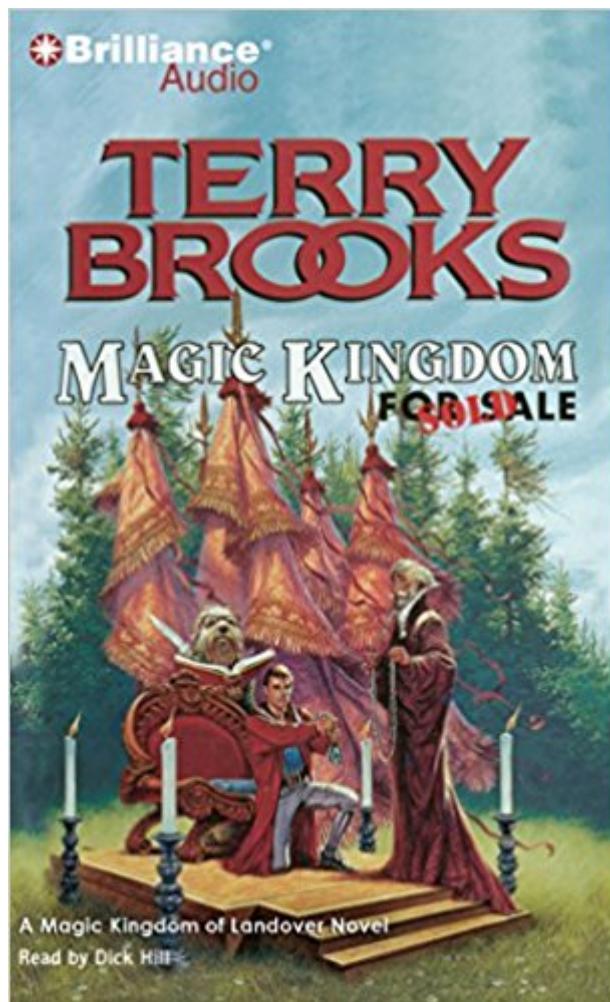


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# Magic Kingdom For Sale - Sold! (Landover Series)



## **Synopsis**

Book One in the Magic Kingdom of Landover Series Landover was a genuine magic kingdom, with fairy folk and wizardry, just as the advertisement promised. But after he purchased it, Ben Holiday learned that there were a few details the ad had failed to mention. The kingdom was in ruin. The Barons refused to recognize the king, and the peasants were without hope. A dragon was laying waste the countryside, while an evil witch plotted to destroy everything. Ben's only followers were the incompetent Court Magician; Abernathy, the talking dog who served as Court Scribe; and the lovely Willow - but she had a habit of putting down roots in the moonlight and turning into a tree. The Paladin, legendary champion of the Kings of Landover, seemed to be only a myth and an empty suit of armor. To put a final touch on the whole affair, Ben soon learned that the Iron Mark, terrible lord of the demons, had challenged all prospective Kings of Landover to a duel to the death - a duel which no human could hope to win. The task of proving his right to be King seemed hopeless. But Ben Holiday was stubborn. . .

## **Book Information**

Series: Landover Series (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (August 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455826561

ISBN-13: 978-1455826568

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 480 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,099,848 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( B ) > Brooks, Terry #1875 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #2215 in Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## **Customer Reviews**

Brooks bestselling Shannara trilogy may have been at heart a formulaic fantasy but its vigorous storytelling and intriguing characters won many readers. In his first non-Shannara novel, he takes on another well-worn premise: the contemporary Earthling transported to a fantasy world. Ben Holiday is a lawyer who finds little satisfaction in his work. His yearning for a simpler life seems thwarted when he finds the magic kingdom of Landover, a close analogy of Earth, with precariously

