



The Fellowship of the Talisman

Clifford D. Simak

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Through Lands Forlorn

This was medieval England in the 1970's, again beset by the ancient Evil that had kept the Dark Ages from ever lightening. Half the country was in the grip of the fell Harriers, and it was through these Haried Lands that DUncan of Standish would have to make his way to Oxenford. His mission was to authenticate a long-lost testament which offered the only hope against the terror.

Beset by Harriers, Duncan is saved by Diane, great-granddaughter of a renegade wizard, and joined by the strangest company ever assembled: a timid hermit, a ghost who knows nothing of ghosthood, a banshee, a grumpy goblin, a witch who could never quite make herself evil enough, and a demon who is AWOL from Hell.

Duncan believes himself protected by the talisman of a wizard's bauble. But when the Evil forces detect the company and mount a final assault against them, Duncan sees his only hope crumble in failure.

He is left with only his courage and his mission. . .

The Fellowship of the Talisman Details

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Author : Clifford D. Simak

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Matteo Pellegrini says

Attraverso un mondo selvaggio e misterioso, popolato di orrori senza nome, cavalca il nobile Duncah, erede della famosa Casa dei Standish: e con lui viaggia una compagnia bizzarra, fatta di esseri umani e non umani, dall'antica saggezza e dagli strani poteri. E tutto questo avviene nell'Inghilterra degli anni '70... ma non si tratta dell'Inghilterra che noi conosciamo, ne del mondo che ci è familiare. Perche in questo mondo (forse parallelo al nostro?) il Medio Evo non è mai terminato, il Rinascimento è rimasto un sogno incompiuto, le terre ali di là del mare devono ancora essere esplorate, e gli uomini vivono in modo molto simile a quello in cui vivevano mille e più anni prima. C'è una causa, dicono gli storici e gli eruditi, per questa situazione, l'apparizione dell'Orda senza nome che ha devastato la Terra, dalla Macedonia alla penisola iberica fino a giungere sulle coste d'Inghilterra: e ogni cinquecento anni, il terrore e la devastazione si abbattono sul mondo, impedendo la via del progresso. Questi sono gli elementi... ma Duncan, percorrendo la Desolazione, ha un grande scopo e una grande speranza, portare una luce a tutto il genere umano. E questa speranza è racchiusa in un manoscritto, e questo manoscritto ha un potere che nessun uomo conosce...

Brian White says

Not the best work of Clifford Simak but a very satisfying tale nonetheless. Interesting characters with some moral lessons about inclusion and kindness. A well crafted narrative that I remember reading as a teen and still enjoy forty years later.

Tome Addiction says

Simack and Fantasy, not one of his better books.

Paul says

An ill-assorted group undertakes a quest on which the fate of the world depends. Sound familiar? For all that, Simak spins an engaging tale which highlights the triumph of friendship and loyalty over demagoguery and bigotry.

Diana says

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Jeffrey says

Good fantasy for teenagers. Nice little quest story. Nothing too complicated, just a nice story

João Sousa says

Simak's atmosphere never changes much from one book to the other. And there are some books where things are so similar that they start to sound exactly the same. Manuscripts, gnomes, travels, parallel worlds... and somewhere in between there is a plot. Anyway, I am not particularly fond of the topic, but I would say that the result here is positive and enjoyable.

Nathan says

Simak's sci fi is so much better.

Jake says

This story has every single element that you'll ever find in a Simak novel. A fellowship, a talisman. If you know Simak, you know what I mean.

Erik Graff says

A combination of fantasy and alternative history which is not particularly good--but then I don't usually like any reliance on magic.

Raj says

This was a much better fantasy than Simak's earlier novel, *Out of their Minds*. The plot is quite slight with a quest and a heroic prince who gathers an eclectic band of followers, but the characters are all well-sketched and the journey is entertaining, although the end feels very rushed.

Michael Burris says

Very few SF/F authors really *get* religion or religious belief. This story is almost boiler-plate fantasy quest tropes ... except that religion is is done WELL. Simak, as usual, shows how to treat faith respectfully without being condescending (except, perhaps, to atheists.)

Carol Tensen says

Note to self: Avoid books with dragons and/or griffins on the cover - even if they're shelved in the sci-fi section. The Fellowship of the Talisman is inexplicably on a couple of must-read sci-fi lists. A couple of years ago I read City, also by Simak, and really liked it. Thought I would give this one a try. Not my flavor. There must be some faulty microchip in my brain that soaks up 1950s sci-fi but filters out fantasy.

Diane Krogstie says

This book was surprisingly good! Good and evil. Good guy and his side kick gather a motley crew along the way to saving the world! A ghost, banshee, demon, and a wizard to name a few! An old book but gooe!

Tess says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12551484>

Timothy Boyd says

A nice quick easy read. Good fantasy story. Recommended

Derek Wilmott says

The plot is a bit thin, but there were many books written at that time that lacked depth. Duncan, the stereotypical hero, provides the moral compass is a natural born leader. Conrad, is the Large stalwart, childhood companion of Duncan turns out to be one of the few characters with a subtle earthy intellect, that sends the group on their unexpected journey. Diane, a warrior in her own right, reflects the feminist movement of the time of the story's publication. The other characters are motley alliance; witch, hermit, demon, ghost are oddly enough failures in their own chosen professions who willingly join the quest along the way. The villains are also a strange mix of human evil in a post apocalyptic earth and fantasy (in line with Moorcock's Elric series). Sadly, the story is found wanting in many aspects and does not keep the reader's attention. It can fill in for a quick reading "fix" as long as the reader has no other pressing obligations.

Mike says

The standard son of nobility who is a generally decent guy, a large sidekick who likes to bash in bad guy heads leave on a quest in medieval 1970's England? Some interesting characters join the quest, including a fearful ghost, a banshee, a demon kicked out of hell.... The quest was somewhat pointless in the end, and the reason why the medieval period extends to the 1970's was pretty lame. Read it if you got it but don't go out searching for this one. It could have been so much better but it looked liked the author just wanted to finish the book off quickly.

Joanna says

This book was a happy surprise since it is one of Simak's best. It does use one of his favorite conventions: an oddly matched group of travelers which grows as a journey continues. The journey itself and the relation between the characters is perhaps THE most important part of the story. While the book contains a bit more violence than usual with Simak, the depth of thoughtfulness and gentleness about human relationships and the tolerance of difference, eccentricity and lack of moral fiber is all there and perhaps deeper than usual. In addition, the book deals with evil come to earth but also things that are generally considered evil but perhaps are far less evil than we usually think them to be. Definitely an interesting book.

The plot: European development has been stymied through the end of the 20th century as a result of an evil that has come from stars. The scion of an aristocratic British family is given the task by his bishop to take a manuscript in Aramaic written by a previously unknown eyewitness to Jesus' life to the only Bishop in Britain who can verify its authenticity. As it turns out, this bishop ends having died 10 years earlier but the evil Harriers turn out to be terrified of the document which stops them in their tracks and/or destroys their power. But as in so many Simak books, it is the journey with Duncan, the scion, Conrad, his friend since childhood, Daniel the horse trained as a warrior, Beauty the dear burro, Tiny the warrior dog and then the eccentric and exasperating would-be holy man Andrew, and Meg, the worn out witch, which make the story. Other participants in part of the journey include Ghost (who does not have a building to haunt), Snoopy the highly literate and intelligent gnome, Dianne, the woman who could not make it as a wizard, and Scratch, the demon who could not make it in hell and ran away - he wants to be called Walter.

Booknerd Fraser says

At least this was the last time Simak wrote this tale....
