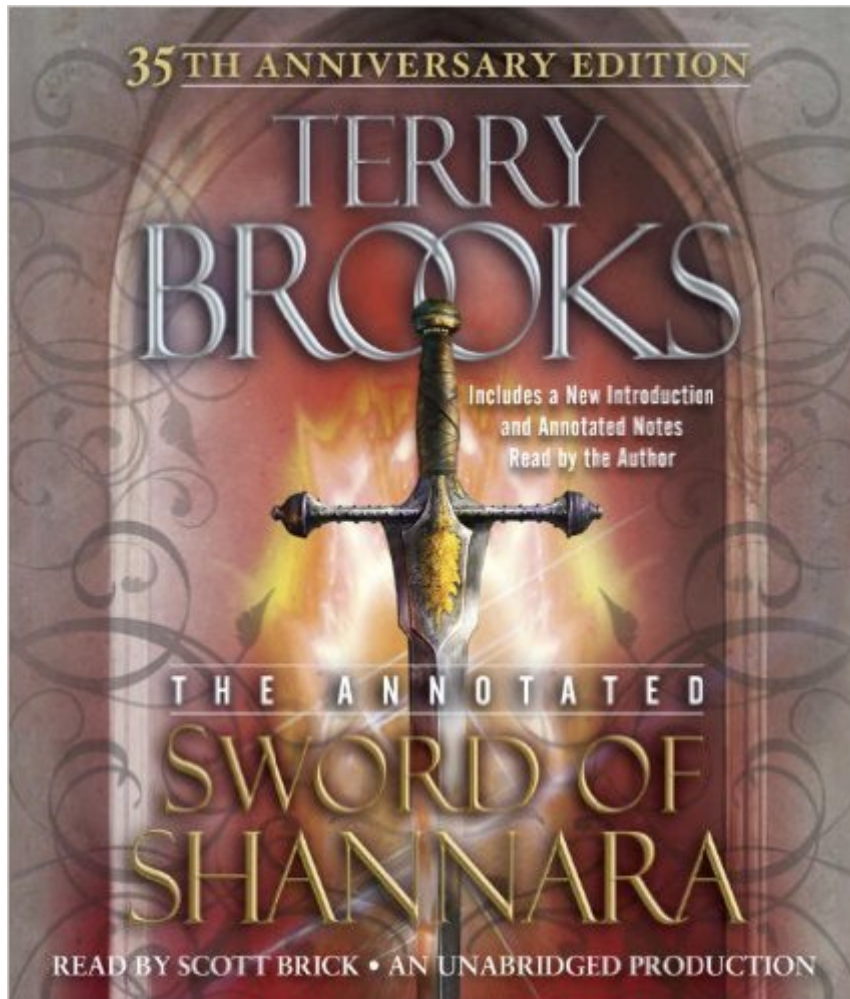


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# The Annotated Sword Of Shannara: 35th Anniversary Edition (The Sword Of Shannara)



## Synopsis

THE PHENOMENAL EPIC OF GOOD AND EVIL LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE

Thirty-five years ago, Terry Brooks brought to life a dazzling world in *The Sword of Shannara*. Nineteen more *Shannara* volumes would follow, making the series one of the most popular fantasy epics of all time. Now comes a fully annotated collector's edition of the novel that started it all—featuring never-before-shared insights into the classic tale, an all-new introduction by the *New York Times* bestselling author, and replicas of the original sketches for some of the long-lost, black-and-white paintings by the Brothers Hildebrandt that decorated the original edition, and a replica of the original Hildebrandt central color plate on the back of the jacket.

Long ago, wars ravaged the world. In peaceful Shady Vale, half-elfin Shea Ohmsford knows little of such troubles. Then the giant, forbidding Allanon reveals that the supposedly dead Warlock Lord is plotting to destroy everything in his wake. The sole weapon against this Power of Darkness is the *Sword of Shannara*, which can be used only by a true heir of *Shannara*. On Shea, last of the bloodline, rests the hope of all the races.

Soon a Skull Bearer, dread minion of a mighty evil, flies into the Vale, seeking to destroy Shea. To save his home, Shea must flee, drawing the Skull Bearer after him in menacing pursuit.

Thus begins the enthralling *Shannara* epic, a spellbinding tale of adventure, magic, and myth.