balanced powers threatening each other, massive pollution, and general discontent centering on a lack of faith in leaders. This first volume in the new series is mainly introductory as Ben meets the locals and dashes off a few impossible tasks to assert his right to the throne. While still inventive, Brooks fails badly in his lackluster, unbelievable protagonist, his preachy moral tags and the adolescent, daydream quality of Ben's triumphs. Shannarafans are in for a disappointment. 150,000 first printing; major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A marvellous fantasy trip' Frank Herbert 'If Harry Potter has given you a thirst for fantasy and you have not discovered the magic of Terry Brooks, you are in for a treat' ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS 'Confirms Terry's place at the head of the fantasy world' Philip Pullman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There was some violence but it was definitely less than you would normally find even in a Saturday morning cartoon. I would consider the first two books in the series as all age appropriate. The later books become a bit more mature but would still consider them appropriate for children in middle school and above. Neither this book nor the series is epic in scale. There is no saving of a world, only a small kingdom. Within this first book there is no great evil being fought against, rather a lot of minor problems that began because of the previous ruler and the apparent abandonment of the kingdom by said ruler. Possibly the biggest question is whether the hero of the story, chooses to accept responsibility for a kingdom in a world he never heard of before.

I haven't finished the books this time around yet, but I loved these books growing up and read them so many times I feel I can say they are fantastic. Who wouldn't want to buy a magical kingdom? But be warned there are some problems with the purchase. Brooks is a superb writer, and I recently read that the editing process slowed the book down a lot. But they got it right. The book isn't just fluffy bunnies and unicorn burps. the characters have problems they must deal with. But good wins out in the end. I would not have any qualms letting a child of 10 read this, or an adult. Oh one warning it was written a few years ago, so be warned its dated somewhat.

This is a classic fantasy novel, that holds up pretty well. When I read it as a kid, I thought it was the most witty, magical story ever composed. Reading again as an adult it was still a fun read and gave me a few chuckles. My one issue is that there are a lot of odd typos in here; the numeral 1 in the

place of Capital I occurs several times. I don't remember dozens of odd typos in my childhood paperback, so perhaps the issue is with the digital version?

Combining the first 3 books into one collection makes getting through the series a lot more convenient. I first started the Landover series when I was in middle school and really liked how Terry Brooks takes a character from our world and drops him into a magical world that is not quite working the way that you would expect it to. It is an easy read for younger sci-fi fans and a great way to introduce them to the genre before getting them hooked on Terry Brooks' Shannara series or the world he borrowed from Tolkien.

I've owned this series for a long time. And love it. When travelling recently, I finished all the Kindle books on my iPod, so I "bought" (it's free) this one. And enjoyed it. But it was clearly scanned and not edited well after. Many upside-down exclamation points. Sentence sets like "...more than I. I don't think..." became "... than 1.1 don't think...". "I'll" also became 1.1. Even the country name (Lan-Dover most of the time) was screwed up a bit. It was still readable easily, but this seemed sloppy. So five stars for the book, less one for the typos.

I bought this book for myself back in 1992 when it first came out and have re-read it so many times since then that I'm surprised the pages aren't held together with rubberbands by now. I'm further reminded of it every time I see the Neiman Marcus Christmas catalogue with its annual array of spectacular gifts that suggest the work of wizards in NM's marketing department. At the center of this page-turning tale is protagonist Ben Holiday, a widower attorney for whom life has pretty much lost all meaning since the tragic death of his beloved wife. With nothing to lose - and the advantage of a sizable bank account that can accommodate the frivolous purchase of his own realm - Ben embarks on a journey that will be as much about saving the kingdom of Landover as it is about discovering his previously untapped strengths as a pursuer of justice. The humor, the mystery, the mysticism and the fragile romance are matched only by the colorful cast of otherworldly characters that harbor conflicting agendas, all of which will test Ben's mettle. Although I subsequently purchased every Landover book in the series, this one remains my favorite and never fails to bring a smile with every reading. I also can't help but wonder if it even influenced my decision to marry an attorney, a man who would likely make the same choices as Ben if Fate were ever to part us in this lifetime.

There was some violence but it was definitely less than you would normally find even in a Saturday

morning cartoon. I would consider the first two books in the series as all age appropriate. The later books become a bit more mature but would still consider them appropriate for children in middle school and above. In this continuation of the Landover series there is a bit more conflict than in the Magic Kingdom: For Sale/Sold. You now have some of the more evil elements appear and the reasons for Landover being in its condition.

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