

= Dragons of Autumn Twilight =

Dragons of Autumn Twilight is a 1984 fantasy novel by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, based on a series of Dungeons & Dragons (D & D) game modules . It was the first Dragonlance novel , and first in the Chronicles trilogy , which , along with the Dragonlance Legends trilogy , are generally regarded as the core novels of the Dragonlance world . The Chronicles trilogy came about because the designers wanted novels to tell the story of the game world they were creating , something to which TSR , Inc . (TSR) agreed only reluctantly . Dragons of Autumn Twilight details the meeting of the Companions and the early days of The War of the Lance . This novel corresponds with the first two Dragonlance game modules , Dragons of Despair and Dragons of Flame , but with a different ending . The novel introduces many of the characters that are the subject of other novels and short stories .

The title Dragons of Autumn Twilight follows a pattern with the other novels in the series , Dragons of Winter Night and Dragons of Spring Dawning , as they all start with Dragons , followed the names of the seasons , Autumn , Winter , and Spring , as well as a series of time , Twilight , Night , and Dawning .

Margaret Weis includes allusions to A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens , one of her favorite stories . References include But there was something disquieting about him ? secret , silent , self @-@ contained , and solitary as an oyster and The fate of mankind is my business . This quote is turned from meaning good to meaning harm .

= = Setting = =

The novels take place on the fantasy world of Krynn , created specifically for the gameplay . The world once worshiped the True Gods , a pantheon unique to the Dragonlance saga , but has come to believe that the True Gods have abandoned the world and those in it . The world is just starting to recover from the loss of the True Gods and a group has sprung up seeking to replace the True Gods (the Seekers) . The main focus of the novels is the continent Ansalon and the characters Tanis Half @-@ Elven , Sturm Brightblade , Caramon Majere , Raistlin Majere , Flint Fireforge , Tasslehoff Burrfoot , Goldmoon , and Riverwind .

= = Plot summary = =

The book begins with the return of a group of friends , consisting of Tanis , Sturm , Caramon , Raistlin , Flint , and Tasslehoff , who had separated to pursue their own quests and pledged to return in five years . Kitiara Uth Matar , the half sister of the twins Caramon and Raistlin , was supposed to be there as well , but only sent a mysterious note .

On the eve of their reunion , the Companions discover that the village where they are meeting has been taken over by a religious order called the Seekers . They are collaborating with the Dragon Highlords , who are preparing for the conquest of the continent of Ansalon .

The Companions soon discover that the Seekers are searching for a Blue Crystal Staff . When Goldmoon , a plainswoman in the same pub as the companions , heals a Seeker with her staff , the Companions are confronted by Highlord forces and are forced to flee the village .

The next day , the group is attacked by Draconians , reptilian creatures that serve as foot soldiers in the Highlords ' army . The Companions are driven into the woods , where they are attacked by undead and rescued by a centaur . The group is charged to go to the ruined city of Xak Tsaroth to retrieve the Disks of Mishakal , an object containing the teaching of the True Gods that will be instrumental for the restoration of the faith in the True Gods .

After a lengthy trip on the backs of pegasi and several encounters with the forces of darkness , the companions enter Xak Tsaroth and meet some gully dwarves , diminutive and stupid creatures . One of the dwarves , Bupu , leads them to the dragon Khisanth , who is killed by the holy power of the Blue Crystal Staff . When this happens , Goldmoon is consumed by its flame and presumed dead . However , they later find her resting at the foot of a statue of Mishakal (the Goddess of

Healing) , which now bears the Blue Crystal Staff , and Goldmoon is blessed with true clerical powers . The Companions leave with the Disks of Mishakal . Bupu gives an ancient spellbook (formerly belonging to the archmage Fistandantilus) to Raistlin . When they return to the village to regroup they find it occupied . The Companions are captured by the Highlord armies and are chained in a slave caravan along with an elf named Gilthanas , the son of the leader of the elven nation of Qualinesti .

The group is freed by Gilthanas 's brother , Porthios . They flee to Qualinesti , where Tanis is reunited with his childhood sweetheart , the exceptionally beautiful elven princess , Laurana Kanan . Laurana is still in love with Tanis and wants to marry him , but Tanis breaks her heart by telling her he is now in love with Kitiara .

The Elven King Solostaran convinces the Companions to lead an attack on the slave @-@ mine Pax Tharkas to free the slaves from the control of the local Dragon Highlord . The Companions journey through a secret passage underground to Pax Tharkas and devise a plan to free the slaves . Laurana , desperate to win Tanis back , secretly follows the Companions . When Tanis discovers Laurana has followed them he angrily rebukes her for acting like a spoiled child . Laurana resolves to try to prove she is more than that .

The Companions infiltrate Pax Tharkas and Goldmoon heals Elistan , a dying Seeker , and converts him to the faith of the true gods . He becomes the first cleric of Paladine , and Goldmoon turns the Disks of Mishakal over to him . The Companions help the slaves break free . Laurana proves her worth in the battle by fighting bravely . The Dragon Highlord Verminaard and his red dragon Ember arrive to crush the revolt , but the insane red dragon Flamestrike kills Ember , while the Companions cut down Verminaard . A mysterious figure called " The Everman ? later appears at a celebration following the freeing of the slaves , but flees after being spotted .

