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Investigating the theft of an old samurai sword forged by a legendary smith who infused the weapon with magical powers, Tokyo police officer Mariko Oshiro finds herself threatened by the power of the blade in unexpected ways. The third adventure of Garth; sequel to: The seven altars of Dusarra; sequel: The book of silence. Sharpening the Sword is a Coloring System that can be used for Bible Study. Multiple colors are used for a variety of topics. For instance: Yellow = Salvation and Christian Living Green = Church Orange = Supernatural (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Satan, Angels, Demons, Miracles and Healing) Purple = Man and Sin Last Things = Death, Heaven, Hell, Judgment, Second Coming, Immortality and Resurrection, Hades and Sheol) Red = False Doctrine Light Green = Law, Jewish ritual, temple, and history dealing with the law, temple, etc. This advanced manual has additional information not found in the basic STS manual. . Four hundred years after a deadly virus and nuclear war destroyed the modern world, a new and noble civilization emerges. In this kingdom, called Chiveis, snowcapped mountains provide protection, and fields and livestock provide food. The people live medieval-style lives, with almost no knowledge of the "ancient" world. Safe in their natural stronghold, the Chiveisi have everything they need, even their own religion. Christianity has been forgotten—until a young army scout comes across a strange book. With that discovery, this work of speculative fiction takes readers on a journey that encompasses adventure, romance, and the revelation of the one true God. Through compelling narrative and powerful character development, The Sword speaks to God's goodness, his refusal to tolerate sin, man's need to bow before him, and the eternity and power of his Word. Fantasy and adventure readers will be hooked by this first book in a forthcoming trilogy. THE PHENOMENAL EPIC OF GOOD AND EVIL LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE Thirty-five years ago, Terry Brooks brought to life a dazzling world in The Sword

of Shannara. Nineteen more Shannara volumes would follow, making the series one of the most popular fantasy epics of all time. Now comes a fully annotated collector's edition of the novel that started it all—featuring never-before-shared insights into the classic tale, an all-new introduction by the New York Times bestselling author, and replicas of the original sketches for some of the long-lost, black-and-white paintings by the Brothers Hildebrandt that decorated the original edition, and a replica of the original Hildebrandt central color plate on the back of the jacket.. Long ago, wars ravaged the world. In peaceful Shady Vale, half-elfin Shea Ohmsford knows little of such troubles. Then the giant, forbidding Allanon reveals that the supposedly dead Warlock Lord is plotting to destroy everything in his wake. The sole weapon against this Power of Darkness is the Sword of Shannara, which can be used only by a true heir of Shannara. On Shea, last of the bloodline, rests the hope of all the races. Soon a Skull Bearer, dread minion of a mighty evil, flies into the Vale, seeking to destroy Shea. To save his home, Shea must flee, drawing the Skull Bearer after him in menacing pursuit. Thus begins the enthralling Shannara epic, a spellbinding tale of adventure, magic, and myth. PRAISE FOR TERRY BROOKS "The Sword of Shannara is an unforgettable and wildly entertaining epic, animated by Terry Brooks's cosmically generative imagination and storytelling joy. This was one of my favorite fictional worlds growing up, and I look forward to many return trips."—Karen Russell, New York Times bestselling author of *Swamplandia!* "Terry Brooks has been my constant companion over a lifetime of exploring my beloved fantasy genre. I say with all honesty I would not be writing epic fantasy today if not for Shannara. If Tolkien is the grandfather of modern fantasy, Terry Brooks is its favorite uncle."—Peter V. Brett, New York Times bestselling author of *The Desert Spear* "I can't even begin to count how many of Terry Brooks's books I've read (and reread) over the years. From Shannara to Landover, his work was a huge part of my childhood."—Patrick Rothfuss, New York Times bestselling author of *The Name of the Wind* "Terry Brooks is a master of the craft and a trailblazer who established fantasy as a viable genre. Not only do I owe him for many hours of reading pleasure, I owe him my job. He is required reading."