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The First Confessor: The Legend Of Magda Searus



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Terry Goodkind comes *The First Confessor*, the prequel to the *Sword of Truth* series. In a time before legends had yet been born. Married to the powerful leader of her people, safe among those gifted with great ability, Magda Searus is protected from a distant world descending into war. But when her husband, a man who loved life and loved her, unexpectedly commits suicide, she suddenly finds herself alone. Because she is ungifted herself, without her husband she no longer has standing among her people, and she finds herself isolated in a society that seems to be crumbling around her. Despite her grief, she is driven to find the reasons behind why her husband would do such a thing—why he would abandon her and her people at such a profoundly dangerous time. Though she is not gifted, she begins to discover that there may be more to her husband's suicide than anyone knew. What she finds next, no one is willing to believe. Without anyone to help her, she knows that she must embark on a mission to find a mysterious spiritist, if she even exists, so that she may speak with the dead. This quest may also be her last chance to unravel what is really behind the mysterious events befalling her people. What she discovers along the way is that the war is going far worse than she had known, and that the consequences of defeat will be more terrifying for her and her people than she could have imagined. As mortal peril begins to close in around her, Magda learns that she is somehow the key to her people's salvation. Journey with Magda Searus into her dark world, and learn how true legends are born.

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Customer Reviews

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author, the prequel to the Sword of Truth, for the first time hardcover --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Terry Goodkind is the author of the worldwide bestsellers making up the Sword of Truth, and the #1 New York Times bestseller The Omen Machine. He lives in Henderson, Nevada. Christina is also a freelance audiobook narrator, having recorded over one hundred titles for such companies as Brilliance Audio () and Macmillan Publishers (Audible). She holds an MFA in acting from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and a BFA in acting from the University of Michigan. She is a Certified Teacher and one of four female Fight Directors with the SAFD (Society of American Fight Directors), as well as a member of AEA (Actor's Equity Association), AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), and VASTA (Voice and Speech Trainers Association).

The First Confessor (The Legend of Magda Searus) by Terry Goodkind is exactly what the title claims, the story of the Magda Searus, the first Confessor. The events played out here are a crucial part of the back story of the Sword of Truth series. As the story opens, Magda Searus has just lost her husband, First Wizard Baraccus. Feeling lost and alone, Magda sets out to commit suicide in the same manner as her husband, by throwing herself off the wall of the Keep and falling to her death a thousand feet below. At the last possible moment, she finds a note left by Baraccus, urging her to find truth. In the chapters that follow, the reader is given a closer look at the events laid out as backstory during the Sword of Truth series. How the war between the Old World and the New was first started, the making of the Sword of Truth, the hiding of the Temple of the Winds, the creation of the D'Haran bond, the dreamwalkers, the traitors in the Keep, and the reasoning behind the creation of the Confessors. And other events even further back in history are hinted at. This was an excellent read. I've read each book by Goodkind in one sitting, and this was no exception. This book explains many of the secrets behind the Sword of Truth series and gives the characters mentioned in the series their own stories. Even though this wasn't about the main characters, Richard and Kahlan, I was just as interested in the characters and eager to know more about them. The only two problems I had with this book were that now I feel the need to go back and read the whole series again and now I want to know more about the other events mentioned in the series. Here's hoping Mr. Goodkind feels the urge to write more of the backstory. A note about the format: The First Confessor (The Legend of Magda Searus) is a self-published e-book. Many of his loyal fans seem to be quite upset that it's only available in e-format, as they don't have the necessary e-readers. Terry

Goodkind wanted to tell the story in his own way, without the limitations imposed by a publisher. Apparently, he's one of the first big name authors to venture into the realms of self-publishing. His reasons for doing so can be found on his website at terrygoodkind.com. As reviewers, we tend to shy away from author self-pubs. Many that we've read have had lots of grammatical errors, formatting issues, continuity problems, or just plain poor editing. I didn't find a single thing wrong in this book. That's not to say there aren't problems, just that I didn't find them, and I usually do. If you're leery of reading this because it's a self-pub, don't be. It could easily have been printed by any of the major publishers and I wouldn't have noticed any difference while reading it.

If you have read the Sword of Truth series and have wondered about some of the story line as it relates to the Wizard War, then First Confessor is a MUST read. It not only clarifies information especially as it relates to book four "Temple of the Winds" but it fills in some of the gaps from Kolo's journal; like Kolo's name. "First Confessor" also explains about the Book of Counted Shadows and the "sword" itself. If Zed knew the truth about the Book of Counted Shadows, even he would have been shocked! Magda Searus is a smart, strong determined woman who seeks the truth and has always looked out for the those that cannot speak for themselves; even before becoming the Mother Confessor. The book starts shortly after First Wizard Baraccus has committed suicide. When you meet Lothain for the first time, you can feel how Magda distrusts and loathes him. She wonders as do other characters why all the trials and executions Lothain ordered were in secret. I give you one bit of information, Magda is the one who names the sword the "Sword of Truth." The only complaint I have with "First Confessor" is the mental imagery of what the characters are thinking. Particularly when it goes on for two or three pages. This is minor considering the overall story line and the revelations that come from the story. Now the question is whether or not Terry Goodkind will follow "First Confessor" up with another prequel.

This book is a prequel to the eleven book Sword of Truth series, but I would say that you have to read all of those books first to fully appreciate this one. If you read this book as a stand alone you would not be able to appreciate the significance of all that happens here. Some thing might be spoilers if you read this first. In this case it's best to stick to publication order. So much back story to Sword of Truth and the origin of so many things is explained here. Including: The creation of the actual Sword of Truth, the creation of the first Confessor, the Book of Counted shadows, the bond and devotion to Lord Rahl and why magic (especially subtractive magic) started to die out. There's even an explanation of how the Darklands in post Sword of Truth books came into existence. If you

have read the main series then this is probably a must read. I definitely found it to be one of the better books from Goodkind. As a side note I used whispersync for this one and flew through it in about a week. The only problem I had was the narrator pronounced D'Hara as something like Daara, which I felt was wrong and annoying.

I loved the entire Sword of truth series. I would have to say The Wizards First Rule was my favorite. The First Confessor ties in some things from that series and just adds to the story line. Having said that, I never paid attention to the fact that there are a lot of one sided conversations split into paragraphs when it is a continuous monologue. There is also a lot of repetitive statements that are totally unnecessary. Other than that it is a fast and enjoyable read, but I am glad I read it last. I will always buy his books.

Goodkind is one of the most profoundly moral writer I know by creating characters who are quintessentially moral. Much of the novel occurs in the protagonist's head, where she ponders the various aspects of complex, difficult situations. I have never finished a Goodkind novel without a fresh perspective on an ethical/moral issue. It is so refreshing to be so challenged. And . . . besides all that, he manages complex weaves of engaging plot lines around characters with fascinating depth. I always look forward to his next novel. This novel was written as a prequel to the origin of the Mother Confessor and is really needed to flow with the novels that follow.

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