According to Tracy Hickman , " The restoration of truth and faith are ... to a great extent , the theme of this first book in the series . "

= = Characters = =

= = = Heroes of the Lance = = =

Tanis Half @-@ Elven , a half @-@ elf and de facto leader of the companions , torn between the human woman Kitiara and the elfmaid Laurana

Sturm Brightblade , a squire to the Knights of Solamnia and deeply honorable man

Goldmoon , daughter of the chief of the Que @-@ Shu tribe , bearer of the Blue Crystal Staff , and first true cleric of good since the Cataclysm

Riverwind , bodyguard and romantic interest of Goldmoon . Outcast of their tribe

Caramon Majere , a huge , muscular , sometimes slow @-@ thinking warrior , with a deep affection for his brother , Raistlin , and a romantic interest in Tika

Raistlin Majere , a powerful , sarcastic , cynical , frail mage of the Red Robes , and the twin brother of Caramon

Flint Fireforge , a gruff old dwarf and old friend of Tanis

Tasslehoff Burrfoot , a happy @-@ go @-@ lucky , not @-@ so @-@ innocent , and genial kender

= = = Other major characters = = =

Laurana Kanan , an elven princess and romantic interest of Tanis

Gilthanas Kanan , elven prince and brother of Laurana , dislikes Tanis

Fizban , a muddled old wizard

Tika Waylan , a red @-@ haired barmaid turned warrior and romantic interest of Caramon

Elistan , leader of the refugees who becomes the first cleric of the good god , Paladine

Dragon Highlord Verminaard , the leader of the Red Dragonarmy and a priest of the evil goddess , Takhisis

= = Adaptations = =

= = = Comic = = =

Devil 's Due Publishing adapted the novel into comic format . A trade paperback collecting the issues was released in May 2006 . It was ranked 33 in the top 100 graphic novels in sales with an estimated preorder quantity of 2 @, @ 634 .

= = = Movie = = =

A movie adaptation of the novel was released on 15 January 2008 . It is the first direct @-@ to @-@ video movie release based on the Dragonlance campaign setting of Dungeons & Dragons . The screenplay adaptation was completed by George Strayton , with creative assistance by Weis and Hickman , and Will Meugniot directed . The movie used both 2D and 3D animation , and was made by Paramount Pictures .

= = Importance to Dragonlance = =

The storyline of the original Dragonlance series had been plotted and outlined before either the novel trilogy or the games were written . Dragons of Autumn Twilight was the first novel of the Dragonlance series . It was based upon a Dungeons & Dragons session played by the authors with some of their friends , some of whom later became Dragonlance writers . The novel was written after the completion of the first Dragonlance game modules . Weis and Hickman felt this was constraining and made the novel feel too episodic , so they reversed the process for the next books and completed the novels before the related modules were written .

This book sets up many of the most important characters , the group known as the Heroes of the Lance . According to the Dragonlance Nexus fansite , the Chronicles Trilogy sets the foundation for the rest of the novels . A Wizards of the Coast interview stated that Hickman and Weis make a good team because Hickman is better at writing about good characters , and Weis is better at writing about dark characters , evidenced by her love of Raistlin . Dragons of Autumn Twilight was the debut novel for both Weis and Hickman .

= = Reception = =

Dave Langford reviewed Dragons of Autumn Twilight for White Dwarf , suggesting that it was " inspired by an AD & D campaign full of chunks ripped bleeding from Tolkien " and complained about the " Deadly predictable questing , with stock D & D characters in familiar encounters " and ultimately reported that he " Couldn 't finish this one . "

Jason Heller , of The A.V. Club , stated a positive review of Dragonlance Chronicles , remarking that Dragons of Autumn Twilight is still widely read , although he noted the clichés of the series : " In Dragons Of Autumn Twilight , the adventurers meet up in a tavern ? even if it is a tavern that ? s nestled in the branches of a giant tree , something my 12 @-@ year @-@ old self thought was super cool . (My 42 @-@ year @-@ old self agrees , although my days of getting drunk way up high up in a tree are starting to wind down .) " .

= = Release details = =

Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman ; poetry by Michael Williams ; interior art by Denis Beauvais (1984) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Paperback) . Lake Geneva , WI ; New York , United States : TSR . ISBN 0 @-@ 88038 @-@ 173 @-@ 6 . CS1 maint : Multiple names : authors list (link)
Weis , Margaret ; Hickman , Tracy (1986) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Paperback) .

Harmondsworth , United Kingdom : Penguin . ISBN 0 @-@ 14 @-@ 008718 @-@ 4 .

Weis , Margaret ; Hickman , Tracy (March 1990) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Paperback) . Lake Geneva , WI ; New York : TSR . ISBN 0 @-@ 88038 @-@ 173 @-@ 6 .

Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Library Binding) . Topeka , Kansas : Rebound by Sagebrush . October 1999 . ISBN 0 @-@ 8335 @-@ 3164 @-@ 6 .

Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman ; poetry by Michael Williams ; cover art by Matt Stawicki ; interior art by Valerie Valusek (1 February 2000) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Paperback) . United States : Wizards of the Coast . ISBN 0 @-@ 7869 @-@ 1574 @-@ 9 . CS1 maint : Multiple names : authors list (link)

Weis , Margaret ; Hickman , Tracy (1 April 2003) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Hardcover) . Lake Geneva , WI : Wizards of the Coast . ISBN 0 @-@ 7869 @-@ 3064 @-@ 0 .

Weis , Margaret ; Hickman , Tracy (5 May 2006) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Paperback) . Chicago ; London : Devil 's Due Publishing . ISBN 1 @-@ 932796 @-@ 50 @-@ 9 .

writers , Margaret Weis , Tracy Hickman , Andrew Dabb ; artists , Steve Kurth , Stefano Raffaele (26 July 2006) . Dragons of Autumn Twilight (Hardcover) . Chicago ; London : Devil 's Due Publishing . ISBN 1 @-@ 932796 @-@ 70 @-@ 3 .

= = = Other Books = = =

Weis , Margaret ; Hickman , Tracy (2000) . The Annotated Chronicles . Renton , WA : Wizards of the Coast . ISBN 0 @-@ 7869 @-@ 1609 @-@ 5 .