—Brent Weeks, New York Times bestselling author of *The Night Angel Trilogy* "The Shannara books were among the first to really capture my imagination. I didn't just enjoy reading the novels—the world became so real that I would spend hours creating Shannara fan-fiction in my mind. My daydreams and therefore my stories will always owe a debt to Terry Brooks."—Brandon Mull, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the *Beyonders* and *Fablehaven* series This early work by Robert E. Howard was originally published in 1932 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. 'The Phoenix on the Sword' is a story in the Conan series where he foils a plot to overthrow him as King of Aquilonia. Robert Ervin Howard was born in Peaster, Texas in 1906. During his youth, his family moved between a variety of Texan boomtowns, and Howard - a bookish and somewhat introverted child - was steeped in the violent myths and legends of the Old South. At fifteen Howard began to read the pulp magazines of the day, and to write more seriously. The December 1922 issue of his high school newspaper featured two of his stories, 'Golden Hope Christmas' and 'West is West'. In 1924 he sold his first piece - a short caveman tale titled 'Spear and Fang' - for \$16 to the not-yet-famous *Weird Tales* magazine. Howard's most famous character, Conan the Cimmerian, was a barbarian-turned-King during the Hyborian Age, a mythical period of some 12,000 years ago. Conan featured in seventeen *Weird Tales* stories between 1933 and 1936 which is why Howard is now regarded as having spawned the 'sword and sorcery' genre. The Conan stories have since been adapted many times, most famously in the series of films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. A sword-and-sorcery classic from the Aurora Award-winning author of the King's Blades series. Wally Smith, having died on Earth, finds himself reincarnated as a swordsman in another world and entrusted by the presiding goddess with a mission that has no appeal for him at all. Can he bring together all the swordsmen to finally defeat the sorcerors and their terrible technology? Wally is not quite convinced he should, but goddesses can be very persuasive . . . This is the third and final exciting book, after *The Reluctant Swordsman* and *The Coming of Wisdom*, in the *Seventh Sword Trilogy*. One oppressive June evening, Lenore de Warrenne returned from church (where she had, as usual, prayed fervently that her soon-expected first-born might be a daughter), and entered her dressing-room. Here her Ayah divested her of hat, dress, and boots, and helped her into the more easeful tea-gown and satin slippers. "Bootlair wanting ishweets for dinner-table from go-down, please, Mem-Sahib," observed Ayah, the change of garb accomplished. "The butler wants sweets, does he? Give me my keys, then," replied Mrs. de Warrenne, and,

rising with a sigh, she left the dressing-room and proceeded, via the dining-room (where she procured some small silver bowls, sweet-dishes, and trays), to the go-down or store-room, situate at the back of the bungalow and adjoining the "dispense-khana"—the room in which assemble the materials and ministrants of meals from the extra-mural "bowachi-khana" or kitchen. Unlocking the door of the go-down, Mrs. de Warrenne entered the small shelf-encircled room, and, stepping on to a low stool proceeded to fill the sweet-trays from divers jars, tins and boxes, with guava-cheese, crystallized ginger, kulwa, preserved mango and certain of the more sophisticated sweetmeats of the West. It was after sunset and the hamal had not yet lit the lamps, so that this pantry, a dark room at mid-day, was far from light at that time. But for the fact that she knew exactly where everything was, and could put her hand on what she wanted, she would not have entered without a light. He, a wandering orphan, was fortunate enough to witness the confrontation between two peerless experts, and thought that the two of them were legendary immortals. Legend has it that the pinnacle of martial arts can shatter space and become an Immortal God! He decided: I will shatter the void and become an immortal god, and enjoy eternal life! [Previous Chapter] [Table of Contents] [Next Chapter] The *Sword's Elegy* is the third book in a new epic fantasy trilogy from successful self-published author Brian D. Anderson, perfect