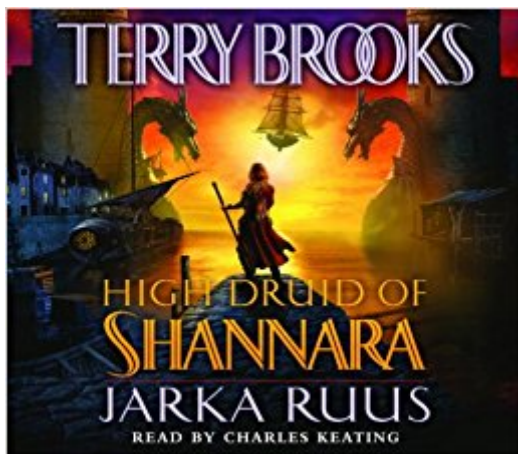


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# High Druid Of Shannara: Jarka Ruus



## Synopsis

Devotees of the Shannara series will delight in this sequel to *Voyage of the Jerle Shannara*: *Morgawr*. In the previous novel, the love of her courageous brother, Bek, enabled the Ilse Witch to renounce her evil existence and resume her younger identity as Grianne Ohmsford. The new book begins twenty years later, when Grianne, now head of a Druid Council formed to defend the Four Lands from anarchy and warfare, is challenged by those who cannot forget her former malevolence. When Grianne disappears, only a few loyal friends can help her escape from her prison among the Jarka Ruus. Joined by stalwarts Elf Prince Ahren Elessedil and Tagwen the dwarf, Grianne's charming nephew, Pen Ohmsford, takes the spotlight as the hero of the new trilogy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With Jarka Ruus Terry Brooks embarks on yet another journey with the legendary Ohmsford family. Beginning 20 years after the conclusion of the *The Voyage of the Jerle Shannara*, the High Druid of Paranor Grianne Ohmsford finds herself struggling to unite the druids amid political morass risen from her prior history as the dreaded Ilse Witch. Her enemies' schemes come to fruition quickly and she is banished behind the wall of the Forbidding, the anti-demon security feature that collapsed so spectacularly in the magnificent Elfstones of Shannara. Her fate falls in the lap of the youngest Ohmsford, Penderrin, who unlike his Aunt Grianne and his parents is without the gift of magic. Pen along with Khyber and her uncle, the Elven Prince Ahren Elessedil, learn they must jump through the usual Brooks' hoops to unlock the door of the Forbidding and free Grianne. Brooks is right at

home in this formulaic addition to the Shannara franchise. All the furniture is here: the Druid Keep of Paranor, dark creatures in pursuit of reluctant young heroes and, of course, the Elfstones. The good news is that Brooks remains a master of description and the book hums along with comfortable ease. Devout Shannara fans will find their favorite magical realm exactly as they left it and no doubt anticipate this cliffhanger's sequel. --Jeremy Pugh --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Bestseller Brooks's first book in a new trilogy treads complacently along the well-worn path of its predecessors. Set 20 years after the conclusion (in 2002's *Morgawr*) of the three-volume *Voyage of the Jerle Shannara*, it introduces the next generation of Ohmsfords and Elessedils: Penderrin, airship-flying nephew of former Ilse Witch and now High Druid (or Ard Rhys) Grianne Ohmsford; and Khyber, the Elven Prince Ahren Elessedil's headstrong niece. Teenaged protagonists can be annoyingly clumsy, and these two are no exception. As they set out to rescue Grianne from her politically motivated imprisonment in a bleak parallel plane known only as the Forbidding, they manage to repeatedly draw the attention of their pursuers, fall inopportunistically in love and even kill a member of their own party. That neither Pen nor Khyber has the mitigating talents or charm of earlier Shannara heroes leads to the inevitable question of why exactly Fate has decreed that they should be the ones to take on this quest in the first place; a hope of learning the answer, ironically, may be the most compelling reason to anticipate the sequels. While Pen's fear that his family's magic is "thinning out" may parallel real-world criticisms of the most recent Shannara tales, Brooks does know a lot about the proper care and feeding of golden geese. Jaded readers are likely to seek their thrills elsewhere, but fans of formula fantasy will be quite content with the smooth prose, vivid descriptions and comfortable pacing. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I think I'm done with Terry Brooks. When I finished this book, I realized nothing much happened. It was all setup. Not to mention there's a lot of repetition, and the main character falls in love with another character immediately. I hate that crap. I refuse to read any more series. Terry could've easily wrapped this story up in one book. There were some imaginative bits in the book, which is the only reason I'm giving it three stars.

