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The people of Krynn have known war in past ages. Some are still alive who remember the triumph of good at the conclusion of the War of the Lance. Still more remember the devastation of the Chaos War, which ended the Fourth Age of the world.

But now a new war is about to begin, more terrible than any have known. This war is one for the very heart and soul of the world itself.

The War of Souls.

Dragons of a Fallen Sun Details

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Ugur says

Dragons of a Fallen Sun is the first book of the Dragonlance: The War of Souls series and written by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman in 2000.

Like other Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman novels, reading this book is enjoyable. It is nice to read good novels in Dragonlance world.

Forty years passed after the Chaos War which destructs everything in Dragonlance universe. Dragons have divided the continent and reigning the humans, elves and dwarves. Magical powers are fading and gods have left the world.

But there are some changes, a new god is emerging without a name. Mina who is the priestess of the one god, the Nameless God become the leader of Knights of Neraka which was previously serving to Takhisis.

Tas has traveled from back to the current time and find this future is different from what he has remembered. The previous future world was much better, most of his friends are living, elves have united as a one nation, Palin was the head of the whites. But in this new future everything is destroyed, there is no magic, elves are still fighting each other, Palin become a black etc.

It's interesting to read a time-travel themed Dragonlance novel.

Bahia says

I picked this up used for a friend and decided to read it before I gave it to him. Weis and Hickman are supposed to be some of the best writers in the Dragonlance series, but I was not impressed. They tell, but don't show, overuse words (never seen the word "restive" used more in a book), and this book should have been significantly shorter. It had been a long time since I'd read any of the Dragonlance novels and I didn't particularly mind that you were supposed to be familiar with the world to know the context of this one, but this book was nothing special with characters I didn't particularly care about.

About halfway through it picked up a lot so I did give the next two books in the trilogy a chance, but once I finished the trilogy I pretty much decided to give Dragonlance a pass in the future.

Nick T. Borrelli says

This is probably my favorite Dragonlance series from Margaret Weis and Traci Hickman. I love dragons and this one hits all the right chords where that is concerned. I feel like this series is under the radar compared to their more popular Dragonlance books, but for me they outdid themselves here and the writing is phenomenal. If you like dwarves, dragons, wizards, and traditional fantasy in the vein of Terry Brooks, then this one should be at the top of your list of series to read. I've read it about five times since it was first

published. Great stuff.

Ren says

Wow! For my first Dragonlance book experience that was great! I commend the authors on doing a stunningly amazing job at creating and developing their characters.

Mina was.... Mina was simply amazing. I loved her from the moment she appeared in a blaze of lightning and hailstorm among the great black monoliths. I cheered for Mina as her Knights did, I worried as Galdar did when her footsteps faltered. Everything about her character was amazing in my opinion. I have to say that I am so enamored with her character at this point that I honestly cannot tell whether or not she is a villain or a hero at this point. All I know is that I'm rooting for her. I want to take up her battle cry with her soldiers and I want to follow her story to the very end. She is so... inexorably charismatic and unyielding. She truly does capture the reader. (view spoiler) Galdar was a very good character as well and I am excited to see where he ends up as. He loves Mina but at the same time he speaks against her when he feels it's necessary. He has a mind of his own and frequently voices it, if not aloud than to himself at least.

Silvanoshei.... I'm not quite sure what to think about him. While I liked him in the beginning, he quickly became rather moody and tiresome by the end of the book. I admired him in some places, but I am very much on the fence about how I feel about him. (view spoiler) I am very curious to learn about his mother, Alhana Starbreeze, and his father, Porthios. I am hoping that when I back track and read the previous books belonging to Dragonlance that I will be able to see more of them. The same goes for Goldmoon, Jenna, Laurana the Queen Mother and this Dalmar (as well as Raistlin) that I keep hearing about.

Gerard... I did not like him one inkling to begin with. He irritated me with his constant brooding attitude and his mistreatment of Tasslehoff. (view spoiler) Ultimately, I have to admit that while I do not like him he does deserve, and command, a grudging respect. And Palin? I wanted to throttle Palin and his angst. Tas was amazing though. He was obviously the comic relief and I quite enjoyed it. However, he did bring up some very insightful outlooks throughout the book. He was a funny character, rather adorable I think. I pitied him a great deal, though. I've got to say, I like his Gnome from the Hedge Maze. Really funny.

