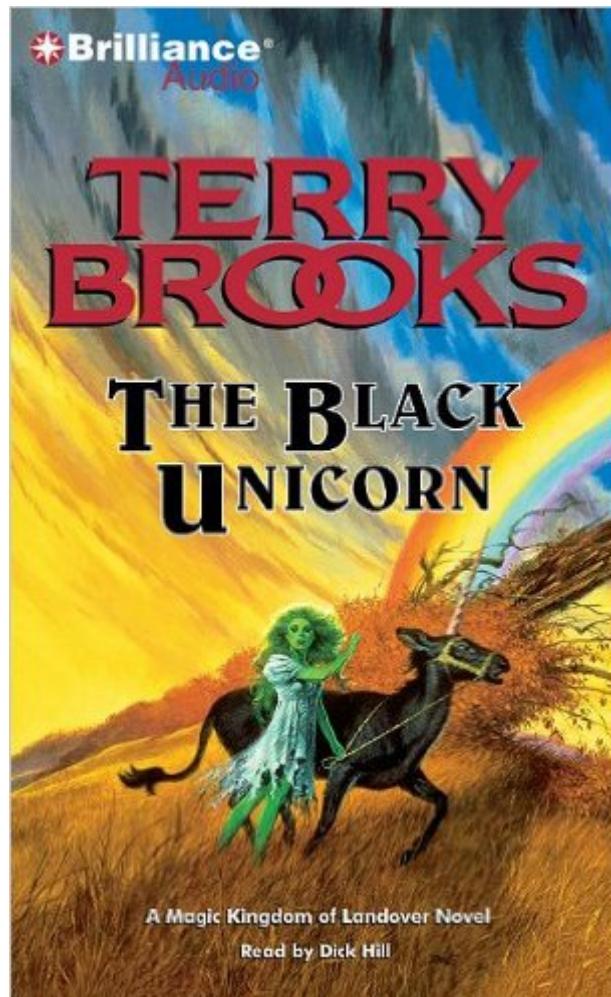


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The Black Unicorn (Landover Series)



Synopsis

A year had passed since Ben Holiday bought the Magic Kingdom from the wizard Meeks, who had set a series of pitfalls against him. Ben survived, by the aid of three loyal friends: Questor Thews, an ill-trained wizard; Abernathy, a talking dog, the Court Scribe; and the lovely Willow, who sometimes had to be a tree. But Ben had been troubled by dreams of disaster to his former partner, Miles Bennett. Yet when he returned to Earth, Ben found Miles doing splendidly. Unknown to Ben, the dreams had been a trap by Meeks, who had returned to the Magic Kingdom as a tiny insect hidden in Ben's clothing. That first night back in Landover, Ben awoke to see Meeks gloating over him, claiming to have the medallion that could summon the mysterious knight-protector, the Paladin, and that he had cast a spell to switch appearances with Ben. Ben found himself outcast, no longer recognized by any friend, though all his powerful enemies seemed to know him. Without the medallion, he couldn't seek the help of the Paladin against Meeks. There was only the prism cat - whatever that might be! And where was Willow - and the mysterious black unicorn she'd set out to find?

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,909,919 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (B) > Brooks, Terry #2710 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #3153 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

I read the entire Landover series years ago and was happy to see them in Kindle format. I finished the first one - Magic Kingdom for Sale - Sold! and was very disappointed at all the spelling & formatting errors, but since it was free, I couldn't complain too much, right? So I purchased "The Black Unicorn" - Kindle version. Again, on just about every other page there are misspelled words,

formatting errors, strange characters (print type, not story type.) I'm really shocked at how poorly these things have been converted to Kindle format. As a comparison, I read the Kindle version of the first Shannara trilogy and don't remember any errors, if there were, they were few. I've written, got the standard canned (thank you for your feedback) response and also wrote to the publisher - Del Rey but haven't received a reply yet. I'm taking 2 full stars off this time for the poor conversion to Kindle format. The book is great but since I'm reviewing the Kindle version, it loses points. I just ordered the 3rd one in the series (stupid, I know) but I'm curious to see if there are still errors. If so, I may ask for a refund. To summarize: Great book, poor conversion to Kindle format.

