



## Fall of Thanes

Brian Ruckley

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The True Bloods are in disarray, their alliance crumbling and their armies humbled by the forces of the Black Road. Aeglyss, falling ever deeper into madness, casts a shadow across all. At the court of the High Thane, Anyara faces a savage struggle for survival against the "na'kyrim"'s possessed agent: Mordyn Jerain, the Shadowhand.

In the GlasValley, Kanin, the embittered Horin-Gyre Thane, plots a desperate rising against the halfbreed. But ultimately it will be Orisian, Thane of a Blood that no longer exists, who must stand face to face with a darkly transcendent Aeglyss and make the sacrifice - of himself and others - required to end the threat he represents.

FALL OF THANES is the spectacular conclusion to the Godless World trilogy, a sweeping epic of war, politics and empire.

## **Fall of Thanes Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2009 by Orbit (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780316067713

Author : Brian Ruckley

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy, Dark Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Fall of Thanes for online ebook

### Lucinda says

It is a world of ice, it is a world of blood, it is a Godless world...the most magnificent conclusion to an epic trilogy!!!

The third and final installment within the Godless world brings this epic tale to its end (\*sobbing!\*), as blood is split upon a sheet of frozen ice which sends shivers down your spine. The tension has built up to a most dramatic climax that ended with book 2 on a nail-biting cliffhanger, hence I could not wait to devour 'fall of thanes' in one three and a half hour long sitting...I was left exhausted. This has to be the most intense and stunning conclusion ever which certainly surpassed all expectations and which really is a great testimony to Brian Ruckley's talent as a writer. Full of suspense, drama and bloodcurdling moments this really was a tale to get lost within and which brings great battle scenes to life before your very eyes.

The tension has risen between the clans of the Black Road and the True bloods, as each side of this never-ending conflict becomes even more concentrated by internal dissent and disunity. Aeglyss the na'kyrim continues to spread chaos across this changed world, exerting his dangerous, insidious influence over the events of both near and far. As events mount to their ultimate climax the world begins to change, as no side is able to anticipate the twisted pattern of what lies ahead...

Brian Ruckley gives this epic saga breath and his characters such strong emotions of hatred, revenge and determination as to even challenge the might of the 'War of the Roses' or 'the Templar Knights'. Winterbirth book 1(which has to be the greatest heroic fantasy novel I have EVER encountered) is followed by Bloodheir, and similarly they both blow you away with such authenticity, dramatic twists & turns as to freeze your inner soul so that you become indifferent to all other works within this genre - for a moment in time that I will re-live time and time again! The intriguing and imaginative story is so distinctive that you cannot compare it to any other work nor the writing style to any other author, for Brian Ruckley is so unique and a true master of his craft. Complete with detailed maps of the lands of Kilkry-Haig blood, the Glas valley and surrounds and the Haig bloods this really is a book that contains such depth and fantastic world-building that is unmatched.

Just an outstanding, unforgettable end to a trilogy that is truly astonishing and remarkable, being an imaginative creation that is so gripping and absorbing...I urge you to read this if you love fantasy genre, sword & sorcery and fiction with brutal battle scenes that are realistic, graphic and gory!

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### Shane says

Slow for about 3/4 of the book with a little action here and there, but made up for it with a very good, and very sad ending. The ending was surprising too, not what I expected. You really become attached to Orisian...

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## **Jeffrey Greek says**

Wow. I must say I wasn't expecting this book to be so good. The first and second books in this trilogy were slightly above-average epic fantasies, but in this one Ruckley did a great job of taking all the generic standards present in the first two and sending them down the rabbit hole. The whole book has a weird "Heart of Darkness" vibe to it as our stalwart companions travel closer and closer to the source of madness plaguing the land. Surprisingly good.

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## **Arby says**

A brilliant ending to a magnificent Trilogy, whose final chapter and epilogue is just absolutely beautifully written. I love how Brian Ruckley really successfully showed what it was like to be inside the chaotic storm that is the Shared, and how the final struggle went the way it went. Brilliant. Just absolutely brilliant.

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## **Meredith Rowe says**

A really fantastic finale for the trilogy. Everything fits together so well. Instead of the ending being completely finished, it leaves plenty of room for your imagination to keep the story going. This could have been one of those eternal series that just keeps going on forever but I respect Mr. Ruckley for doing it his way.

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## **Nicole says**

When I first started this trilogy, I didn't honestly think it was going to be as good as it was. I've cried so much throughout *Fall of Thanes*, more than I would have thought possible. Brian Ruckley ties up every loose tendril in the final installation of **The Godless World**. I'd love to talk about the amazing story he has written but I don't want to ruin it for anyone. All I can say is yes, it's a little slow at some parts but it's worth sticking it out until the end.

