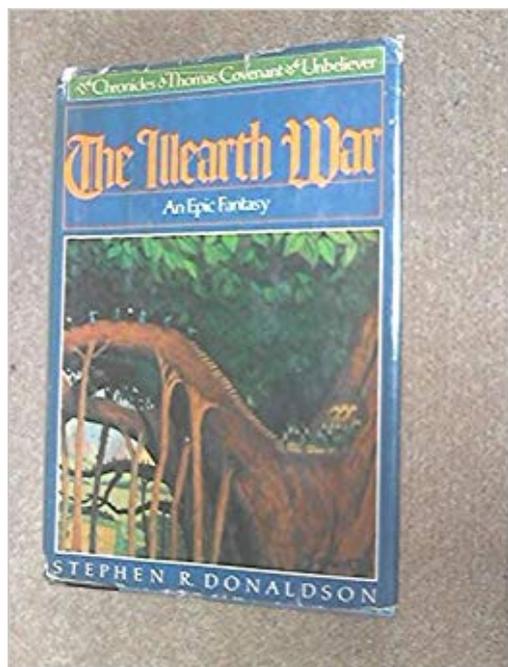


The Illearth War: The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever, Book 2 *by* Stephen R Donaldson



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Reviews of the **The Illearth War: The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever, Book 2** *by* Stephen R Donaldson

Coiriel

This book - this Series - is unremittingly frustrating. The main character is consistently unlikeable, and does horrible disgusting things. All the nice characters die unpleasantly. The author is oh SO verbose! Too much description! More than half of each book is an endless unnecessary description. It drove me crazy. I read on because the story is clever. It can be compelling. I wanted there to be a pivotal moment where it all came together and the main character would be improved. Nope. I am

sure not going to read any other books by this author! He clearly hates women and has a mean side.

Anaragelv

It wasn't until I was several chapters into The Illearth War that I fully developed my opinion of Stephen Donaldson's first Thomas Covenant book Lord Foul's Bane. When Covenant says, "I'm a leper," which he says far too often, he is really making a statement about the human condition in general and our perception of ourselves in general. It is more of a mantra meant to root himself in his preconceived notion of reality than a statement of fact. The author is reminding us that we really don't have any idea what 'reality' is though we are constantly filtering our perceptions through our prejudices about it. Covenant would rather cling to his notion of reality even with its dire illness and despair than accept another reality in which he is healthy, needed and loved. If he did not carry all the baggage of his opinions and prejudices it might occur to him how unlikely it is that a simple 'dream' would have the massive amount of detail, depth and length of time that his sojourns in The Land entail. He might have given more weight to the unusual and philosophical 'beggar' who he met just before entering The Land for the first time.

The core premise is a good one. What is reality? It's a great question because it's an eternal question and because if you if you really face up to the question it won't go away.

The book has a Tolkien like quality without copying any of Tolkien's stuff which is enjoyable in spite of Thomas Covenant's weird anti-hero persona. The book is very well written although occasionally Donaldson uses unnecessarily obscure words, for example "demesne" instead of domain, where they do not enhance the meaning or flavor of the story.

Despite the fact that Thomas Covenant is by far the most annoying protagonist I've encountered in decades of reading I did enjoy Lord Foul's Bane. I thought Robin Hobb's characters did a lot of whining until I read this book. But Fitz from the Six Duchies books is a rank amateur in the whining department compared to Covenant. Could it be that Hobb was inspired by Stephen Donaldson's character? Nevertheless it's a great read.

Highly recommended.

FailCrew

This is my second time reading this series. It's amazing. I love the kindle version because Donaldson uses so many unique words that I often have to use the Kindle's dictionary and word lists. But that's half the charm of Donaldson's writing.

Clonanau

Sometimes a simple, fun, rollicking yarn is what is called for - and sometimes you yearn for something a lot more. The Thomas Covenant series deliver an epic package unlike any other, full of richly entrancing and engrossing world building which is amazingly topped by the character development that delves deeply into the human psyche while presenting and chewing through challenging physical and philosophical dilemmas. The end result always leaves me feeling challenged and rewarded. The first two trilogies are simply fabulous, while the third set of TC books are of definite interest but lack a bit of the cohesion of the rest. As an aside, I have not been able to enjoy or finish Donaldson's Gap Series at all, but the Thomas Covenant series ranks as possibly my favorite fantasy series ever; completely different experiences between the two.

Xangeo

Yes, it's been over 30 years since I first read this book. It was good then and even better now. I think Stephen knows we're all lepers in one way or another, so we can identify with the hero. Overcoming that thing which seeks to hold us back is a lifelong struggle and only ends at the end.

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