with some extremely clever way to beat them and then it all just comes down to this statue and he sends them off to a different world. It just felt like such a cop out, I was angry about it for months. I should have realized there was a reason these last three books were always on the shelves at used bookstores.

I will probably never re-read this entire series. I will always stop at book 3, and then skip to Faith of the Fallen.

Robert says

So if there was ever any doubt in my mind that Goodkind was using this series as a thin veneer for preaching his personal philosophies on morality and faith vs reason it was instantly expelled on reading this book. I stuck with this series the whole way through and the last few books in particular made me feel betrayed. This series could have been so much more in the hands of an author that could get over his own ideals long enough to write an actual plot there towards the end. Even the ending of the book and the series just seemed like another way to have his characters beat the same freaking ideas into the heads of his readers... again.

It's one thing for an author to slip his beliefs and ideas into the moral fiber of his characters and introduce it as an element in a story. That's fine, but when entire books in a series are basically dedicated to the characters rambling on and on and on about that moral structure which has been well defined repeatedly it rips you out of the world you're supposed to be experiencing and leaves you wanting to stick your head in a blender. It's not even that I disagree with his philosophies, I actually kind of agree in some ways, I'm just tired of freaking hearing it. I'm so disgusted after the ending of this book that all of the good scenes have faded away and all I can think of now is "Hello God. Please send Jordan back from the dead. I'll trade you Goodkind for him. P.S. I would like to apologize to all of the trees killed to manufacture the last few books in The Sword of Truth series. Thanks."

Michael says

I'm glad this series is finally done. The first five books were truly great works of fantasy, but midway through the series, a transformation happened. Goodkind abandoned any subtlety he once had, abandoned any willingness to let the reader think about the lessons to be gained from his stories, and instead bashed the reader over the head with a stream of Ayn Rand objectivist diatribe. Continuously. I resolved to stick this series out, based on how good the first half was and based on a desire to see it end (in contrast to Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time*, a series of similar length that I had abandoned before picking up Goodkind's books). Plus, there were times when his later books approached the grand storytelling of the later ones.

Goodkind's total rejection of all competing ideologies is among the most narrowminded writing I've seen. And, I don't think he even succeeds in making the case for objectivism, as it is only in the context of a world-threatening evil empire, devoid of any redeeming qualities, that his point can be made. Even the Communists (philosophically, they seem a partial inspiration for this foe) were not that bad.

Ben Babcock says

Might as well just call this book, "And everyone lived happily ever after."

I acknowledge that I may have some sort of sadistic streak in me to want the author to kill off main characters, or at least have *something* bad happen. Whenever it looked like someone we cared about was going to die, I cheered (thank you for staying dead this time, Ann). The fact that Goodkind broke all the rules he established does not impress me. However, I suppose that was his goal from the start--the theme of the book, and the series itself.

Honestly, overall the series was not as bad as many made it out to be. When I started reading it, I read about the series. Most people focus on Goodkind's use of Objectivism. I agree that it's there, and in some places, it is very annoying. In some books it overwhelms the plot, but most of the books have a good story to them.

As a writer, Goodkind is not my cup of tea. His characters tend to give long speeches. Moreover, as I mentioned above, I am tired of everything working out happily ever after for the good guys. I did not form enough of an attachment to either Ann or Warren to really feel sorry for their deaths. If Kahlan had died, or if her memory hadn't been restored--that would have been respectable. And I'm not just mad because no one died. The ending itself was contrived to grant everyone happiness: Rachel somehow being of royal blood and therefore now the Queen of Tamarang? Adie just happening to fall for Friedlich? It felt a bit anticlimactic--sort of like the ending to *Harry Potter* (which I didn't actually read; I just read the spoilers and that was good enough).

This last trilogy was very interesting. I enjoyed the Chainfire spell and its integration into the use of the boxes of Orden. Even though it was a bit of a *deus ex machina*, Richard's use of the Sword of Truth to operate the boxes of Orden made sense.

Judged purely on the merits of its story (and not its themes, which as others say, are heavily entangled with Objectivism), *The Sword of Truth* series is not bad but could be much better. Many of the characters are very

interesting: Richard is a compelling and admirable protagonist. But sometimes the plot seems to nudge them ever so slightly if they get off track; sometimes the story isn't paced right.