Overall, it was a great book to start my Dragonlance experience. While I didn't understand all the terms, I quickly began to pick up on everything. The only thing that I fault the authors for is their occasional habit of info-dumping. I am not going to complain a great deal about this, though, considering that it was quite useful to me (and probably to other newcomers of the series). I also do not know how much of the information given is common knowledge among the fanbase that has read the previous books either. Once again, awesome book. Sucked me in from the start and I had a very difficult time putting it down.

FOR THE LOVE OF MINA!

Simon says

It's been a long while since I've last touched a Dragonlance novel. After reading many other fantasy books during the interim, I finally can see why many readers desperately wanted the original authors of the Dragonlance novels to write the next trilogy of books and hopefully, beyond that as well. It's definitely not

the case that I think the other fantasy authors are not good. It's just that every good author(s) should have a distinctive writing style to make their book unique and both Margaret and Tracy have done an excellent job in reminding me of why I started reading fantasy novels in the first place.

For the most part, the authors have done a pretty good job of filling in the readers of what happened during the Dragons of a New Age trilogy (the one I skipped over). This is very important because events do carry over. In this fifth age, the occupants of Krynn find themselves without magic power for their Gods have abandoned them in order to save them. One of the main focuses in Dragons of the Fallen Sun consists of the elven nations of Qualinesti and Silvanesti. We get to meet new characters such as Mina, Galdar and Gerard (he might have made an appearance in earlier series but I can't remember). Other more familiar characters such as Tas, Palin, Goldmoon and Caramon return as well. It's hard to imagine a world where dragons rule over humans and non-humans as well but yet that is exactly what becomes of Krynn in Dragons of the Fallen Sun.

It's always hard for me to write a review of a book because I always fear of spoiling it. With Dragon's of a Fallen Sun, this is even more so because there are many plot lines and things can get complicated very fast. Suffice it to say, this book is very plot-driven. However, it doesn't get boring at all in my opinion. The one minor gripe I have is with some of the dislikeable characters. At certain times, I feel like wringing the necks of Mina, Gilthas and Silvan. They are not necessarily bad characters, but there's just something irritating about them at times. Mina is a young girl who came out of nowhere one stormy night and quickly awed and shocked an entire army due to her healing powers. Throughout the book, not much information is given about her other than the fact that she's young, has magical healing abilities, is beautiful, and is on some secret mission. Good or evil, you can't really make her out yet you're suppose to think of her as some sort of divine being sent down by some nameless God. Yes, it does get irritating.

The story in Dragons of a Fallen Sun is complicated like I have mentioned above. It's very hard to summarize it in a simple paragraph because there is so many back history to the world of Krynn. Although you technically can choose Dragons of a Fallen Sun as the very first Dragonlance novel you read, I really don't recommend it. The ending definitely sets up a cliff hanger of some sort and many questions are left unanswered until the next book comes around. I've read other reviews stating that the authors did a much better job with some of the dislikable characters I mentioned above so that's definitely a good sign. While I do feel that Dragons of a Fallen Sun is a pretty long book, I don't consider it a drag or bore. I never found myself even having the urge to skip any pages. This I attribute of course, to the awesome authors of this book/series. Long live the Dragonlance chronicles!

Jasher Drake says

First off, this is VERY different from all the previous Dragonlance books I have read, and when I say different, I mean DIFFERENT. The world that I once knew has been completely tuned upside down. The government has changed, the laws have changed, the factions have changed, heck, even the land itself has been changed. All of the familiar characters have been completely changed as well. Palin, for one, used to be all heart but now, he is turning into what his uncle Raistlin turned into, deceiving, angry, and hateful.

Now, everything that I just said is why most people hate the books, but I gotta say that it made me enjoy the experience even more. It opened my eyes to just how real this world is, and how everything can be changed with a few small mistakes.

So yeah. This book is awesome! And it even introduced a new favorite character to me, Mina.

Erik Akre says

This book was great! I can't think of anything to complain about, try as I might. The writing is solid enough that you don't notice it; the plot is well-woven and inventive. One is kept in proper suspension-tension. The characters are finely-made enough to be believable... It's a "what's not to like?" experience.

