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Severed Souls (Richard And Kahlan)



Synopsis

From the far reaches of the D'Haran Empire, Bishop Hannis Arc and the ancient Emperor Sulachan lead a vast horde of Shun-Tuk and other depraved "half-people" into the Empire's heart, raising an army of the dead in order to threaten the world of the living. Meanwhile, far from home, Richard Rahl and Kahlan Amnell must defend themselves and their followers from a series of terrifying threats, despite a magical sickness that depletes their strength and which, if not cured, will take their lives...sooner rather than later."Richard saw the point of a sword blade sticking out from between the man's shoulder blades. He spun back toward Richard after throwing the woman out of the opening, ready to attack. It seemed impossible, but the man looked unaffected by the blade that had impaled him through the chest. It was then, in the weak light from the fire pit off to the side, that Richard got his first good look at the killer. Three knives were buried up to their brass cross-guards in the man's chest. Only the handles were showing. Richard saw, too, the broken end of a sword blade jutting out from the center of the man's chest. The point of that same blade stuck out from the man's back. Richard recognized the knife handles. All three were the style carried by the men of the First File. He looked from those blades that should have killed the big man, up into his face. That was when he realized the true horror of the situation, and the reason for the unbearable stench of death."From Terry Goodkind, author of the Sword of Truth series, comes a sweeping new novel of Richard Rahl, Kahlan Amnell, and their world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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

Terry Goodkind WAS one of my favorite fantasy fiction authors. I have read most if not all the other books in this series prior to Severed Souls, but I'm closing the covers of this one at page 51. I didn't sign up to read a piece of horror fiction masquerading as fantasy. Sorry, Terry. Whoever persuaded you to keep writing Richard Rahl stories was not your friend.

Over explanation of events and very unrealistic dialog. Characters spend entirely too much time debating one another points of why something should be done a certain way. Mr. Goodkind's original writing style changed with Naked Empire when he decided to begin treating us to his political views and pouring them on us like molasses. I still enjoy the world of Richard and Kahlan, but it gets harder and harder with each new book to continue to follow them.

I love the sword of truth series and while I was very tempted to stop there and let Kahlan and Richard have their happy ending I wanted to know the rest of the story. I have not been disappointed, disheartened but not disappointed, while using a slightly different "voice" from the sword of truth series the Richard and Kahlan books while slow to start are shaping up to be just as enthralling as the rest of the series. Terry Goodkind is not a great writer but he is an amazing story teller, you get washed away by the story and easily forget that they aren't perfectly written.

(minor spoilers maybe) I want to like this books. I really do, but it is becoming harder and harder with each one forthcoming. The original SOT had some sort of purpose it seemed and the Wizard's Rules gave each book a theme to learn and expand on, but since Confessor, which was my least favorite of the SOT, it really has been all downhill. I will read the final book when it comes out, just to finish it, but I also thought Confessor was going to be the final book... Calling it Richard and Kahlan instead of SOT does not make it different. To this book specifically... "Occult. Occult. Occult." I have never seen this word used with such regularity. I would not imagine that a book about the occult would use the word this much. I also find it supremely odd that everyone in the story, good, bad, indifferent, all call these abilities "occult." It would be like a cult leader calling themselves a cult-leader for the person using the abilities to call them occult all the time. If it were a drinking game, I would have been drunk 10 pages in and would have remained that way until I stumbled

through the last page. Also, I kept expecting Dagny Taggart to show up at any moment and join Zedd in the forest to tell Richard to leave it all behind. There were passages that could have almost been taken word for word from John Galt's radio speech. As mentioned by others, Richard as the Seeker of Truth is almost unbelievable anymore as he regularly finds himself not doing what he keeps saying he is doing (thinking of the solution, not the problem) and painted into a corner that he cannot possibly get out of without breaking rules of the underworld or reality over and over again with no real explanation as to why he can do this where no one else in the history of the world has been able to. Also, I know this has been mentioned as well, but the repetition has always been Terry's biggest weakness IMHO. Ringing of steel, thunder without sound, full histories in every book, as if anyone is picking up their first Goodkind book at book 14 of a series... Of course without all the repetition, this may be a novella and also then how would I ever know that rage makes the sword work or that Richard loves Kahlan if he didn't keep remembering times they were together in other books? Though I did say this had some twists, they were not really unexpected twist except for one particular death that probably should not have happened either except the character apparently forgot how to deal with people not affected by magic. Overall, this is exactly what I have come to expect sadly from this once-great series, though if I had been comparing it to *The First Confessor*, I would have given this one 5 Stars...

I felt obligated to read this series entry after reading the first 13 books in this series but if this one were the first book of the series, I would have put it down about half way through and swore off Terry Goodkind forever. A poor effort. It takes a lot for me to give a book this bad a rating but Terry Goodkind has gotten lazy. He rehashes the same concerns and history dozens of times. If all the redundancy was removed this book wouldn't be 100 pages of original material. Will I read #14, probably but like I said after reading so many books in this series, hesitate to call all of them novels, I will read the last. If not the last it'll be my last for this writer. Just a note, 'The Wheel of Time' series, which this one seems compared to the most, admittedly had some lapses with some the middle books in the series I never considered stopping. Brandon Sanderson was a boon to that particular series.

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