The entire series reminds me somewhat of *The Wheel of Time*, including its length. I could not get past the third book of *The Wheel of Time*--in the case of this series, I've read all eleven books because my coworker lent them to me sequentially. Had she not done that, I may have consigned *The Sword of Truth* to the same category in which resides *The Wheel of Time*.

If you have a summer to spare for these like I did, then give them a try. Do not clear your schedule, however.

Gabriel C. says

Who were you, Rachel Sther? I look back through the veil of time at you like Richard Rahl at the Wizard Baraccus. I think, "she has walked this path before me." I think, "she knows the terrors behind and the horrors that yet await." I think, "Like Baraccus, did she too throw herself off the parapet of the Wizard's Keep, unable to stand any more of the tortuous postfilling of plot holes, sexual violence, wooden speeches straight out of Atlas Shrugged, sexual violence, tedium, sexual violence, frustration, sexual violence, sudden wish fulfillment, sexual violence, and sexual violence?"

I look back at you and wonder what you were doing flying from Dallas/Fort Worth to Wichita Falls on November third, just over one year ago, at 2:05 PM, on American Eagle Flight 4726, using your boarding pass as a bookmark as you pondered the imponderable secret messages hidden in this tome, not the true copy but one of the copies. I wonder whether you could anticipate, as I cannot, what remains in the Omen Machine.

If I had the power of the Boxes of Orden, the power of life and death and reality, I would create a world, a world twin to this one, but with no self-awareness. All those, like Terry Goodkind, who felt that they wanted a world free from the self-aware, would be transported through the magic of Orden to this world, where they could move to the Rocky Mountains and trade gold for railroad bridge designs until they all died out because their children refused to mine for gold to pay for food and lodging. I and mine would remain on this world, and magically, the twelve most confusing problems I had would resolve themselves in five pages or so. That is what I would do with this power.

I don't know when the final book in the cycle was written, but I expect, or should I say fear, that I will get to the last page of this ten thousand page monstrosity, turn it, and be faced with those eternal words, written in fiery letters a hundred thousand miles wide:

"And if you ask me how I'm feeling, don't tell me you're too blind to see. Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down, never gonna..."

Eric Allen says

TL;DR All in all, from about the 60% mark in the book all the way to like the 98% mark of the book, it's actually kind of excellent. There is a lot of good action, some very powerful character moments. It's generally well paced and written, with real dramatic tension. But the first 60% of the book is a terrible

drudgery of repetition, recaps, and just general boring shit no one cares about going on. The last 2% is a rage inducing diatribe on Goodkind's simplistic and childish vision of black and white morality, and then it sweeps all the world's problems under the rug, by way of one of the most insulting and lazy uses of Deus ex Machina in literary history, so the good guys don't actually have to confront and deal with them. I can recommend it to anyone who has made it this far and wants to see how it ends. It is vastly better than the several books that came before it, but it also has many of the same problems. If you can put up with the first half to get to the last half, you'll probably enjoy it.

Looking back at the Sword of Truth series as a whole, now that I'm done rereading it, I would say that Wizard's First Rule, Stone of Tears, and Blood of the Fold are great books, but not without their flaws, and they are definitely not for everyone. Temple of the Winds and Soul of the Fire are bad, but they are kind of in the laughably bad category. If you're someone who likes stuff that's so bad it's entertaining to laugh at it, you'll probably enjoy them. Faith of the Fallen, in my opinion is excellent, and the best book in the series. Pillars of Creation, Naked Empire, Chainfire, and Phantom are a terrible drudgery to get through. They are badly written, do not understand even basic human behavior or emotion, repeat themselves into oblivion, tell rather than showing, and recap previous volumes in the series to a ridiculous degree. The first half of Confessor is garbage, but the last half is actually very good, except for the very, very end. Everything after Confessor is a boring chore to read, and no one should ever even attempt to do so, in my opinion. In short though some of the series is worth reading, the majority of it is not.

There are spoilers past this point.

