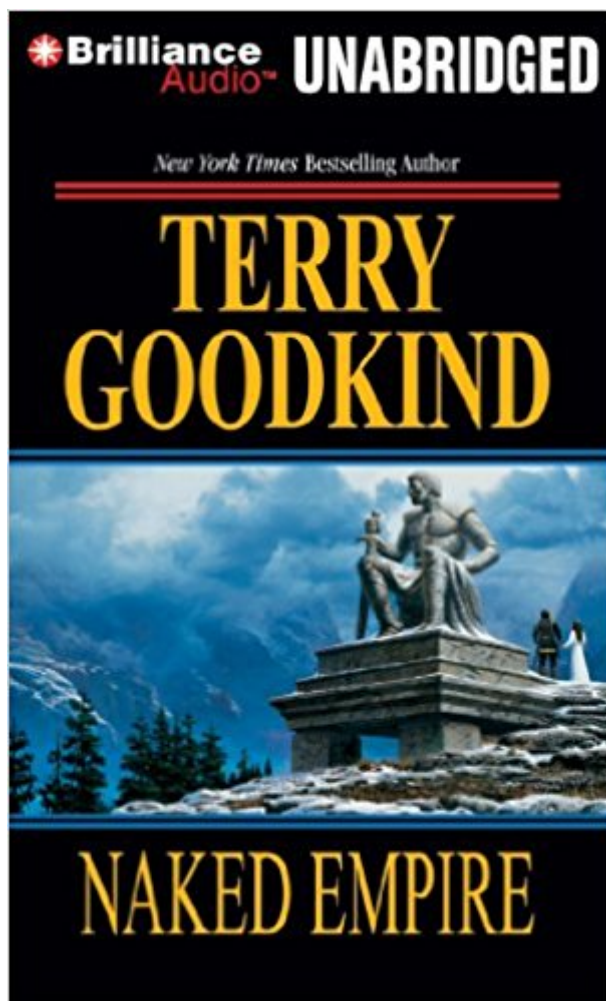




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# Naked Empire (Sword Of Truth Series)



## Synopsis

NAKED EMPIRE. It begins . . . "You knew they were there, didn't you?" Kahlan asked in a hushed tone as she leaned closer. Against the darkening sky, she could just make out the shapes of three black-tipped races taking to wing, beginning their nightly hunt. That was why he'd stopped. That was what he'd been watching as the rest of them waited in uneasy silence. "Yes," Richard said. He gestured over his shoulder without turning to look. "There are two more, back there." Kahlan briefly scanned the dark jumble of rock, but she didn't see any others. Lightly grasping the silver pommel with two fingers, Richard lifted his sword a few inches, checking that it was clear in its scabbard. A last fleeting glimmer of amber light played across his golden cape as he let the sword drop back, in place. In the gathering gloom of dusk, his familiar tall, powerful contour seemed as if it were no more than an apparition made of shadows. Just then, two more of the huge birds shot by right overhead. One, wings stretched wide, let out a piercing scream as it banked into a tight gliding turn, circling, once in assessment of the five people below before stroking its powerful wings to catch its departing comrades in their swift journey west. This night they would find ample food.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Wonderfully creative, seamless, and stirring.”  
—Kirkus on Wizard's First Rule  
“Wonderful.”  
—Kliatt on Stone of Tears  
“Each volume of the Sword of Truth...proves more difficult to review than the last. There are only so many was of

heaping praise on a series that gets better and better. *—SFX on Blood of the Fold* “...outstanding work...adrenaline and characters who actually behave like adults. Highly recommended.” *—San Diego Union Tribune on Temple of the Winds* “...thoroughly enjoyable.” *—VOYA on Soul of the Fire* “Mr. Goodkind's compelling prose weaves a magic spell over readers.” *—Romantic Times on Faith of the Fallen* “Near-perfect pacing, well-realized settings, and superior descriptive narrative.” *—VOYA on The Pillars of Creation* --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

One of the most popular writers of fantasy today, Terry Goodkind divides his time between Maine and Nevada.

