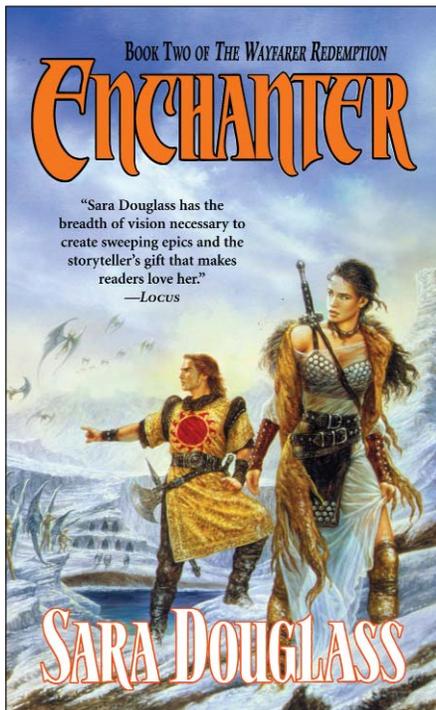




Sara Douglass

Enchanter

BOOK TWO OF THE WAYFARER REDEMPTION



WINNER OF THE 1996 AUREALIS
AWARD FOR BEST FANTASY NOVEL

“An Australian treasure comes to America’s shores. Sara Douglass makes her mark with this vivid, gritty saga brimming with treachery, action, bravery, and dark magic.”

— ELIZABETH HAYDON,

AUTHOR OF *RHAPSODY* AND *PROPHECY*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sara Douglass was born into a farming family on a remote South Australia sheep station, and raised in Adelaide. Before she became Australia’s most successful fantasy author, she was a registered nurse who then returned to school for a PhD in sixteenth century English

history at the University of Adelaide. Named a senior lecturer in Medieval History at La Trobe University at Bendigo, where she currently resides, she has now turned her full attention to writing fantasy novels.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Wayfarer Redemption
Book Two: *Enchanter*

*Starman, listen, heed me well,
Your power will destroy you
If you should wield it in the fray
'Ere these prophesies are met:
The Sentinels will walk abroad
Til power corrupts their hearts;
A child will turn her head and cry
Revealing ancient arts;
A wife will hold in joy at night
The slayer of her husband;
Age-old souls, long in cribs,
Will sing o'er mortal land;
The remade dead, fat with child
Will birth abomination;
A darker power will prove to be
The father of salvation.
Then waters will release bright eyes
To form the Rainbow Sceptre.*

—Verse Two, *The Prophecy of the Destroyer*

The Prophecy is nigh...and all of Achar trembles.

In untold numbers, the Skraeling hordes of the Destroyer, Gorgrael, swarm from the ice-capped North into the peaceful lands of Achar, overwhelming all in their path. Axis SunSoar, former BattleAxe of the oppressive religious order known as the Seneschal, is freed at last from the lies that bound him, and takes his rightful place as the Starman of legend. Meanwhile, the mad Duke Borneheld, Axis's despised half-brother, seeks to increase and consolidate his power, without regard to the ultimate cost to his kingdom. And so, in this second gripping volume in the saga of *The Wayfarer Redemption*, the pieces of the Prophecy come swirling inevitably together.

Following the Skraeling massacre at Gorkenfort, Axis retreats to Talon Spike, home of the wondrous Icarii birdmen, where he learns the true nature of his Enchanter powers. His ultimate mission: to gather the three races of Achar under the banner of a united Tencendor, reestablishing the wondrous realm that was fractured a thousand years before. Mistrust and fear grip the land, however, and much must be overcome before either the Icarii or the Avar forest-people, can return to the sacred lands so long denied them by the Seneschal-led Acharites. But unite them Axis must, for it is only with a united front that Axis can hope to defeat Gorgrael. Axis himself is torn, though, unable to forget his vows to the Lady Faraday, yet irresistibly drawn by the blood-song of the mysterious Azhure, whose exotic beauty belies a lethal ferocity and innate power that dwells within her. And, behind it all, the Prophecy itself is being manipulated by the unfathomable machinations of the Dark Man, whose identity and agenda are as unknowable as destiny, and as undeniable as death.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. The *Wayfarer Redemption* novels are centered around a few major themes, including destiny, sacrifice, personal growth and transformation, and the definitions and dangers of loyalty. Describe how each of these themes shapes Axis, Azhure, Borneheld, Brother Jayme, Magariz, and Timozel. Which theme impacts most powerfully on each of these characters?
2. The Icarii are a study in contrasts. They are said to value politeness and etiquette, yet they are vain, self-absorbed, and can be seen as arrogant. As Azhure says of them, "They are very good at passions and very bad at friendships." Which of these traits does Axis share, and what impact do they have on the story? Is there an evolution of the Icarii during the events in the book? Describe.