So I cracked this book open, and only three paragraphs in, I rolled my eyes and sighed. Yeah. It's gonna be like that. Just the sheer pompous arrogance of the writing alone was worth a sigh and an eye roll. I can tell up front that this is going to be another 600 pages of nothing but Terry Goodkind stroking his own dick. 3 chapters in, and, well, ridiculous repetition in the dialog, and just so many unnecessary recaps of previous books. As the thought of writing out a real review in my old format for this book fills me with dread and disgust, I will do what I did with the several previous books in this series. Post my notes while reading. 30% done:

Okay. So, Richard playing sports at the beginning of this book. There's a reason that a lot of people dislike the holodeck episodes of Star Trek, the SJW stuff in The Last Jedi, and the Quidditch in Harry Potter. When you get right down to it, we are watching Star Trek to see Star Trek characters doing Star Trek things. We're not watching Star Trek to see Star Trek Characters acting out Sherlock Holmes, westerns, Jane Austin, 1920s detective stories, etc. That's why few people enjoy those episodes. It's the same for the SJW stuff in Star Wars. We don't watch Star Wars to be lectured on social equality. We watch it to see Star Wars people doing Star Wars things. And the less said about Quidditch in Harry Potter the better. Needless to say, we do not read Harry Potter for sports, and neither do we read The Sword of Truth for sports either. Do you kind of see the point I'm getting at here? You've got a world on the brink of destruction. The last bastion of safety for freedom is under siege by an enormous and threatening army, Richard has lost his powers, the Boxes of Orden are in play, and he has one year to find the way, Kahlan's fate is hanging in the balance as well. And what do we do for the first third of this book? Why, we watch Richard play sports, of course. Because why wouldn't we? This is kind of not why we're reading The Sword of Truth. Just sayin'. It is hideously dull, and so out of place. Not to mention the fact that a lot of the games described to us are eye-rollingly melodramatic.

Meanwhile, Zedd and Nicci have spent the entire first third of the book monologuing at each other about magic. Which is also not exactly entertaining either. Notice I do not say talking to each other. Neither of these characters is talking to anyone. They're just recordings set to repeat the same three or four lines off into

infinity. They're not talking to one another. They're talking at one another, because neither of them hears a single word the other says. Neither of them listens. Neither of them reacts to conversation like a real human being would. They just keep bringing up the same points, over, and over, and over in big circular monologues that do about as much good as a dog chasing its own tail. Neither of them seem to be nearing any sort of point, as of yet. They're stuck in a repeated dialog loop about the Magic of Orden with no end in sight. Can none of these characters just, for once, spit out what they want to say in a single sentence without every other character in the room asking them to repeat that another 73 times just to make sure they got it? Cara did have one or two pretty good lines in there. She almost seemed like she was an outside observer, as I am, and having none of the repetition either.

Ha! There. I found a new way to say that this book is insanely repetitious. Because, honestly, I feel like I'm doing the exact same thing Goodkind is in bringing it up so often. But I can't not bring it up, (yes, I know that's a double negative. Sometimes bad grammar is a good way of adding emphasis, so long as it isn't used constantly... says the man who hasn't bothered to spell check or read back any of this to find all of the grammar and punctuation mistakes... =P) because it so permeates every single chapter of this book, that it's impossible to talk about what's wrong with it, without bringing up how much it constantly repeats itself. It is so pervasive that literally every single page of this book so far has fallen victim to it. It's a problem on such a deep and fundamental level of the way this book is written that it is constantly popping up, wherever you look. Honestly, I don't know how an editor would have fixed this. The entire book would have to be rewritten from the ground up. This is why editors are normally involved in the early stages of the writing process, to weed shit like this out before the book progresses to a point where it's impossible to fix. Someone either wasn't paying attention early on, or didn't care enough to even attempt the epic struggle of getting past Goodkind's ego to try and talk him into doing things a better way.

And while Zedd and Nicci are monologuing at one another, with the occasional amusing input from Cara just to brake (yes, I know I used brake instead of break. That was intentional.) up the insanity inducing monotony, Kahlan spends a great deal of time thinking about how she would really like trip that guy who she doesn't know (Richard) into her bed, because he's just so hot. Okay, I'm not going to say that there aren't women that shallow in the world. There are a lot more men that shallow, but that's another story. But come on, man. This is Kahlan. She's NOT that shallow. It's like Goodkind is trying to have it both ways. He wants Kahlan to have had her memory completely erased. And he wants her to be in love with Richard. Sorry, pal. You can have one or the other. You don't get both. And so, she does come off as pretty shallow here. If you eat your cake, it's not still sitting there on the table for you to have.

Basically, what the point of all this ranting boils down to, is that you can pretty much just remove the first 30% of this book and be all the better off for it.