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## **Gerald Black says**

When I read, the author does not have to be a wizard with words as long as the story is sound. Sometimes i come across an author who has such prose that it takes me in to his world. I am one with the characters. Brian Ruckley is the sort of author whose narrative is dark, gritty, and yet somehow poetic in its delivery. And the story was well told full of vivid characters and a unique sense of magic. I look forward to more of his offerings.

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## **Liviu says**

Series are hard to finish well and this book shows why; characters become one dimensional stereotypes and only Kanin of all people retains a more nuanced personality; especially disappointed in Aeglyss becoming the ultimate evil overlord-to-be and Osirian becoming the mad hero on a mission at all costs.

I hope it's just me having a bad reading day and others enjoy the book more since I truly loved the first two books

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### **Jennifer Brown says**

At the end of the third book I cried...I actually cried! Never in my life has a book brought forth tears to my eyes before. This was a heartbreakin, gut wrenching story. I thought I new what was happening, I always know what's happening, but Brian Ruckley kept me in the dark the whole time. And don't berate me, I know the title of this book speaks a thousand words, but for me you see...books are an easy read, not merely to be able to sit down and read words, but to guess the outcome before it happens. In some respect, books can be very predictable. However, The Godless World Trilogy changed that for me. There were many, many times that I thought I knew what waited ahead for me in the pages to come only to have that rug pulled right out from underneath me. It was wonderful! The Godless World Trilogy is a fantastic read. This is a keeper for my bookshelf and it begs to be read again.

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### **Emelia says**

What an excellent series !  
Review for all 3 books soon to come !

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### **Terry Del Frari says**

Great Series!! I wasn't sure what to expect when I first started Winterbirth but am very impressed with the way Brian Ruckley progressed through the story. I would recommend The Godless Series to any Fantasy Lover and I can't wait to dive into his next series!!

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### **Brian Taylor says**

Fall of Thanes is the third installment of the Godless World trilogy, written by Brian Ruckley. If you haven't read the first two, you're missing out. Grab Winterbirth, and Bloodheir first. They're worth the read.

From the publisher:

The True Bloods are in disarray, their alliance crumbling and their armies humbled by the forces of the Black Road. Aeglyss, falling ever deeper into madness, casts a shadow across all. At the court of the High Thane, Anyara faces a savage struggle for survival against the na'kyrim's possessed agent: Mordyn Jerain, the Shadowhand.

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After finishing this book, I put it down and said, “Wow!” That was my initial reaction. So simple, yet so accurate.

Fall of Thanes is the natural, and enjoyable, conclusion to the Godless World trilogy. What I mean by that is Mr. Ruckley does a wonderful job building upon the solid foundation of his previous two books and taking readers to the logical ending they should expect. That’s not to say he doesn’t throw a few surprises in there for good measure, because he does...in a good way. All of the characters we have come to know and love/hate are back. They all push toward the final endgame. And push they must because they are each at the end of their ropes.

I want to be clear about something. Many other readers complain about the bleakness of this book. To those readers I say why wouldn’t it be? This is a world at war. Friends, family, and fellow soldiers are dying every day. Add to that the influence of a certain na’kyrim, who fills their hearts with dread and their heads with sorrow and fear, and you have a recipe for an often bleak and bloody war. It’s not like Mr. Ruckley doesn’t give his characters a spark of hope, because he does. If the world was totally bleak, everyone would just give up. War is hardly happy, fun, or anything other than a duty. I know, I’ve been there. Everything can’t be rainbows and roses.

We’re talking about a world at war. Not a town, city, or village, but an entire world. It affects everyone. Anyone expecting anything else has only themselves to blame.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Ruckley does a fantastic job showing us how the burdens of war affect each character, the sacrifices they make. He even shows us what keeps them going when most folks would curl up in a ball and give up. The bleakness of this world at war almost becomes a living, breathing thing of its own. And I loved that aspect of this story. It felt like something different from the genre norm, a welcomed change of pace.

It felt like Mr. Ruckley found his stride with this book. The writing felt crisper, the characters more three dimensional, and the action...well, the action has always been visceral and top-notch. His characters, while always good, really came alive in this final book. He tugged on all the right heartstrings and the ending is a real tearjerker. I wanted these characters to succeed, even those who weren’t the typical “good guys”—even when, deep down, I knew not everyone would make it out alive. By the last hundred pages, I didn’t stop reading for anything. Sorry, bladder, I had to see how the story played out.

