

Chris Ley

Mrs. Robinson

English

2 October 2018

Book Review: *The Sword of Shannara*

The Sword of Shannara is about how Allanon comes to Shady Vale, to find Shea Ohmsford, because he is the last son of the house of Shannara. He is the only one left who can wield the sword of Shannara and stop the evil Druid, Brona, who has turned into the Warlock Lord (Shea is the adopted brother of Flick Ohmsford. He is half elf). Brona has a band of followers who turned into the Skull Bearers. Flick Ohmsford says that he won't let Shea go without him. Allanon warns the valemens of the Skull Bearers, and how they wish to kill Shea, since he is the last one who can kill Brona. Allanon leaves unexpectedly from the vale, and leaves them a note saying to wait for a friend named Balinor. Balinor tells them to head to Cullhaven, a dwarven city. They go to the kingdom of Leah, and get Menion Leah (prince of Leah) to take them to Cullhaven. They arrive, and Allanon tells them the story of the two War of the Races.

Allanon, two elves, Balinor, the valemens, a dwarf, and Menion Leah go to find the Sword of Shannara. The encounter many perils along the way, first of which includes losing Shea. The others go on without him, hoping they will find him at Paranor, where the sword should be. Shea finds his own way, meeting Panamon Creel (a one handed thief) and Keltset Mallicos (a rock troll). They take him to Skull kingdom, capturing a Gnome who had the Sword of Shannara, and gained possession of it. They got to Skull Kingdom, and Shea confronted the Warlock Lord. He removes the Sword, and is struck by a feeling of all of the things that he has done in his life. He doesn't

know what it is until the Warlock Lord is upon him. He then realises that the Sword tells the truth about you. You have to accept the truth, and let the truth befall you, otherwise you will be destroyed. He realises this, and then points the Sword at the Warlock Lord. The Warlock Lord backs up as the sword touches him. He knows what the sword does, and will not accept the truth about him. He cannot accept it because he would have to accept that he should have died thousands of years ago. Therefore, he would be destroyed whether he accepted the truth about him or not. The warlock lord is destroyed and all of the Skull Bearers disintegrate. Shea, Kelset, and Panamon Creel try to escape as the Skull Kingdom collapses. Only Shea makes it out, and although it is not said, we have to believe that Panamon Creel and Kelset are killed, because they are no longer mentioned later in the book, even though Panamon Creel tells Shea, ““We’ll meet again, Shea Ohmsford. You watch for me.”” (Brooks 422)

Meanwhile, the Warlock Lord’s army of rock trolls, and Gnomes, invades the fortress of Tyrsis. They attack the walls for a long time, each time being stopped by the Border Legion. In the end, a group of rock trolls use a battering ram and steamroll their own troops, and crash into the gates, destroying them. After that happens, two huge winged Skull Bearers rise above the hill, and the Border Legion cries out in despair. Then they disintegrate (from Shea destroying the Warlock Lord) and that is the end of that part, leaving the reader to imagine what happens. All Terry Brooks writes is that Tyrsis doesn't fall. I would give this book a 5/5 star rating. I would give this book this high of a rating because, it was well written, and I have read the rest of the books in this trilogy. (The second one was even better, but the third one wasn't that good. Didn't like it much).

1. Druid: a super-powerful being who studied magic, and kept a history of the world between the first and second War of the Races
2. Skull Bearers: winged creatures who used to be druids, who followed Brona, and were turned into these monsters because of the Ildatch which is a book containing dark magic (not learned about until the third book)
3. Valem: people who live in Shady Vale
4. a) 1st War of the Races: Brona causes some druids to gather an army of man, and attack the other races. He is defeated, and man is brought to their knees, and almost go extinct.
b) 2nd War of the Races: Brona turns into the Warlock Lord and leads an army of Gnomes against the other races
5. Paranor: the druid keep, or temple
6. Border Legion: the famed army of Tyrsis. This army has a huge amount of highly trained soldiers. The famed Border Legion has never been defeated.