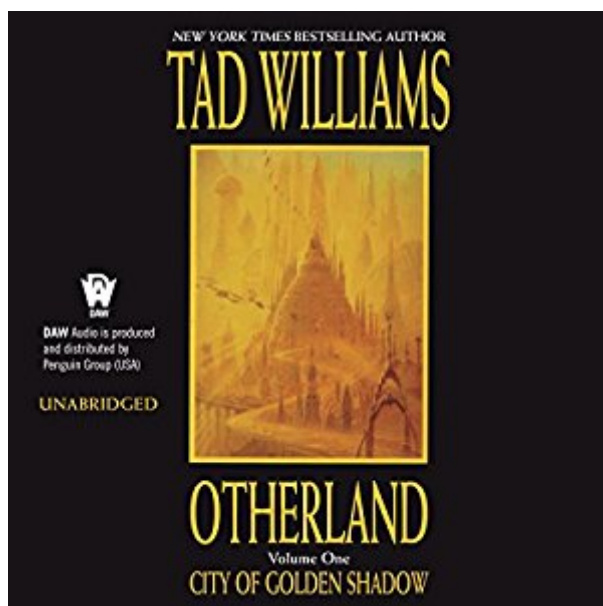


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City Of Golden Shadow: Otherland, Book 1



Synopsis

Surrounded by secrecy, it is home to the wildest dreams and darkest nightmares. Incredible amounts of money have been lavished on it. The best minds of two generations have labored to build it. And somehow, bit by bit, it is claiming the Earth's most valuable resource - its children.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 28 hours and 42 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 30, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00OJF3EEQ

Best Sellers Rank: #94 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > High Tech #284

in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Cyberpunk #288 in Books > Audible

Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Adventure

Customer Reviews

Otherland was one of my favorite series back when it originally came out. I loved the combination of science fiction real life and fantasy virtual world. I wanted to re-read the series to see if, after 14 years, the series still stands out as one of my favorites. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the series is everything I remembered it to be. Otherland is the first of a four book series, each book being large. Williams himself said this was intended to be one book but knew realistically that the book would have to be split up since they would never make a book so large, and people would most likely never read a book that large. That being said each book doesn't have the clean conclusion you would find in other series where everything is wrapped up all neat and nice. Otherland does have an abrupt ending, which when it was originally published probably upset a lot of people. But now that the series is complete they have no reason to be upset when they can pick up the next book and continue the saga. Look at City of Golden Shadow as a long intro to the series, one that sets up the world and builds it in such a way as to make it accessible and real. The characters are slowly built up so that you know and understand them, can see where they are going and what they are thinking. When remembering back I remembered it as having more virtual reality,

the simulations of Otherland, but in re-reading it I've found that the simulations don't start to the end of the book. That being said there were some slow parts as the characters develop and the scene is ultimately set up for books 2-4. We have to watch Renie and Xabbu flounder around in order to set up their entrance in to Otherland. We have to watch Felix and Dread in order to understand how evil they are and what Otherland represents. That being said this fascinating book, as good as it was to read, is nothing compared to the other books in the series. Having almost finished River of Blue Fire I can honestly say that this is still and will probably always be one of my favorite fantasy series. The simulation worlds created by Williams are fun and light hearted, always with the constant danger of death, or weighty and real. Some simulations you can't help but smile as you read, seeing Williams' interpretation of a well known fairy tale or concept. City of Golden Shadow could be a slow read for some, slow enough that they may want to stop reading the series, but in the end this book and the ones that follow are so worth it. A most definite recommend. 5 stars.

The first book in the best series I have read in years. I am a sci-fi geek and the Otherland series swallowed me up. I loved it and didn't want it to end. The character development was amazing and the story line very realistic. I became emotionally attached to several of the characters (I laughed, I cried). The idea of complete immersion in an online world is no longer far fetched and this story opens the door to endless possibilities, both good and bad. I am waiting for the video game or the TV series - a movie couldn't begin to do it justice.

Fascinating, complex tale of the human spirit and desires, technology, socio-economic issues.....I've enjoyed every selection I've ever read from this author, he creates such realistic and relatable characters and stories, even though they're often found in alien and unfamiliar settings. He can really paint a picture with words, and this series is definitely among my favorites. Prepare to be sucked in and swept away once you get the initial story set-up out of the way!

I read this in college when it came out 20 years and it's always been one of my favorites. Tad Williams is amazingly prescient in predicting the direction the web and society would develop in that time. I highly recommend this book and am excited to hop for the rest of the series.

Still reading...Love it...I hope they make the movie like they said they would or turn it into a TV series because all the books are very long. Lupita Nyong'o or Naomie Harris would be a good Renie Sulaweyo...

I won't go into detail about the characters, plot and writing style here since you can find all that in most of the other reviews. This is the second time I've read this series and I don't feel like it has been a waste of time. The first book IS hard to get into. My sister, upon my recommendation, bought the series and was near regretting it until 3/4 of the way through the first book, ending on a 'glad I stuck with it' note. Because the books are so long it is sometimes hard to remember specifics when a character refers back to earlier events. Searching for it would probably be frustrating & futile. I'm not a literary critic, just someone who likes to read a good book. I liked the story and admire anyone who can write such epics and keep track of who, what, where and when. Don't forget to read the dedication. Hope dad was impressed at some point.

This is a fascinating series. It's a surprise that no one has thought about doing a movie based on these books. Tad Williams has produced a non-stop fast paced story. He is a talented author. In a world where the internet is so dominate this is a very exciting read.

I found the book to be well written. I've decided to continue on with the series. However, I feel the first 400 pages were really slow. The chapters start to get interesting and then switch to another story. It made it easy for me to set down and not have the urge to pick it back up again. After about 400 pages the story starts to pick up and all the characters have interesting plot lines. But I'll warn you the plot doesn't really come together until the end of the book. Requiring readers to finish 1000 pages before the plot thickens is a lot to ask. If you like science fiction fantasy this book is worth a read. If you don't have a problem reading the first 400 pages to get to the plot it's worth the read. If you are looking for something that is going to capture your interest right away and have a lot of action and adventure I wouldn't recommend this book to you. If you are looking for a faster pace story with a similar concept I would recommend Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson.

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