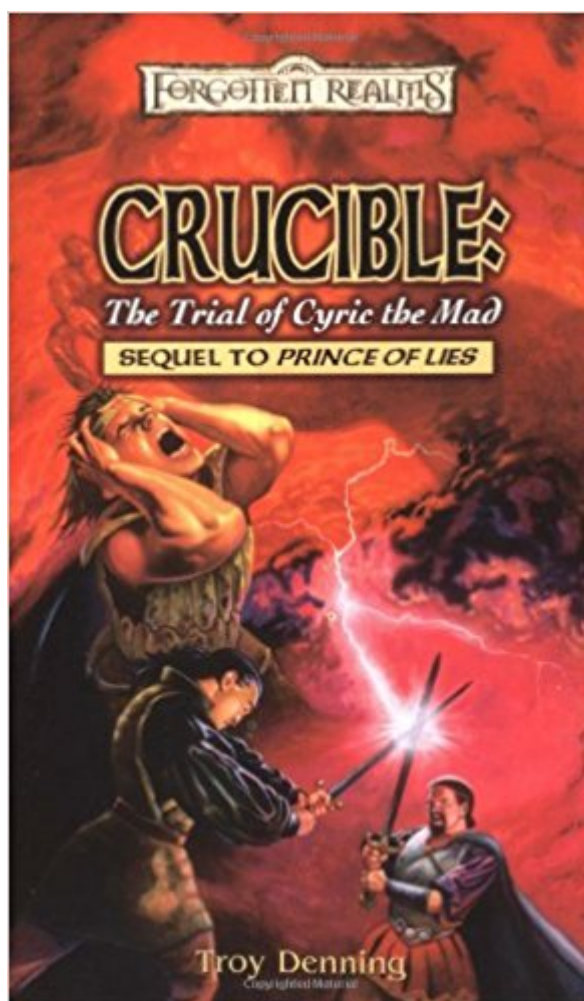


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# CRUCIBLE: The Trial Of Cyric The Mad (Forgotten Realms, Sequel To Prince Of Lies)



## Synopsis

This title is the final in a series of recovers of the popular Avatar series. At the time of its original release, this series presented key events that impacted the entire Forgotten Realms world, and the effects of those events are still felt in current novels. This re-released series features a cohesive cover design and all-new art and was written by New York Times best-selling author Troy Denning. Cyric the Mad Who betrayed his friends Midnight and Kelemvor and sought to destroy them. Who ascended to godhood and now spreads his lies and intrigues into every corner of Faerun. Who is the Lord of Murder, the Prince of Lies--and insane.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Troy Denning is the author of many novels set in the Forgotten Realms world, including his recent Return of the Archwizards series. He has also written Death of the Dragon with Ed Greenwood and The Prism Pentad, set in the Dark Sun world. He recently penned the New York Times best-selling Star Wars novel Star by Star for Del Rey.

My first was Pages of Pain. I greatly admire Troy Denning's imagination and his ability to bring well known characters to life, up and out of the flat, written page where we're used to seeing them. Case-in-point: The lore is that Cyric created the Cyrinishad, a powerful tome enchanted to make anyone reading it believe that Cyric is the center of the Universe... and then he read it himself. In a manner and with such color that makes me envious as a long time DM, Denning shows what that would really mean. What it would be like for a mortal to interact with such a being, how the other

gods would react to him, what kind of people would actually worship such a deity, and so on. It is always creative, and Cyric is often hilariously egocentric. I might also add that the Kindle version I read was narrated masterfully by Nicole Greevy, who I had never heard of, but I extremely enjoyed the way she spoke incredibly precisely, you could hear every letter in every word as if she were a highly trained orator. She also put a perfect "nervous edge" on Cyric's voice, making him really come through as someone you really wouldn't want even standing next to you. Not that there was any similarity, but the effect is similar to Heath Ledger's take on The Joker: without overdoing it, she communicates that there is something just not quite right about Cyric. Oh, and he's a being of near limitless power that even the other gods admit to fearing. After listening to Crucible, I am more convinced that Troy Denning is my favorite fantasy author. Edit: Having listened to the other books now, it should probably be said it is relatively important to do experience the story in order. I did not, and I now know that, for example, I totally missed an important point at the end of Cyric's trial, and cheated myself out of the full emotional impact of a certain event. Now that I'm aware of previous events, I appreciate much more how Cyric is truly evil and he plays a long game in top of that. Denning is even better than I previously thought.

I had previously read the Prince of Lies book before this one and didn't realize there was a continuation. While looking for a new FR novel to read I came across this one. I read some of the reviews talking about how the book was nonsensical and how they did not like it but I actually thought it was an excellent book. The book is supposed to be a first hand account of a Cyricist by the name of Malik and his experiences with trying to retrieve the Cynrinshad and the True Life of Cyric. I think I enjoy the seeing more of Faeruns gods and other planar beings which is why I enjoyed the this book, the Prince of Lies and the Erevis Cale books so much. If you like getting a window into the minds of the deities of the Forgotten Realms then this book is for you.

I started buying trashy Star Wars novels because of this clever little book. I love those too. (The Legacy of the Force books are just fantastic. FANTASTIC.) This book was really delightful too. It was told totally differently than the usual D&D stuff and it was funny and interesting to read it from the perspective of a spiteful hateful (stupid) little servant of Cyric.

The format of this book alone made it worth reading. I found it quite refreshing to read an epic tale from the first person view of the bad guy, particularly a bad guy who happens to be a minion of the God of Madness, Lies, and other assorted nastiness. It allows the reader to get inside the warped

mind of a hopelessly irrational man and explore how he sees the world. Another thing I like about this novel is how Denning depicts godhood, which isn't easy to do. How do you write a character who is omniscient and staggeringly powerful. Denning gives his god characters all of this while also giving them human desires and human failings so that they seem real to the reader. A fast-paced and excellent read.

Most of the Forgotten Realms or D&D books I read are the same in that they are fine and good for passing the time. I find it's necessary to know all the background info in order to understand the next book that comes out. It was good, but nothing really exciting.

Good conclusion to avatar series. Read first three novels years ago, surprised but happy two more books were written. Thank you.

Let me just say, I first got into reading the Avatar series because I wanted to learn more about the time of troubles and the death of a certain God of Murder, and I was disappointed. After Waterdeep, I set them down and didn't revisit the series for years. I was surprised by how much I liked Prince of Lies, but I was blown away by Crucible. Written from the point of view of a Cyric worshiper, a coward, an overweight and evil man who seemed to genuinely love Cyric in the beginning of the book, Crucible is a refreshing take on good and evil within the Forgotten Realms. Malik is certainly no knight in shining armor and don't expect him to go rushing off to rescue the princess. Denning does a wonderful job of portraying the difficulties involved in being a newly ascended mortal while, at the same time, fleshing out other important gods and discarding the black and white typical in FR stories. Good does not win out over evil against all odds, and nor should it. Denning, through Malik, shows that evil does have a place in FR, but still manages to keep things light at times, despite certain graphic passages. All in all, an excellent read, one I found highly enjoyable.

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