I'm tempted to say that this series is the D-and-D'd cousin to George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones*, but really I know much better than that. It isn't a masterpiece of that magnitude, but nevertheless, despite (or because of?) its relative lack of sophistication, I plowed through its 600+ pages in a single week. As they say, "I couldn't put it down." I haven't read anything like it before. Other fantasy authors generally attempt to do what Weis and Hickman have done here, and I've never seen them succeed, in craft or in storytelling.

In brief recall, I only see Tolkien and Martin as being better at evoking a fantastic world and its inhabitants, although I grant that the latter authors are on a whole higher level. Weis and Hickman are on a lower level, but perhaps masters of the upper-middle (or lower-high?) echelon.

This book completely surprised me. I wasn't expecting much. But before even finished it, I went out directly to buy 2 and 3; I needed them on hand. I thought this would be a casual read, but it turned into much more.

Christina says

The first big trilogy from Weiss and Hickmann since Legends. I have read it once and I think I have tried reading it a couple of times since but not really getting into it - not sure why because this time around, I really liked it.

A new player stands on the face of Krynn, Mina, a young girl, follower of the One God. Able to predict the future, heal the sick and look into the hearts of people around her, Mina soon gets a huge following of Knights of Neraka and mercenaries.

Meanwhile, Tas suddenly appears in Solace after being presumed dead for 30 years and a young knight, Gerard uth Mondar, travels with him to Qualinest to meet up with Laurana, Palin and the young king Gilthas. Qualinest, being controlled by the dark knights, are not so easily entered but Gerard and Tas manages, setting events in motion they hadn't even dreamed of.

In Silvanost, young Silvan, son of dark elves Porthios and Alhana Starbreeze, suddenly finds himself inside the shield the elves have risen to keep out everybody else and finds himself on the throne of Silvanost, a country rapidly dying because of the power of the shield.

As always, Weiss and Hickmann manages to keep many storylines in the air at once and keeping you guessing as to what will happen and how it all will come together.

A.M. Reynwood says

Wow. I had to take a moment and a deep breath after this one. This trilogy took me (I'm a little embarrassed to admit) several months to finish. Each volume is so big it could break a foot if you dropped it. This is a very intricate story with many threads woven to make a fine mesh tapestry.

I have been interested in the universe of DragonLance for a long time, and my very first venture into the world of Krynn was the Suncatcher Trilogy by Jeff Sampsom (which I'm thinking of reading again, because Sindri). I fell in love with the race of kender, which are kind of like hobbits, but not really.

Then I brought this War of Souls Trilogy into my collection and decided to give it a whirl. My first impression after diving into the first volume was that I would have benefitted exponentially from reading its predecessor series first, as there are many people, places, and events mentioned and alluded to that bear some significance. Albeit the authors did a fair job adding enough detail to give a novice (such as I am) some understanding to keep me from being totally lost, but in the future I would advise starting at the very beginning, because that's a very good place to start. I jumped into an ocean with this DragonLance stuff, because while there are numerous (and I mean numerous) series and trilogies encompassing individual stories, they're all strung up along the timeline of this world of Krynn, which opens with Dragons of Autumn Twilight, first in the Chronicles Trilogy by Weis and Hickman.

So, before you dive into the War of Souls, be smarter than yours truly and start in the beginning instead of somewhere in the middle.

Now, that said, I have to admit I have some mixed feelings about this story. Overall in the grand scheme of things I enjoyed it, but it was the ending that sold it to me. I love me a good ending (I'm not saying anything more about that, because a spoiled ending is the worst). I had some trouble getting there, though, because it took so very long. We follow a bucket load of people scattered across the continent dealing with the myriad of happenings, and to be honest, I really only cared about Tasselhoff's happenings (poor, poor, loveable Tas. I'd read Dragons of an Autumn Twilight just for him). I favored Gerard's bits, too, but those two were my only real favorites.

The overarching theme of this One God seriously creeped me out in the beginning, when I couldn't decide if it was a good or bad thing. The details were so conflicting (which is good storytelling, leaving the reader in the same shoes as the characters as they try to figure out what to think of it). I'm going to spoil that for you and say that it is most certainly a bad thing. There wouldn't be much of a story if it had turned out to be a good one.