60% done:

So, the conversation between Anne and Nicci... There is so much wrong with this single conversation that I don't even know where to start. I guess I'll go with character continuity. Anne is not Anne. Goodkind hand-waved this away two books ago by saying that since her memories of Kahlan are gone, so, too, is some of her character development. That could have been a very good way of illustrating what the world is like without Kahlan in it. BUT--and this is a VERY big but--you still have to remain consistent with the character she was BEFORE that particular piece of character development happened. This Anne IN NO WAY resembles the Anne from Stone of Tears, Blood of the Fold, and Temple of the Winds. She lacks the personality, the intelligence, and the general feel that this is, in fact, the same character.

Next, here's the thing about this entire conversation, we've already done this exact same conversation with

Nicci and Cara back in Chainfire. The exact same ideas are expressed. The exact same conclusions are come to. And what makes this time even worse than being the exact same conversation happening again is that this is AFTER everyone has come to believe that Kahlan actually exists. This is a completely superfluous conversation that serves no purpose to story or character. It's just a rerun from a previous season to fill time in the schedule.

Next, Goodkind went into PAINFUL detail letting us know, earlier in the book, that since the Magic of Orden was created as a counter for Chainfire, and Nicci invoked that magic, she can now remember Kahlan. She can't remember details, or events surrounding Kahlan, but she can remember that she existed. This conversation, which takes place AFTER that event, conveniently forgets that fact. Nicci acts, thinks, and speaks as though she still cannot remember Kahlan, and still doubts that she even exists. You can't go into excruciating detail to tell me that she remembers, only to have her act, a few chapters later, that she believes LESS that Kahlan exists than she did at the start of the book!

Next, Anne was always against the boy wizards at the Palace of the Prophets indulging themselves with women. She says she always hated the practice, but too many of the other sisters believed it worked for her to abolish it. And here she is, upholding that idea as though she has firmly believed in it her entire life.

And finally, good god, would someone PLEASE tell Terry Goodkind that tension in dialog does not come from that dialog repeating 8000 times? PLEASE?!?!?

Jagang's treatment of Nicci seems a little out of character from the man we've seen in previous books. Yes, he is a brute that will beat and rape her. But the way he loses his temper over even the smallest things. Jagang has been portrayed as cold and calculating up to this point. A man with a temper that can still see reason and rein his emotions in easily. A man who does things for reasons, and doesn't let his emotions rule over him to the exclusion of good sense. Here he's just a rage fueled maniac that rants and screams, and can never think of any other way to solve problems or win arguments than ranting and screaming. This is not the same character that we've seen in previous books, and we've been shown no relevant character development for him to suggest that he's started unraveling and losing control.

80% done:

Okay, so, more sports. Whoopie. Don't care. Goodkind seems to be under the impression that this is entertaining, interesting, and engaging. It is not. Oh no, Richard's, uh, friend is a real strong word. Richard's acquaintance dies? But why! He was so..... there. To be honest, this guy was not a character. He was a loose collection of male stereotypes wrapped around a pile of expository dialog. And Goodkind expects me to give a crap when he dies? Nope. Sure don't. Damn, he was only two weeks from retirement, too.

And now for something completely different. The next sequence in the story is genuinely great. It's a sequence of several action scenes with a few mystery solving and dialog scenes to break them up. It's well written, extremely well paced, and it all blends together into a very entertaining hundred pages or so. There are stakes to the action, characters we know and love die, other characters are captured and taken away, the action is well described, exciting and tense. There are several "FUCK YEAH!!!" moments. There is little to no repetition. It is a genuinely entertaining sequence of events spanning the beginning of the riot, to the Blood Beast attack. Why wasn't the rest of the book written like this? If Goodkind could craft such an enjoyable escape, why didn't he craft an enjoyable rest of the book?

So, Rachel's escape with the Box of Orden was, basically, completely pointless. Six steals it back with ease, and Rachel ends up back exactly where she was to begin with. What was the point? Oh, so Goodkind could

put the Box of Orden into play for Richard? Seems a very thin excuse for wasting so much time on the storyline. He's shown no qualms in bending or breaking rules he's made about the way things work in his story before. Why didn't he just do it here, and have Nicci put the boxes into play for Richard without needing one in her possession? It would have saved us Rachel getting from point A to point B, then point B back to point A. In other words, it was a lot of wasted space in the story for nothing of value.