I will definitely read this book, along with the other two, again. This series will be a staple in my personal library for years to come. I’ll gladly read about these characters and this world again, and again. Being such a picky reader, that’s high praise from someone like me. Mr. Ruckley’s writing makes me want to become a better writer. It’s inspiring. He’s gained a fan for life.

What I liked:

- The world feels vast, but not too vast to follow along.

- The atmosphere feels like a world at war. It's bleak, just the way it should be.
- The characters really come alive in Fall of Thanes. Each one shines, even the antagonists.
- People die. Sometimes they die spectacularly. The action is superb.
- The author finds the right balance of action, description, and character insight, grabbing the reader by the heartstrings and never letting go. You'll be turning the pages through the night and into the wee hours of the morning.
- No character is safe from death, keeping readers on their toes.
- Each plotline is satisfactorily resolved by the end of this book.
- The women are still just as strong as the men, and just as important to the story. No damsels in distress here.
- The stakes are high and readers easily believe what will happen if these characters fail.
- This book builds upon the previous two and surpassed them in every way imaginable. Fantastic read.
- The ending will make you weepy eyed. Very well done.

What I didn't like:

• I thought long and hard about anything I possibly didn't like and came up with nothing. This book met, or exceeded my every expectation. I take it back, I didn't like that it was over. I want more!

Overall: You're still here? I thought you'd be starting this trilogy. Seriously, if you like quality Fantasy, then you need to read these books. I'm giving Fall of Thanes five out of five stars. What seemed to plague the first two books is absent in the third, making a much smoother read. I can't talk enough about the full realized female characters in Mr. Ruckley's world. The women brought just as much to the table as the men, sometimes (in Shraeve's case) even more. These characters and world will stay with me for years to come. I'm so happy to have stumbled onto Winterbirth, the Godless World trilogy, and Brian Ruckley. I can't recommend this book, and trilogy, enough. Pick them up today and get reading. If there's ever anything else set in this world, count me in. I'll be there with bells on!

Brian Ruckley

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### Dhuaine says

Continuation of what *Bloodheir* started - the real threat to the world, aka one crazy magician. Oh please. I hoped so much that it wouldn't end that way, that we would get a huge conventional war sprinkled with sparkling supernatural tricks, not a dude wiping away armies with his equivalent of psychic fireball. The whole book is basically documentation of progressing madness, incompetent idiots, more madness, gore and disgusting stuff, boring travels of small group of protagonists, destroying characters, madness, etc.

OK, I have to admit that you don't get that kind of book often. I mean the one that deals with madness on such huge scale. At least in fantasy - majority of plot thingies used in *Fall of Thanes* I've already seen in horror novels. I have to admit that I am biased - I wanted realistic fantasy, not evil wizard vs Muggle world. It's a shame that characters deteriorated into flat versions of themselves, with only couple of exceptions. It's very, very bad that the conclusion of the book leaves the world with a ton of political issues that would be really fun to see resolved.

Basically, I don't like the whole idea behind the climax of the series. I caught myself skipping chunks of text in second half of the book - I was really not interested in prolonged descriptions of madness enveloping everybody and the world. The beginning of the series was very promising, but it ended up being a disappointment.

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## **Matt says**

An excellent finish to the series. The momentum kept building till the very end. It was definitely noticeable that Ruckley's writing abilities improved heavily from the start till the end of the series.

This third and final book of the trilogy was by far the best and I was completely satisfied with the ending (although a little sad)

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## **Jen says**

I wanted to like this book, this series, I really did. The premise of a world changing and shifting and throwing old hierarchies over for new ones with a dash of crazy psychic overlay is pretty interesting. Also, Ruckley's prose is usually pretty good, very flowing and poetic, almost (although there are several moments of grammatical slip-ups, but hey, the editor should have caught that). However, I just couldn't get over how DAMNED DEPRESSING this whole ride was. Book three is where things wrap up, where the sun shines on a newly rescued world and some semblance of hope is created that these characters will continue, right? Wrong. I mean, not totally wrong, because there are those couple of wrap-up pages where the survivors look toward the West or whatever, but most of the book is more loss, more death, and more hopelessness. I stopped getting attached to characters because I knew they would die, and books are no fun to me if I can't get attached to the characters. I felt nothing for them because my capacity to care about them was hollowed out. Everyone died, the world was left in a sucky place for at least a decade afterward, and I felt tired when I finished. On the one hand, that says great things about Ruckley's impact and writing skill, but it just wasn't worth it. The real world is dark enough without adding such a bleak fictional side.

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