3. In addressing the Icarii Assembly, announcing his plans to revive the realm of Tencendor under his banner, Axis thinks of the advice of Brother Jayme, "Learn to seize the hearts of your audience with your first words, for those hearts will always remain the most loyal. If someone needs to be persuaded with hours of arguments, then he will forever remain a potential traitor in your camp." Do you agree with this advice? Is one's immediate reaction to hearing something always the most correct one? How might this belief have contributed to the eventual downfall of the Seneschal?

4. When King Priam begins to waver, considering joining Axis in an alliance against Gorgrael's threat, the Seneschal leadership sows the seeds of treason and treachery against him. As Brother Jayme makes his fateful decision, he says, "What we do we must do for the good of the Seneschal." What is the author saying about the Seneschal's belief about themselves, and about the Acharite kingdom? How does the author portray the other religious beliefs throughout of the book?

5. Discuss the significance of identity in *Enchanter*. Much of the storyline is based upon characters discovering, claiming, or concealing their true identities. How does the author use identity as a way to advance the story? As a way to build suspense?

6. According to *The Prophecy of the Destroyer*, at least some of the Sentinels are destined to have "power corrupt their hearts." While much of the Prophecy is ambiguous, this phrase seems quite clear. With the considerable abilities the Sentinels wield, each would be a formidable enemy if corrupted, and even more so because Axis confides in them and depends in large part upon their strength. Why does Axis allow them such close confidence, and does this trust seem in keeping with Axis's character?

7. Obsession is another powerful theme that runs throughout *Enchanter*. Discuss the obsessions of the following characters, and explain how each drives their actions and destinies: Axis, StarDrifter, Borneheld, WolfStar, and Timozel.

8. Discuss the roles of women in *Enchanter*. While Axis is the Starman, and Gorgrael is the Destroyer, a number of women, including Faraday, Azhure, Rivkah, MorningStar, Queen Judith, and Yr, play central roles in bringing the prophecy to life. Which of the above women are the strongest characters? The weakest?

9. Discuss the idea of Fate in *Enchanter*. How much control does Axis have over his destiny? Are his actions driven by his desire to live up to his Starman billing, or is he merely along for the ride? How do the Icarii and Avar views of Fate compare to the Acharite perspective? Is Borneheld destined to be a victim? Could he have changed the outcome of his Fate?

10. During the course of *Enchanter*, many characters experience remarkable growth and evolution. Describe how the growth of such characters as Axis, Azhure, and Belial advances the story, and contrast these changes to those in Borneheld.

11. The Icarii view on incest shatters the norms of modern society, and is shocking in its blatancy. Why do you think the author choose to make this a part of their culture? How does the Icarii moral code influence their dealings with the other races?

PRAISE FOR SARA DOUGLASS:

“Epic storytelling on par with Terry Goodkind and Robert Jordan.” —*LIBRARY JOURNAL*

“Douglass skillfully moves her characters through this fantastic world where family ties can be deadly and love does not always conquer all.”

—*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY ON ENCHANTER*

“No one who liked its predecessor is likely to complain about *Enchanter*.” —*BOOKLIST*

“Douglass has the breadth of vision necessary to create sweeping epics and the storyteller’s gift that makes readers love her.” —*LOCUS ON THE WAYFARER REDEMPTION*

“*The Wayfarer Redemption* has richness and color in a background balancing between Norse saga and the best of Robert E. Howard.” —*DAVID DRAKE*

“A fast-paced tale packed with action and intrigue, mysticism and romance. Readers will be delighted to discover it is only the first in a six-book series.”
—*JULIET MARILLIER, AUTHOR OF DAUGHTER OF THE FOREST AND SON OF THE SHADOWS ON THE WAYFARER REDEMPTION*

“Powerful, hard-driving storytelling makes *The Wayfarer Redemption* a real page-turner. Douglass gives us real people struggling in the face of dark rising doom.... Bring on the sequels.”

—*ED GREENWOOD, AUTHOR OF THE KINGLESS LAND*

“Douglass demonstrates a consistently high standard of storytelling in the epic fantasy tradition. A strong addition to fantasy collections.”

—*LIBRARY JOURNAL ON THE WAYFARER REDEMPTION*