And then Richard sits around and thinks about how his magic works. In excruciating detail. Remembering times it worked and times it didn't. And how he has no idea how to make it work most of the time. Which is then ruined by him immediately going and doing a bunch of magic from books he and Nicci are studying. Uhuh. Setting aside the fact that we already freaking know how his magic works. We've had it repeated to us enough times that we damn well better. Stating that Richard doesn't know how to use magic, and then immediately showing him to be very competent in its use is pretty jarring and inconsistent.

The repetition and recaps rear their ugly heads here too. I've complained about these things so much, I think y'all get it by now. Just be aware that it's still happening, and it's still terrible.

100% done:

Okay, so, the last 40% or so of this book is actually pretty good. We go from that escape sequence after the riot Richard and Jagang start into Richard trying to figure out how to win, and doing all of his prep work for opening a Box of Orden. Richard traveling to the Underworld to retrieve all of the lost memories, getting attacked by the beast, and popping out back with the Mud People, then rushing off to Tammarang to get the book, find Kahlan, liberate a dragon, and fly back to the People's palace. And then, he completely owns Jagang and the Sisters of the Dark by outsmarting them like he did in the first book. I really liked that. Richard rarely wins on his own intelligence and abilities. He normally wins via Deus ex Machina, which is very unsatisfying. All of that is pretty good. There are a few patches where the writing grinds to a halt so that it can needlessly repeat itself, but the recaps of previous books in this section are actually relevant to the plot, so they get a pass. It's well paced. It has real dramatic tension. There is real emotion. Honestly, it's like night and day between this and the first half of the book. It actually feels as though it was written by a different person.

I do have to say that how Richard defeats the Blood Beast is really kind of lazy. The Blood Beast, in general, I think was just pretty lazy in its implementation from the beginning. It never seems like it's a real threat, just a mild annoyance. It's almost like Goodkind had a great idea for a monster, and then couldn't figure out how to make it work with the story he wanted to tell, and so it just shows up in slow patches to move the story on to the next stage. It's almost like he felt like he couldn't be bothered to include the Beast in a more integral role to the plot, and set it on the back burner, then dispatched it with an almost contemptuous ease. It was just a very lazy monster, used in a very lazy way, and defeated in an equally lazy way.

So, Jensen is here, because reasons, I guess. She doesn't really belong in this story, frankly, and including her in it, just because, seems a little distracting. Goodkind does nothing with her until the very, very end, and I'll get into that BS in a moment. She's been a completely superfluous character ever since her story ended, and she should have been left out of the rest of the series, in my opinion, because she adds nothing of value to the story in any way.

All right, now we get to the ending. I have always felt that Jagang's end was very fitting. The problem with it is that Goodkind pats himself on the back far too much during and afterward. Oh, he goes into excruciating detail on how amazing he is for having thought of it, and he rubs our faces in it until they're raw. He couldn't just have it happen, and then say nothing, which would have made it that much more powerful and

memorable. No, he has to go on and describe what a genius he is for giving Jagang such a fitting end at great length. It really feels far too much like Goodkind taking a victory lap, and giving everyone in the stands the finger as he jogs by.

And then Richard opens the Box of Orden. I felt that this was actually very clever, having the key be the Sword of Truth, rather than any of the books. It kind of bookends the series, beginning with Richard receiving the Sword of Truth, and ending with him realizing what the sword's true purpose has always been, and using it for that purpose in the end.

And then the bullshit happens.

I have long called this ending one of the biggest cop outs in literary history. And it really is. Richard uses the power of Deus Ex Machina to take all of the people in the entire world that do not agree with him, and sends them to a completely different world, cut off from everything, including the afterlife. A protagonist is supposed to win by either utterly destroying the antagonist, in this case a set of beliefs, or convert the antagonist to his side. Richard does neither. He sweeps the problem under the rug and pretends it's gone forever, and starts singing "The Sun will come out Tomorrow". It's lazy. It's unsatisfying. And Goodkind takes this opportunity to preach like he's never preached before. I'm afraid that the simple fact that the world is not black and white utterly destroys all credibility this ending might have had. But Goodkind just doesn't seem to understand or care.

Continued in first comment.

