



## Shapers of Darkness

*David B. Coe*

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The Forelands are at war. The magic-wielding Qirsi and their Eandi masters have mobilized their forces. The Eandi have had to look beyond past differences to make alliances for the sake of the future, praying it isn't too late for them to change the outcome of the war. Tavis, an Eandi prince who was framed for murdering the princess to whom he was pledged, and endured torture before winning his freedom, has at last avenged her death. Still, the murder and its aftermath have brought war to the Forelands just as the Qirsi conspirators who bought his love's blood had intended. Now Tavis and Grinsa, a Qirsi shaper with more powers than he reveals, who saved Tavis when nobody else would believe his innocence, venture across the Forelands, risking death to help save the land they love . . .

A powerful Qirsi weaver has brought this terrible war to the land, bending the minds of those he controls and of his enemies in an effort to forge alliances and mobilize forces to destroy the Eandi. His powerful magical ability estranges lovers, betrays leaders, and wreaks murder and death throughout the land. But even with his powerfully malign intelligence, he underestimates the mettle of his opponents. In a psychological duel with Grinsa, the Weaver's formidable powers are sorely tested. Grinsa withstands the Weaver's most powerful attacks at nearly the expense of his own life, and in the process discovers the Weaver's identity.

Will Grinsa's challenge to the Weaver spell the end of the Weaver's reign of doom? Or has Grinsa's discovery come too late to help the Eandi cause? The answers lie in the growing war that may sunder the Forelands forever.

## Shapers of Darkness Details

Date : Published February 6th 2007 by Tor Books (first published 2005)

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Author : David B. Coe

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## From Reader Review Shapers of Darkness for online ebook

### **Lydia says**

Still going good in the series! Can't wait for the wrap up in the last book.

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### **Micaela says**

These last two books are definitely not at the same level as the first three. Partly it is because the pacing suddenly speeds way up, but this would be acceptable if Dusaan, our bad guy weren't such an underwhelming villain. He is a bit of a spoiled brat and more irritating to read about than anything else, mostly because of his interactions with the supporting characters become increasingly unpleasant and unbelievable. He is basically a schoolyard bully with a gaggle of mean girls, and he wouldn't be worthy of Grinsa's time if he wasn't a Weaver. His cleverness as written does not match the cleverness needed to organize the conspiracy in my opinion.

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### **Chris Pacheco says**

i dont have time to say much, THIS SERIES WAS EXCEPTIONAL! One of the most innovative, enthralling stories iv'e ever read that has emotional and political depth that i believe that deserves a second read.

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### **Lauren says**

Glad I made myself read this one, it's enjoyable, but not my favorite from Coe.

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### **Justin says**

Shapers of Darkness is the fourth volume in David Coe's engaging Winds of the Forelands series.

Where the previous installment (Bonds of Vengeance: Book 3 of The Winds of the Forelands) focused almost entirely on the political intrigue, Shapers of Darkness is non-stop action from cover to cover. At this point, the Qirsi Weaver's behind-the-scenes machinations have all come to fruition and the entire realm is at war, and there are as many internal threats as there are external. As the penultimate volume in the series, Shapers of Darkness does a great job of pulling plotlines together and building anticipation for the series conclusion Weavers of War.

The series suffers a bit from the sheer volume of characters, nations, plots, and subplots, and to his credit the author seems to realize this. Coe provides a helpful "who's who" list of characters at the beginning of the book, which is a nice way to get reacquainted with the cast before jumping into chapter 1. There's still a sense of repetition or perhaps homogenization, in that the various nations seem interchangeable. This is

especially noticeable in comparison to George R.R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire series. Martin gives each people their own culture, mannerisms, customs, and speech patterns. Coe does this to a far lesser extent, almost as if it were an afterthought. Still, this is a relatively minor complaint against an otherwise very enjoyable series.

Shapers of Darkness is so action packed it's almost exhausting, and it will definitely leave you panting for more. Fortunately the end is near. Weavers of War will be the series' final volume.

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### **Simon says**

Shapers of Darkness by David B. Coe is the fourth book in the Winds of the Forelands series. After being disappointed with Bonds of Vengeance, I am happy to say that Shapers of Darkness provided the redemption I was hoping for. This was the book I was actually expecting in book three. Everything from the events taking place to plunge the Forelands into disarray to the increase in action have been met satisfactorily. Oh and equally important is keeping up with the political aspect of all things concerned.

With Shapers of Darkness, I still found myself wanting to know more about Dusaan. We know why he wants to rid the Forelands of the Eandi courts and nobles but aside from a tid bit of background information given throughout the series, we still don't really get to know just "who" he is. I guess I was always hoping for a flashback of some sort to tell the tale of the movement's leader. I only say this because if for some reason the Weaver does perish in book five, I'll just remember him as another tyrant or "baddie" and think nothing much of it. If more time and effort was spent on fleshing Dusaan out throughout the series, I would probably feel more attached to his character and therefore, would be a little more interested in terms of finding out whether he will triumph or meet his demise in the end.

I just realized that up until now, I don't recall many plot twists that made my eyes go wide. I actually don't find myself minding at all. This series started off the way it did and it has kept true to that pace throughout. Shapers of Darkness definitely has the most action oriented scenes so far in the series and it's what you'd normally expect where swordplay and castle sieges are concerned. Nothing really new here. I expect things to turn up in intensity for the final fight and conclusion.

With book four out of the way, I can say that I am very glad to have made it thus far in the series. Book five will provide the conclusion to such an awesome series that I'm honestly a little happy it's finally ending because I can then move on to reading other books!

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### **Eric says**

I am now 4/5'ths of the way through this series and I have really enjoyed it. The only complaints it is the number of characters and sometimes the plot gets really intricate. Overall it has been a great series. I am looking forward to the final book.

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### **Marilyn says**

Better than the first book. More conflict, conflict resolution, confessions, etc. Quite dramatic overall.

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### **Jenny says**

The story is interesting and captivating to keep this non-series reader reading four books into the series. However, when Coe decides that he wants suspense and starts dialogue without stating who is saying what, I end up seriously confused and having to backtrack a whole page to read it again.

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### **Jacquelynn says**

The war is starting to ramp up in earnest now and things are getting really exciting. I flew through this book faster than I thought possible, always a good sign.

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### **Maryam says**

This book marked the beginning of the boring part of the series for me :(

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### **Nighteye says**

Good as the others were, close to the final now.  
Why does some characters being such stupid asses!

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### **Jeff S says**

The overarching story flows well and the final book is getting set up while a complete story is told. Each book seems to improve over the previous one.

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### **Tyler says**

Much like Jordan's The Wheel of Time series, The Winds of the Forelands has been so massive that stories and characters are often given one or two chapters per book making it extremely difficult to remember the inactive stories as the currently active ones continue on. That being said, the main plots themselves have good pacing and general layout stop the book from becoming one long battle or discussion by mixing the two.

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### **Tim Pollard says**

I found *Shapers of Darkness* to be the weakest of the five but I can't quite place why. The pace moves along rather quickly but I found myself thoroughly uninterested in certain plot lines (most predominantly the goings on in Galdasten)--so much that I took a nearly three month hiatus from reading halfway through and just recently finished it up. That isn't to say that this book isn't entertaining because it is, I just found it less so than the others, including *Weavers of War* (the fifth book in the series.)

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