Such is life.

Anywho, the diversity of the characters and their varying personalities gives a wide perspective of what's going on, what it means to the world as a whole, and how it affects/will affect the individuals in it. One thing is for certain, not a single person will be the same. Trials can stretch and grow or shatter and destroy. Tas learned about fear and true bravery, Odila found her way through the mire of a troubled heart, Gilthas fought through the pain and responsibility of kingship to lead an exiled people. Mina succumbed to darkness.

Mina is a curiosity for me. Duly mysterious in the beginning, we learned very little about her throughout the story. Outside of her unswerving faith in her One God, she has almost no personality. Her initial impression is one of a capable leader and miracle worker filled with kindness and compassion for everyone, including her enemies, so long as they recognize the One God whom she serves. Then come to find out towards the end that this 'innocent' youth isn't as kindhearted as we've been led to believe. I know that stress and pain can alter a person, but I would think that such a compassionate person would hesitate a little more before doing what she did, might waver a little in the face of the dark truth. But maybe it was all a farce to begin with. An act. Devotion to her god turned this inquisitive girl into a devout pawn and then a bitter and vengeful creature. It would be interesting to see what happens with this new bane in the followup series, The Dark Disciple.

Story aside, I thought the narrative had good points and not so good points. It was wonderfully descriptive, painting vivid pictures, but there were times when I thought this exposition or that one wasn't entirely necessary for the development of the plot. I also found a boatload of typos, but it's not like that ruined the experience for me. The pace was moderate for the most part, kind of slow at times (which is one of the reasons it took me so long to finish, I rarely felt the insufferable need to read more at the soonest opportunity). But it got better in the last three or four hundred pages, keeping me up too late.

All in all I'd say it was a good addition to the DragonLance world, certainly enough to convince me to go back and read from the first.

Nicolas says

The gods have abandoned Krynn, the people on their own, struggling to find their own magic. Faith has begun to flounder and people hunger for something to believe in. Then, Mina, a young girl with close shaven red hair appears, professing the power of the "One God". A god who did not abandon Krynn and was here. From her a cult begins to spring, the power of this god flowing through her and causing her amber gaze to lock thousands in service to her. The forces of light seemed doomed as Mina and her dark horde slowly gain ground. That is, until Tasselhoff Burrfoot, long dead hero of the lance, travels to the present by means of a magic device. When he lands he says that time is wrong. Something has changed the events in time and everything is all wrong. What has changed time?

To discover you will have to read this book, the first in the War of Souls trilogy by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, the original authors of the first Dragonlance trilogy along with many follow-ups. This duo has had practice in perfecting the mythology of Krynn and this book is bound to capture those experienced and those new to the universe that is Dragonlance. What happened to the gods? What happened to time? And, what in the world is Tasselhoff doing time traveling again? All these are to be answered in this and the next books in the War of Souls trilogy. I guarantee that once you pick this book up, you won't stop until the trilogy, and quite possibly many more books in the Dragonlance series, sit comfortably read upon your shelves (or e-readers).

This book is among my favorites, the Dragonlance series as a whole easily making it to one of my most cherished series. I assure you that you will, in the end, join me in my love of this incredible fantasy series.

Greg Strandberg says

Just not where I want to be going.

We've got a terrible problem with Dragonlance, and that's the fact that the first 3 books were so darn good, and they were good because they were so negative and depressing and, well...world-ending.

So you get a real twisted and tough canonical that's hard to do much with. And boy, have they tried just about everything with Dragonlance but throwing the kitchen sink on the cover and having a gully dwarf come up the drain pipe (2016 maybe?)

I like Dragonlance, I just didn't much like this book or the trilogy of books that dealt with a new world and

cataclysm. I didn't much like the New Generation.

All in all, why can't I just have a time machine back to the early 80s, when things were simple?

Chris Strehlow says

Personal Response:

I believe this book is good, but it has a lot of setup for the future. I am hoping the next book will follow more on Gerard and Qualinesti, because there was very little of it near the end. In the beginning I was confused because the story was from many characters point of views, but then they started to meet up and it all came together. I look forward to reading the next book in the series, and possibly going back and reading previous series.