Ly says

The culmination of years of mediocrity and bland repetition. TOR Fantasy has sunk to a low level indeed, in agreeing to bank on the latter half of this dismal series. I don't know what happened to Terry Goodkind over the years, but whatever afflictions lay at the heart of his deteriorating talent as a storyteller and wordsmith, I will never again pick up another book he writes. For the record... Wizard's First Rule was Brilliant - I'll never dispute that. But I am glad that this snake-oil roadshow has finally ground down to its anti-climactic end.

Diane says

If you made it this far into the series, the last book of The Sword of Truth, then I give you my praise and my condolences. Mostly condolences. If you want to burn the entire series or sell them on ebay or skeet shoot with them I will not blame you. The series itself started off strong; it was initially a very pleasant read with a great set of characters and an interesting plot line. 11 books later and I'm convinced that the books could have just been a trilogy and life would be a shiny ray of sunshine on this day of completion for little ol' me.

If you're going to buy this book I can only assume that you've read the others and so if it means spending another 10 dollars to give you peace of mind, then go for it. Otherwise, live with yourself without knowing how it ends.

Kahlan is still a phantom, wandering around with only a few people able to see her, and Richard is torn between, I dunno, twelve different tasks that all need to be completed by the end of the book. In typical Goodkind fashion, everything is resolved by a stroke of luck, some quick thinking, and in the last couple dozen pages of the novel. Even so, the book drags on as if it were a living organism and has decided that it will doggedly continue no matter what the reader wishes. It's, in a word, a drag. I honestly had my fears that the story wasn't going to end in the last few pages, but thankfully it did.

I don't want to make this sound like it was like pulling teeth, but it was certainly like having lead boots. I gave two stars because at the very least it's still a story, it's still written fairly well, and it comes to a neat little conclusion at the end which ties up this long, drawn out series. I think one star might be out of the goodness of my heart, though.

The book itself is a far cry from the first and Goodkind's 'holier than thou', dogmatic, preachy attitude consists throughout the pages of the story, until the very last one actually. It attempts to be circular, but relies on old ideas for plot development that he had when he first started the series which completely ruins the tale and the excitement of the book. Literally, if you've read the first book you don't have to read this one. Therefore, to me, it's a waste of dead trees and time.

Joe Upshaw says

The entire Sword of Truth series was perhaps the best continuing story I have ever read. Goodkind manages, like few others, to create an entire realm replete with multi-dimensional, imperfect characters described using language that is both precise and concise and yet dripping with immediacy of meaning.

That said, I know that I seek a peculiar mix in a book so, for others, your mileage may vary. I want adventure and fantasy but, ideally, I want these to serve as vehicles to deliver an underlying philosophical system. Terry Goodkind has done this.

As the stories in the series continue, you see an objectivist philosophy reminiscent of that originally made popular in the novels of Ayn Rand. However, Goodkind transcends this earlier philosophy by solving many of its problems. Goodkind does place the value of one's own life at the center of his moral framework (as its highest cause) but, he goes beyond this to create a moral system that allows one to sacrifice, even one's very life, for principles beyond those of direct self-interest. It allows for true, interdependent love (and even for children ;-).

These characters will be missed and I will never be the same after having read them.

Manda says

Goodkind's prose is professorial, condescending, and distractingly repetitive. the plot is absurdly convenient. i skipped over any time the characters speak of the motivations for actions or decisions to limit the pain this book caused me.

in the end, richard allows jajang to open the all powerful boxes of orden. richard know that the power will not work because jajang is acting out of hate. richard uses the boxes out of JUSTICE!!!! JUSTICE is good,

so he is not destroyed. creates a parallel world for all the people who believe the tenants of the order; who put do not sufficiently value life and freedom of choice and responsibility of one's own actions. he also denies all these people an afterlife. he literally destroys the souls of an entire nation.

the people who are born without any magic whatsoever decide to live in the new, soulless world too. Richard has taught them the value of life, and for some reason this means that they do not want to corrupt Richard's magic world with their spreading lack of magic.

the chainfire spell ensured noone remembers where they came from and the chimes destroys all traces of magic.

hey! wait a sec!!! is Goodkind trying to describe how he sees reality? what whit! what insight!!!

once the order's people settle in, they won't hound down the non-magic people, they won't blame this minority for every conceivable problem. that is not how nature works.