This is an awesome story of human struggle and ultimate triumph of life over death, and of the victory of the individual over the enslavement of some "greater good" nonsense. I am not sure why the reviews for this book are lower than some of the other (previous) books in the series, but this is one of the best installments in the series so far. Obviously, this isn't just your typical fantasy/adventure series, and if that was all people were interested, they wouldn't have gotten to the 8th book in this series. It is centered around Richard, who is a man of unwavering virtue and principle. As the seeker of truth, he has a brilliant way of cutting through nonsense, emotion, confusion, despair, etc, and getting to the matter of hand; he sees reality and he brings that sight to everyone around him. This book is no different than the rest, and it is a lot like Faith of the Fallen in this regard. It is the perfect sequel to the Pillars of Creation, but it is centered around the perspective of Richard this time. This book is just awesome on many different levels.

Great read . Good adventure and I held my breath many times even though this is the second time I've read this series . My only criticism is way too much explaining things about the story line . I call it " the blah , blahs " just skipped past them . I highly recommend this series . I like it better the second time around

I'm not exactly sure why so many people were let down by this chapter in the series. It furthered the narrative as a whole, starred all the prominent players, was fun in growing the Old World even more... the character development is always great, the back-n-forth between them all always fun, new threats that were fantastic... for me, this chapter in the series sucked me in as all the others

have!! I certainly appreciate Mr. Goodkind's work into all this, I'm excited to read the rest of the novels, and I'm overly excited to hear the world as a whole isn't finished; with a new chapter starting up next year (2017), starring Nicci!!!... makes me wonder who'll have cameos and whatnot. Hoo-rah Mr. Goodkind, & thanks again for another amazing adventure with Richard, Kahlan, & the rest of the gang!!!

I've been enjoying this series, but this book went over the top. The author surrendered all hope of action, and substituted long windy speeches. Large segments of the book read like some kind of Ayn Rand for twelve year olds. I could forgive some of his earlier transgressions along this line in Book 7, since he confined himself to demonstrating that the Old Empire was wrong. But in this book he goes on an endless rant about nonviolence and relativism, large chunks of which are suspect. (Morality is black and white, and to suggest that it isn't that simple is to choose death - REALLY?) Very disappointing effort. If he doesn't go back to the story pretty quick, I will have to set aside the series -- anything less would be a denial of the value of my life.

One comes to feel a great empathy for the good guy and gal characters. So it is too excruciating to see (Read) through the horrific pain and suffering the characters go through. I made it through the 1st 12 volumes of this series and am stopping. It is too difficult to witness the pain and suffering that the diabolical bad guy and gal characters put them through. There is a lot of retelling of so much of the reasons why something is the way it is in the book. Terry could have fairly assumed we started at the beginning of the series and know why something happened. I do not know why he feels he has to tell it again. Like we can not remember what the Lord Rhal's protectors had to go through and how Lord Rhal set them free to serve him of their own free will. Perhaps it was so that he could sell us 12 instead of 10 books. The characters are sometimes so dense and stupid. Can they not see the miserable stupidity of adhering to the Old World's self sacrifice philosophy? Sure does illuminate why communism never worked. The characters in this volume once found behind the barrier that Lord Rhal brought down are impossibly pacifistic. They could not truly be so unconcerned about their fate when confronted with the Order's soldier's demands upon them in regards to interacting with their wives. Hard to believe they could be so pacifistic then turn away from it so violently. The whole series keeps you hooked and coming back. If you can stand the violence, you will not want to put the book...books down.

I liked it (first off). There were a couple of books in the series that Terry Goodkind drifted away from

writing about what was happening with Richard and Kathleen which is understandable because apparently he got tired of writing about these ALL POWERFUL, godlike people. The problem was he got too far away from them. Maybe he did that to get people to want to buy more of his books and be interested in them once again. either way, I was glad when he got back to them, but I'm not happy that he left the story unfinished. Now, if he died it's understandable, but if not he may consider finishing the story. Thank you, EdwardPS: I wish there was a rating grade in between good and great, because that what I feel it was.

I am basically reviewing the first 13 books of this series since I read them all recently. An average of 3 is the best I can do, some are a little less not quite dipping to a rating of 2 and some actually creep toward a 4 rating but overall a 3 is the best I can do. It's a shame really, some sections and scenes are very well written so much so they pull you in and you enjoy reading them but then the redundancies begin and pages and pages of Richard and Kahlan reminiscing or worrying or just missing the other. Please, too much some time. Also, some of the lesser characters could be interesting in a similar way Terry Brooks builds his lesser characters before killing them off but all lesser characters here are giving short shrift

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