I'm currently re-reading the entire series from start to finish. I'm on the 3rd book of this particular trilogy. "Jarka Ruus" takes us into the lives of the characters from the last set books, a couple of decades down the road. This is a first for this series as it's usually a leap of a few hundred

years. You get to see the characters after their big adventures. Some of them have settled down into comfortable lives and others are still dealing with consequences of their past actions and responsibilities they shoulder. This book sets up the pieces for the second books which has had one of the biggest emotional impacts on me of any of them so far. All of Terry Brooks Shannara books are enjoyable, but not all of them make you feel strongly. That's true with many books. You feel sad, happy, etc... But with all the reading I've done over the years, there are certain books that really make you feel strongly. You'll laugh out loud at something particularly funny or cry at something sad. It's a mark of skill when an author can get that kind of reaction from a person, simply through monochrome letters on a page. This is a solid book in one of his best "mini-series" within the Shannara world. Again, I'm re-reading the series, because I've gotten way behind, but I hope this marks an increase in the author's writing skill through the rest of the series and not a one off. This book is definitely worth the read. If you're starting off in the series, I recommend going from the beginning, but you should read the previous "mini-series" before this one, because you'll know where the characters are coming from.

Having not read any of the other series, I wasn't too sure what to expect in starting with the first book of "Jarka Ruus" Trilogy. However, after reading this, I cannot recommend this book ENOUGH. Terry Brooks does a great job of filling in the reader and making it simple enough to understand so that one does not have to read the other 10 books in this 13 book series to grasp what is happening. With Jarka Ruus Terry Brooks embarks on yet another journey with the legendary Ohmsford family. Jarka Ruus starts off with Grianne Omsford (formerly known as the Isle Witch) trying to unite the members of the Third Druid Council. However, things do not go as planned and corrupt druids plot against her to send her into the Forbidding so that a new Ard Rhys (title for the leader of the Third Druid Council) may take over and bend the will of the council to their own agenda. The only one that can save her is her nephew, Penderrin Ohmsford, who ironically has no tangible powers in terms of magic. Pen along with Khyber, her uncle Ahren Elesedil, and Tagwen (Grianne's servant) set out with danger and their pursuers lurking at every turn, to find his Aunt and restore the rightful Ard Rhys to the throne. The book starts off a bit slow until the plot can really start to thicken and then the action starts to take off from there. If your looking for a book to kill some time this summer, pickup this copy ASAP!-Travis S.

Griane Ohmsford starts out the book as the leader of the druids but this does not last long. Brooks develops a lot of action and condenses his time to get it all in. New characters are introduced as

well as old ones, from previous books, showing up as major characters or at least the Ilse Witch is, maybe she is the only one. A lot of references to the voyage of the Jerle Shannara are made and characters prominent in that trilogy show up in this, although Terry gets rid of two of them after they have shown promise of taking over this trilogy. From that we know we are being restricted to what characters we shall follow. But it is all done rationally. The Ard Rhys and her nephew take their places reluctantly, if left to their own devices they would rather have stayed at home and led a quiet life. Instead plots are laid to get rid of them, as well as a few others, and the book rocks on with its characters slaying one another or causing their disappearance but our sympathies are shown to lie along certain lines, with certain characters. Pen and Cinnaminson are presented for our review, our sympathies aroused, and the plot begins to unfold. The Ard Rhys is magically transported to the Forbidding, the King of the Silver River appears and assigns Pen his duty, Tagwen is along for the ride, the comic relief, and we need that; misfortune falls on our friends fast and furious. The bad Druids are chasing them, to prevent the Ard Rhys's return. Gar Hatch, Cinnaminson's father, and crew are killed and Cinnaminson is captured, forced to search for Pen. Grianne is trapped in the Forbidding, looking for a way out. Pen and his crew had been found by the Galaphile but had fought their way out, exploding the warship but losing Ahren Elesedil. This knowledge had been learned by the conspirators back at Druid Keep and was being acted on. It is now time for Book Two,

love Terry Brooks

Really worth reading, and hard to put down.

I just finished the book. It was quite a good read; not nearly as good as the original trilogy, or even the quadrilogy after that, and it has a VERY dry beginning (had to force myself to keep reading for a few chapters) but it becomes more engaging as you read through. I only wish the characters were a little more developed, and that the book was more descriptive of characters' surroundings, features, etc.

The only failing for this book is my lack of having read any of the Shannara books. That causes me to be slightly uninformed on the history inside the book. At the same time, the author's explanations of what has gone before are more than adequate so that I don't feel too lost. The logical course of action for me is to read the whole series which I intend to do as rapidly as I can.

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