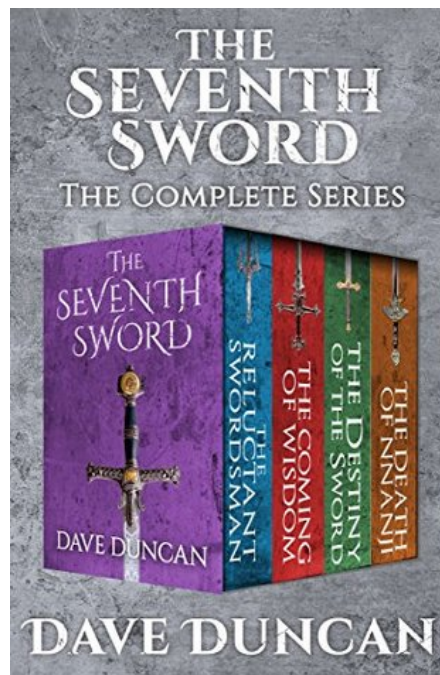




The Seventh Sword: The Complete Series

Dave Duncan

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The Seventh Sword: The Complete Series Dave Duncan

A young man is transformed into a barbarian fighter in this adventurous series from “one of the leading masters of epic fantasy” (*Publishers Weekly*).

In this complete collection of the high fantasy Seventh Sword series by Aurora Award–winning author Dave Duncan, Wallie Smith must face a new destiny and save an unfamiliar world from evil forces.

The Reluctant Swordsman: Wallie goes to the hospital and wakes up in the body of a barbarian swordsman, accompanied by a voluptuous slave girl and an eccentric priest babbling about the Goddess. When he learns the Goddess needs a swordsman, he reluctantly agrees to set off on her quest.

The Coming of Wisdom: Wallie is staring death in the face when the Goddess gives him a new body and the fabled Sapphire Sword in return for being her champion. But Wallie and his weapon quickly find themselves outmatched in a world of high-stakes magic.

The Destiny of the Sword: Wallie is entrusted by the presiding goddess with a mission to bring together all the swordsmen to finally defeat the sorcerers and their terrible technology. And while he’s not quite convinced he should oblige, goddesses can be very persuasive . . .

The Death of Nnanji: For fifteen years the truce has held, but now sorcerers have started killing swordsmen again and swordsmen traitors are aiding them. Wallie, known now as Shonshu, must ride out to fight the war he hoped would never come, and his failure or success will determine the fate of the world for the next thousand years.

The Seventh Sword: The Complete Series Details

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From Reader Review The Seventh Sword: The Complete Series for online ebook

Neil says

I received a free copy via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.
All in all a wonderful series although slow in places the characters and story line left you wanting more.

Melissa says

Good Books

This is a fine series, although not quite what I expected. I will probably read it again. Looking for more.

Roger Wayne says

Great

Slow start but after that you can't wait to read what happens next. This is a great series of books.

Dayna Lowe says

Great read. Kept me hooked to the very end.

Fast paced with great character development. I hated for it to come to an end. Can't wait to read something else from this author.

Mike Ingle says

Wow reread

The addition of The Death of Nnanji kinda ties everything up nicely, with the inclusion of the new members of the family

Sandra E. Stultz says

I was hooked from the first word.

The adventure starts in a temple and ends in a castle. The miracles from the goddess and the young demigod

aid Wallie in the struggles of war. With their guidance, Wallie gathers an army and changes the world. I'm glad Dave decided to write a sequel. The first three books did sum things up nicely, as Dave said. The fourth book summed things up even better!

Cyd O says

I picked this series up on the recommendation of another author whose works I follow closely. I was NOT disappointed. This is a wonderful tale of a man sucked from his life in modern Earth to inhabit the body of a warrior swordsman in a pre-industrial world.

The author builds meaningful characters, then weaves a storyline that will keep you reading late into the night. The first three books in this set follow right along the same storyline, then the final book, "Death of Nanji," was written later, picking up with the same characters 15 years later, bringing in their children and other important people.

The only things that bothered me were the many typos – especially in the final book – and the author seems to have a habit of rushing or dumping the endings into an epilogue when perhaps there should be been another chapter.

I absolutely recommend The Seventh Sword: The Complete Series.

Jeff Marlow says

A fantastic ending

As the original trilogy was a fun and creative read, the continuation had a slightly different but wonderfully scripted conclusion.

Bookwraiths says

Originally reviewed at Bookwraiths.

My rating is 3.5 stars.

The Seventh Sword series is a “portal” fantasy in the tradition of Stephen Donaldson’s *Chronicles of Thomas Covenant* and Guy Gavriel Kay’s *The Fionavar Tapestry*. Never fear though, Dave Duncan has put his own unique spin on the familiar 1980s era tropes contained herein (portal, quest, fellowship, and Chosen One), subverting most of them in some fashion, while weaving a fast paced, entertaining adventure in the first three books, then returning in the fourth volume to give the series a true conclusion.