**PRAISE FOR TERRY BROOKS**

“The *Sword of Shannara* is an unforgettable and wildly entertaining epic, animated by Terry Brooks’s cosmically generative imagination and storytelling joy. This was one of my favorite fictional worlds growing up, and I look forward to many return trips.” —Karen Russell, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Swamplandia!*

“Terry Brooks has been my constant companion over a lifetime of exploring my beloved fantasy genre. I say with all honesty I would not be writing epic fantasy today if not for *Shannara*. If Tolkien is the grandfather of modern fantasy, Terry Brooks is its favorite uncle.” —Peter V. Brett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Desert Spear*

“I can’t even begin to count how many of Terry Brooks’s books I’ve read (and reread) over the years. From *Shannara* to *Landover*, his work was a huge part of my childhood.” —Patrick Rothfuss, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind*

“Terry Brooks is a master of the craft and a trailblazer who established fantasy as a viable genre. Not only do I owe him for many hours of reading pleasure, I owe him my job. He is required reading.” —Brent Weeks, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Night Angel Trilogy*

“The *Shannara* books were among the first to really capture my imagination. I didn’t just enjoy reading the novels—the world became so real that I would spend hours creating *Shannara* fan-fiction in my mind. My daydreams and therefore my stories will always owe a debt to Terry Brooks.” —Brandon Mull, #1

New York Times bestselling author of the Beyonders and Fablehaven series  
From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,408,803 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( B \) > Brooks, Terry](#) #706 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #835 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

If you're the type that likes to watch a DVD with the directors commentary on, then you might like the annotation of this book, but if you're like me, you'll find it extremely annoying. It's mostly annoying because most of the author's comments are just plugs for his other books. You'll get to an exciting part of the story, and then Terry Brooks breaks in "you can find more about this character in my other book the Blah Blah of Shannara". To the point were he actually tells you that's its available at . I would give this 5 stars if I could turn off the commentary. I know the title says it's Annotated, but I could not find it without, and I never would have thought it would be that annoying. But it is. As far as the story goes, it's great and I would get some of the others if I can find it without the commentary. The only negative on the story, is that several times I found myself thinking "he just stole that from Lord of the Rings".

What's to say? "The Sword of Shannara" has earned its place as one of the classic works of fantasy, even if it does lean quite a bit on the derivative side. While not Brooks' best work, it is an ideal starting point for new readers, but new readers would best be served by an ordinary copy I think. The annotated copy is best reserved for the true Brooks fan who has everything he has ever written (guilty of that myself). That being said, I was honestly kind of underwhelmed by how few

annotations there seem to be in the book. There's maybe a handful every chapter, and with most I felt like it didn't actually tell me anything new or interesting. I'm not sure what I was expecting, not an annotation every page, but more than what we got. I certainly don't regret my purchase or reading it, but I don't recommend it to anyone other than die-hard Brooks fans who love behind the scenes stories, and even they may feel underwhelmed as I did by the additions. I know I'm sounding negative, and I don't mean to be. It is a classic tale, and as Brooks' first it does lend itself to some stories the likes of which are interesting. Honestly, you should know if you feel a pull for this one or not, and just trust your gut.

I would have sent this back anyway even if one of the disks didn't have a skip in it. The narrator is monotone and couldn't keep my attention no matter how hard I tried. BORNING!. Too bad because I love the Terry Brooks Audio Books and have several.

I originally read this when it was published in 1977, and loved it completely. It was my first introduction to the epic fantasy novel. I picked up this copy hoping that the annotations would give insight to the creative process and inspiration the Terry Brooks used to create the world and characters of Shannara. What I found instead was footnotes that only stated what I had just read. Save your money by buying the paperback version and enjoying the story. What you pay for the annotated version is not worth the cost, and is nothing but a money making scheme that I will solely place on the publishers.

For those of us who have loved these books for 35 years, having the audiobook come out, with Scott Brick narrating, was such a thrill. I know it says annotated, but I assumed that would be at the end of each CD or at the very end of the entire story but NO, they continually interrupt the story to inject Terry Brooks either giving us information that is obvious, too revealing for those that haven't read the story or that assumes we are all stupid and could never figure this out for ourselves. Instead of being allowed to sink in to the magic of the story and enjoy, you are constantly worried when the next interruption is coming. Soooo distracting and totally removes you from the moment. I wish there was a way to get my money back, I am only on the first CD. This is true agony and I can't begin to imagine what this author was thinking when he decided to subject us to this hell. These are some of my all time favorite books so I was so excited when the first one came out as an audiobook. They couldn't have made it a worse experience if they tried. Scott, of course, is good as usual.

Haven't read this since I was a kid and wanted to reread the first three in preparation for the upcoming TV show. Note: my selection about the character's being one-dimensional is a little misleading; there needs to be a selection between one-dimensional and developed. Clearly, this is Brooks first book and he is at the start of his learning curve with his writing. He gets better and better with every book. Wish I didn't get the annotated version. The annotations are more annoying than illuminating.

This is an excellent book I have read six of the books so far and I am reading the seven volume now! Great read and this "annotated" book is great I read over Terry Brook's comments and found them extremely interesting and helpful. His comments appear in the borders and DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE TEXT -- some reviewers clam...come on!

There's no way to turn off the Annotations from the author. Which is fine if you want to hear what he has to say, but it ruins the flow of the story.

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