Plot:

There are many main characters, but it starts off with Galdar, who meets Mina and restores his sword arm in the name of The One God. Galdar and his troops follow Mina who leads them into battle for a victory against the Solamnics. They then spend most of the book traveling to Silvanesti where they hope to penetrate the shield. Tasslehoff Burrfoot has been dead 30 years, until he uses an artifact to travel forward through time to speak at a funeral. He meets Gerard, a Solamnic Knight who is duty bound to honor a man's last wish. They travel to Qualinesti to meet Palin Majere and deliver the artifact to him. He wants to meet with a colleague in Solace to inspect the artifact. Palin believes that since Tas went forward and didn't sacrifice himself, he messed up the past. Palin scares Tas and tries to send him back to his death, so Tas runs away to the Citadel of Light. While their, Goldmoon somehow changed back into her younger self. Beryl discovers the artifact is in the Citadel, and she travels out to obtain it. Silvanoshei is with his mother when they are attacked by ogres, and he is sent to get help from the Legion of Steel, only to get knocked unconscious and fall in a ravine. When he awakes, he is inside of the shield that protects Silvanesti. He then becomes King and learns the politics of court. When Mina and her band of warriors make it into the shield, he captures and falls in love with Mina. She helps him kill Cyan Bloodbane, who was disguised as Glaucous, the elf who maintained the Shield Tree. She then helps him to take down the shield surrounding Silvanesti, but leaves before he can see her. Mina has a large number of forces that are entering the area to help conquer Silvanesti when the story ends.

Characterization:

Palin Majere is a broken wizard, and has lost everything. So when Tas shows up with a magical artifact. When he uses the artifact, he doesn't see any history past the chaos war and blames Tas. He believes that since Tas didn't die, it caused a rift in time, and yells at Tas to go back and die. When Tas runs, Palin realizes what he has done, and tries to find him to reconcile. He understands that he was too harsh, and tries to calm down in the future.

Marshal Medan is the leader of the Knights of Neraka in Qualinesti, and was sent there by Beryl. He is a strict man, but also has some compassion. He has fallen in love with the Queen Mother, Laurana. He is seen as following what Beryl says, but he likes the people of Qualinesti, so he plots against Beryl. He lets Palin and Tas escape, and makes Gerard his servant. At the end of the book, he arrests Laurana so that he can protect her.

Setting:

Dragons of a Fallen Sun takes place in many different areas. They include Solace, Qualinesti, Silvanesti, and

even the woods around Silvanesti. Having many different characters make the story jump around from place to place. It takes place after the Chaos War. No definite time or date was mentioned, but it follows some time after *Dragon's of a Summer Flame*.

Recommendation:

I would recommend this book to high school seniors and up because there is some graphic content. In addition to the graphic content it is an all around difficult read. I would also recommend it to people who enjoy fantasy books and can persevere through parts of the story that are boring.

Mark says

"OK, guys, let's take everything that everybody liked about the Dragonlance setting and get rid of it."

That's essentially what happened with the introduction of the Fifth Age. From what I hear, this same error was repeated in the Forgotten Realms setting nearly a decade later as D&D moved forward into its 4th edition rule set.

Although when I decided Dragonlance sucked now I just started reading Drizzt books, so you know... whatever. I have the young and dumb shelf for a reason.

Michael Timmins says

Though it has been years since I have read this book, I still remember it fondly. Set in the future of the original Dragonlance books it still holds the same quality of writing and the same epic quality. A truly great fantasy read.

Dan says

It wasn't a BAD book per say, it's just that the ending left me kind of embittered, and I thought there were a few characters that just absolutely destroyed the book for me (Mina.....)

As a disclaimer, I have always loved the combination of Weis and Hickman, but I couldn't really get behind this one.

Throughout the series, they just kept throwing character after character at the reader, introducing new story arcs, but not doing much with them, and I felt that the ending left quite a few loose strands, and you never get to find out or get any resolution about them. It was well-written, and a couple characters had me empathizing with them, since they had depth and were well developed (Tas and Gerard), and the story being given through the eyes of the evil faction was pretty inventive as well. I wanted to like this book more, but it came short of my expectations.