It all begins in the Goddess’ Temple at Hann, where Honakura, priest of the seventh rank and true power behind the scenes, has a problem: Hardduju, reeve of the Temple and Swordsman of the seventh rank, is a traitor and thief in league with brigands. This once honorable warrior now more worried about stealing from the goddess’ worshipers rather than protecting them. But what can Honakura do to stop the powerful

swordsman and his underlings?

Naturally, the priest prays to his goddess for aid. And, miraculously, his prayers are immediately answered when news reaches him that Shonsu, Swordsman of the seventh rank, has appeared at the temple asking for a demon exorcism. Honakura eager to extend such aid in return for Shonsu's oath to serve the temple!

But while the exorcism of the demon spirit called Walliesmith goes as planned, Honakura's scheme seemingly falls apart when Shonsu awakes as a very confused Wallie Smith from Earth!

The tale which spirals out from this beginning is focused on Wallie Smith: a mild-mannered engineer from earth who vaguely recalls dying from encephalitis but whose spirit now inhabits the body of Shonsu, Swordsman of the seventh rank. The goddess herself having brought Wallie here to embark on a quest and fulfill a prophecy to save "The World" from a grizzly fate; this journey by the very cosmopolitan and scientific minded Wallie filled with much discovery and more than a little acceptance, as he quickly finds that his modern sensibilities aren't of much value in a world ruled by real gods!

A fish out of water tale. That is how I'd quickly describe *The Seventh Sword*, because this story focuses on Wallie Smith's journey as a modern man in an alien civilization. But where other author dealing with this trope generally espouse the superiority of current culture over all others, Duncan takes a more enlightened approach, showing both the failure and triumphs of Wallie's preconceived notions. The quest our hero undertakes far less interesting than the evolution of Wallie's own belief system.

Don't take that to mean the goddess' quest is a humdrum affair, since that couldn't be further from the truth. There are many twists and turns along Wallie's path; a rather unusual fellowship of friends gathered around our hero; foes popping up in unsuspected locations; Wallie always forced to find the correct way to balance his morals and beliefs against those of the goddess' world; and the final resolutions (both in book three and four) quite surprising. All of these things creating a very entertaining story.

The Seventh Sword isn't without its weaknesses however. The most glaring being Wallie Smith's tendency to swing back and forth in his eternal quest to find a balance between The World's culture/beliefs and his own. Certainly, that is realistic. I mean, no one is going to wake up in an alien world in someone else's body and immediately accept everything around them as normal. But Wallie's tendency to seemingly acclimate himself to his new reality, accept it, begin to work within it, then reject it all again became quite annoying after a while. Nor did it ring true after the fourth or fifth episode. At least, for me, it didn't.

Subverting the classic fantasy quest narrative whiling entertaining with fast paced action and emotional issues, Dave Duncan's *The Seventh Sword* is an older series well worth reading. Nope, it isn't grimdark by any means, but neither is it the shiny fantasy of yesteryear where the hero has all the answers and everything works out for him in the end. Rather, this series is a more realistic look at a normal guy from the modern world (Are the 1980s considered modern anymore?) dealing with magic, gods, and other fantastical circumstances which his upbringing and education have not prepared him for. Recommended!

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review. I'd like to thank them for allowing me to receive this review copy and inform everyone that the review you have read is my opinion alone.

Dana Solomon says

Fantastic!

I loved this series! If you like stories of adventure, honor, war, romance--pretty much any genre, you will like it also, because it has a bit of everything all rolled up in one well-thought-out story, with heroes, villains, peasants and princes, and everything in between. Have fun reading it!

Dave Neuendorf says

Skillfully written portal fantasy about Wallie Smith, a chemical engineer who dies and finds his soul occupying the body of one of the premier swordsmen of another world. He inherits his host's language and skills, along with his earthly memories. His own civilized temperament contrasts with the barbarian attitudes of his host, which provides plenty of internal conflict for the author to exploit.

The world is directly influenced by at least two major gods along with their demigodly minions, one of which is the cause of Wallie's situation. He is forced by demonstrations of power to believe in the existence of these gods, and to commit to fulfilling their purposes. A lot of the plot is about how he works out what those purposes are, and how he accomplishes them while pursuing his personal desires.

There is plenty of romance, but I didn't see it as particularly tender. Pretty much all males except Wallie are promiscuous, and even he has to fight that inclination in his host's personality.

I was not comfortable with having other gods than the true God in a universe that includes our world. If I had been in Wallie's shoes, I hope that I would have challenged the authority of the gods of that world.

This was one of those long series that I felt compelled to finish, but was glad when it was over.