Ben has been Landover's King for over a year when he has a disturbing dream about his friend in Chicago. Strangely the Wizard and Willow have had dreams also and all three leave, as if on a quest, to follow up on these dreams even though they are warned by Abernathy, the talking dog, that there is something suspicious about this. This is a classic fairy tale set up, but we have a modern day ex-lawyer from Chicago who is unfamiliar with both fairy tales and magic. Of course trouble ensues. One of the best things was the presence of a Prism Cat who dropped hints to Ben throughout. Unfortunately they flew over his head while the reader (me) screams "No, no, no!!! It's obvious, duh." But of course that does make it a lot of fun. I loved the Cat's explanations when Ben tried to pin it down, "I am a Cat and your companion in this, not your mentor..." which totally aggravates him throughout. Kudos to the Cat.

This is based on the abridged audio book version:

- 1) Definitely a high-magic type story...meaning magic is everywhere and some characters are very powerful. This may be a turn off to some folks.
- 2) No elves, dwarves, trolls, orcs or goblins in this fantasy story. This was a nice change actually. What you do find is kobolds, fairies and unicorns (of course).
- 3) Main character Ben Holiday is a likeable human in a magical world.
- 4) Meeks the "evil" wizard seemed too much a stereotypical bad guy. He was a bit boring in my opinion.
- 5) The rest of the cast (defunked wizard, "dog" man, and the offspring of fairies and wood nymphs) was an interesting change to the standard fighter, caster, thief combo.

This book by Terry Brooks is the 2nd book of The Magic Kingdom of Landover, and it is written with its own intrigue using the characters of the first book in a new adventure which keeps you enthralled with it.

This was/is a beautiful book and I APPRECIATE your courtesy and SPEED getting it to me! I am

VERY PLEASED with your service, product, price and your people ! THANK YOU! I look forward to doing business with you again SOON!

I read the first book because my brother suggested to do so. I pick up this, the second, immediately after finishing the first. This is a great book, but not quite as good as the first. This might just be because I didn't give the first book enough time to settle in my mind before reading the first, or maybe letting enough time pass may weaken this one even more. Whatever the case, I recommend it and will soon be engrossed in the third book in this series.

I like Terry Brooks, and enjoyed the first book in this series. It was cute and fun. This book, however, is akin to running in circles. Ben, the main character, is made to look like someone else by an evil wizard, who in turn, steals his identity. Good so far. Then Ben spends nearly 300 pages trying to convince his friends of who he really is. Now you lost me, Mr. Brooks. Your characters can't possibly be THIS stupid. As a reader, it's frustrating seeing the story take so long to get to the point. For another, I didn't know or care what the black unicorn was or why everyone wanted it. I stopped reading at page 250-something (out of 309 pages). If it takes longer than that to reveal such an important plot point, you just didn't tell the story correctly. I think I'll abandon this series now.

Ben Holiday, King of Landover, Questor Thews, Abernathy, Willow, and Meeks are back in the 2nd installment of the Landover series. Ben and Willow are having dreams about a beautiful black unicorn. Neither one can decipher the meaning of these dreams, but they are haunted by them and need to find the answer. Ben travels back to Earth and in doing so, he inadvertently frees Meeks from his prison. When Ben returns to Landover, Meeks is waiting for him and casts a spell on Ben. Ben no longer looks like himself and Meeks now looks and sounds like Ben. Ben is banished from the Kingdom and Meeks takes over. Ben and his friends must find the black unicorn to solve this mystery and put things back to normal. In order to do this, Ben must ask Strabo the dragon and Nightshade, the witch for their help. Ben and company barely survived the last meeting with the dragon and witch. Will everyone survive this time? Will they find the unicorn and get Ben back to the throne before Meeks destroys everything Ben has worked for? Buy the book and find out, you won't regret it.

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