~~Previous comments:~~

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~~update: i lost the f'n book and now must wait for the library to give me a copy. This series hates me and the feeling is mutual. why do i do this to myself?~~

~~Update: found audio book. please be over~~

Update: I'm finally done... i fear i may have read this book before, but i cannot be sure. the repetitive nature of the writing paired with the predictability of the plot means i could simply be anticipating plot point not remembering them. I only wanted to finish the book to discover what happens to the characters i remember reading about as a kid.

as expected, richard is preachy. ever so preachy. in the past, when i have read philosophy text book i always found the passages hard to follow. The utterly high mindedness combines with the lecture-like pacing and condesention. this causes my mind to go blank. the texts, once i could decipher them usually revealed interesting ideas, or concepts that i had not considered.

Ru Viljoen says

Richard: Don't you see!!?? Reverse inversion of the psuedo-chainfire , while simultaneously transposing elementary quasi-tokens. Yes!!!!

Cara: So its like, We give em money for omelettes?

Richard : Yes cara, hah hah hah you silly mordsith, you seem to understand the principles involved, but your way of putting it really makes me chuckle. There is more to it, but no time, gotta trot. To the silph mobile!!!

also

Richard Travels to the underworld-----Trip was success

Richard: By skipping the description of events I have got way more time to chat to you guys about this philosophy of which I heard.

Goodkind keeps those plot twists coming, has you on your toes and it was a quite um spellbinding.

It is humorous how he sets up a parallel world which could easily be the origin of our earth, while also getting in a quick one-two on christianity.

At least I got closure, and it is good to see an author devote a bit of time to events after the final battle. Makes one feel more satisfied with the end of an 11 book saga.

Torn between 2 or 3 stars, the book was bad but I enjoyed it...

Megan says

This was truly an amazing book. Terry Goodkind's imagination is amazing, and his ability to write and create is astounding. I really liked how old characters came back - Gratch, Gregory, Ulic, and Egan. I've stuck with Rihard and Kahlan since the beginning of their journey - and now it's the end. Goodkind's books have so much depth; if you really sit down and look at everything, break everything down, you realize that these things happening in Richard's world are similiar to the things happening in our world. This series has helped me so much in life; it taught me how to live, and gave me the motivation to live my own life. It made me understand the true meaning of freedom. This book was a great ending to a great journey; and I have to admit I teared up more than once while reading this book!

Deianaera says

Dear Mr. Goodkind:

Thank you for putting this series out of its misery. Your desire to expound on black and white morality was okay for a while, got old in Pillars of Creation, and probably earned you death threats after Naked Empire. So, by comparison, the fact that entire pages of dialogue in every scene were dedicated to the same insulting diatribe that we've been subjected to for way too many books shows restraint on your part. One sign that you spent far too much time envisioning yourself as a moral philosopher and not enough as, you know, a writer, was the way you crammed eleven books worth of answers into two hundred pages. And, for answering those questions and leaving very little left undone, you get two stars. I'm happy, I know how it ends. The fact that the end of this series - which started off so promisingly and got so sidetracked by your holier-than-thou stapled on moral statement - was ended in such a hackneyed, deux-ex-machina riddled fashion just means I won't be picking up anything else you write.

No love,

me

Kim says

I have to say that I wasn't as impressed with this book. Maybe my expectations were too high. I feel that it became too preachy and didn't really focus as much on the characters as the others did. After all, we've read 10 books BECAUSE of these characters. I understand the message that he is trying to send but I think that it all wrapped up a bit too neatly for my warped tastes. I will miss these characters though.

Jessica says

A Review of Confessor by Terry Goodkind

Rating: Five stars

Edition: Hardcover

Genre: Fantasy

Wow! I don't believe it's all over! I finished this book in two days and lost a little sleep finishing it up last night, but it was well worth it. I'm a huge fan of Terry Goodkind and the Sword of Truth series. I've really enjoyed following Richard and Kahlan throughout the series.

For the most part, everything tied together with the first book, although some parts could have been edited out. My husband didn't like most of the middle with Richard and the game. But I told him he's silly because I liked it. It was like in Final Fantasy X when you stop the whole game just to play some Blitzball...doesn't really move the plot, but it's just so darned cool. And the ending was nice. Yay! Richard and Kahlan are so cute. My husband can tell you, I get distressed when they are apart, which means I was distressed for the last

two or so years. I had to go back to some of the earlier books to not flip out.

Oh, and Gratch was back in the story, which made me smile. I actually stopped reading and jumped up and down. Okay, you can tell I'm a Goodkind geek.
