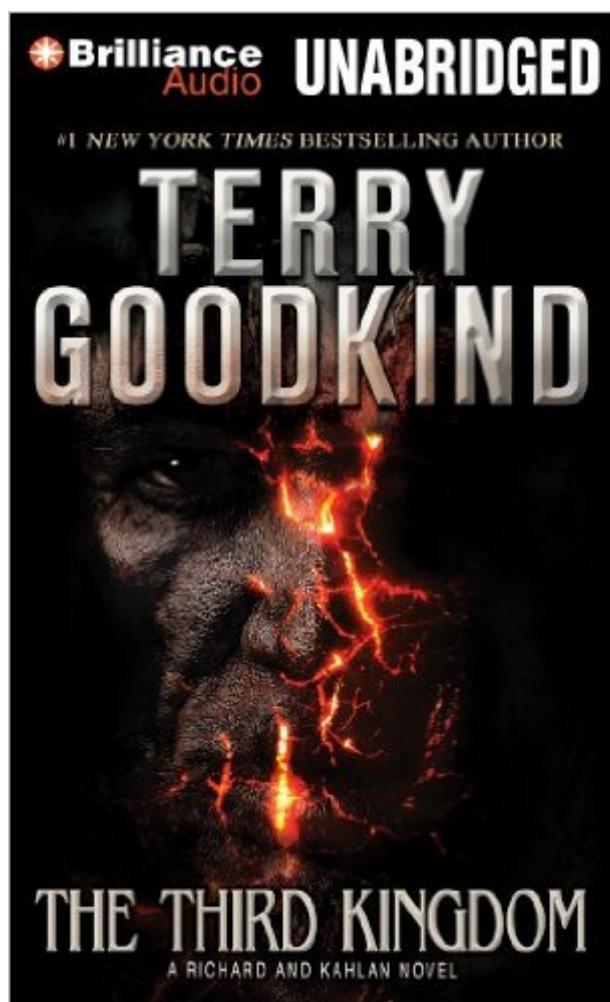


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The Third Kingdom (Richard And Kahlan)



Synopsis

Terry Goodkind returns to the lives of Richard Rahl and Kahlan Amnell in The Third Kingdom, the direct sequel to his #1 New York Times bestseller The Omen Machine. "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 to his face. That was when he realized the true horror of the situation, and the reason for the unbearable stench of death." •Sequel to the #1 New York Times bestseller The Omen Machine

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Warning: plot spoilers abound here, move along if you don't want to know any details of the book. I see from the reviews here already that some people liked the new, shorter style of this novel. I didn't mind that so much, rather what was left vs discarded. It feels like half a book. The pluses: some new

characters and places were set up nicely, and the bad guys were fleshed out a bit as separate identities. The ties in to the old war / previous wars were interesting, although the rehash of life vs underworld is beginning to wear thin. Can't we do better than green veils? The really annoying part is the complete unevenness that has come to be between the two main characters, Richard and Kahlan. The original series was wonderful because they had two equally powerful and interesting characters that held their own. Richard's story was always dominant, but Kahlan raised armies, attacked problems, and solved them herself. It was an even partnership. Starting with the last book in the old series, Confessor, Kahlan may as well be an after note - she was tormented by Jagang for an entire book, but not instrumental at all in the resolution, she just got saved by Richard. The Omen machine had the same issue - it started fine, but then Kahlan runs off into danger, gets captured, gets saved, no involvement on her part. Half the time she isn't even conscious. This one was even worse - she didn't even appear until over half way through the book, and then when she woke from unconsciousness (again) she immediately got captured, and spent the (short) remainder of the book hanging from a ceiling. One conversation with the bad guy, serving to reveal a key plot point about his goals and methods, then nothing.

Just for a brief mental exercise think back to The Stone of Tears book. Second book in the SoT series. Try and think over what plot points you remember from that book. Mudpeople, shooting arrows curing the headaches, Kahlan's dilemma and 'betrayal', taking him south to the Old World, crossing the whatever and killing the sister only to find he hadn't, the struggle getting with the people that wanted him to sacrifice a young girl, learning how to properly use his sword, getting to the temple and scaring everyone, and that is just a meager big of his story. Kahlan is meanwhile up North raging through a war and fighting like a possessed woman. There is so MUCH that happens in just that one book. So many ideas, philosophies, world-views, worries, fears, collisions of perspective, etc. This book lacks it all. SPOILERS AHEAD. Don't read on if you care about the story. You shouldn't, but that's beside the point. Now. This story... my list of issues with it: 1. Hamstrung again. No powers for Richard. In fact let's take their unique abilities and hit. No confessor power for Kahlan, no magic for Richard. Leave his sword power though, so he can hack people up. The silly ways in which the author constantly finds silly reasons to weaken his characters is getting much too boring. "Oh, your sword can't go through this portal, leave it here." "The chimes are loose" "If you use your power I'll hurt Kahlan" and so on and so on. 2. NOTHING HAPPENS for about half of the book. Sitting in a cave with a child reading symbols on the wall while your wife is knocked out is not a story. 3. The stupid wall and zombies? I just spent 30 hours powering through the Game of

Thrones series and I have to say I see 'inspiration' here.

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