for fans of *The Wheel of Time* and *The Sword of Truth*. The doom of humankind has at last been realized. Belkar's prison is broken and his army is on the move. The nations of Lamoria, unaware of the greater danger, look to repel the aggression of Ralmarstad. Mariyah and Lem, certain that only the magic of the Bards can save them, desperately search for that lost knowledge. But friends and allies are what they need to complete their task. And they are in short supply. For, while peril often brings out the best in us, it also brings out the worst. In the end, it is not great power, terrible armies, or mighty warriors who will influence the course of fate. But two lovers and the unbreakable bond they share. All questions are answered. All mysteries revealed. And even Belkar will learn that fate, once tempted, cannot be denied. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. Welcome to Riverside, where the aristocratic and the ambitious battle for power and prestige in the city's labyrinth of streets and ballrooms, theatres and brothels, boudoirs and salons. Into this alluring and alarming world walks a bright young woman ready to take it on and make her fortune. A well-bred country girl, Katherine knows all the rules of conventional society. Her biggest mistake is thinking they apply. Katherine's host and uncle, Alec Campion, the capricious and decadent Mad Duke Tremontaine, is in charge here - and to him, rules are made to be broken. When he decides it would be far more amusing for his niece to learn swordplay than to follow the usual path to ballroom and husband, her world changes forever. And there's no going back. Blade in hand, it's up to Katherine to find her own way through a maze of secrets and betrayals, nobles and scoundrels - and to gain the power, respect, and self-discovery that come to those who master . . . the privilege of the sword. New epic fantasy in the grand tradition—including a never-before-published *Song of Ice and Fire* story by George R. R. Martin! Fantasy fiction has produced some of the most unforgettable heroes ever conjured onto the page: Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian, Michael Moorcock's Elric of Melniboné, Fritz Leiber's Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser. Classic characters like these made sword and sorcery a storytelling sensation, a cornerstone of fantasy fiction—and an inspiration for a new generation of writers, spinning their own outsize tales of magic and swashbuckling adventure. Now, in *The Book of Swords*, acclaimed editor and bestselling author Gardner Dozois presents an all-new anthology of original epic tales by a stellar cast of award-winning modern masters—many of them set in their authors' best-loved worlds. Join today's finest tellers of fantastic tales, including George R. R. Martin, K. J. Parker, Robin Hobb, Scott Lynch, Ken Liu, C. J. Cherryh, Daniel Abraham, Lavie Tidhar, Ellen Kushner, and more on action-packed journeys into the outer realms of dark enchantment and intrepid derring-do, featuring a stunning assortment of fearless swordsmen and warrior women who face down danger and death at every turn with courage, cunning, and cold steel. FEATURING SIXTEEN ALL-NEW STORIES: "The Best Man Wins" by K. J. Parker "Her Father's Sword" by Robin Hobb "The Hidden Girl" by Ken Liu "The Sword of Destiny" by Matthew Hughes "'I Am a Handsome Man,' Said Apollo Crow" by Kate Elliott "The Triumph of Virtue" by Walter Jon Williams "The Mocking Tower" by Daniel Abraham "Hrunting" by C. J. Cherryh "A Long, Cold Trail" by Garth Nix "When I Was a Highwayman" by Ellen Kushner "The Smoke of Gold Is Glory" by Scott Lynch "The Colgrid Conundrum" by Rich Larson "The King's Evil" by Elizabeth Bear "Waterfalling" by

Lavie Tidhar "The Sword Tyraste" by Cecelia Holland "The Sons of the Dragon" by George R. R. Martin And an introduction by Gardner Dozois "When fine writer and expert editor [Gardner] Dozois beckons, authors deliver—and this surely will be one of the year's essential anthologies."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) For the first time in one elegant collector's edition hardcover, and featuring an introduction by New York Times bestselling author Terry Brooks, here are the first three novels of that classic series: The Sword of Shannara, The Elfstones of Shannara, and The Wishsong of Shannara—the beginning of a phenomenal epic of good and evil. The Sword of Shannara Long ago, the wars of the ancient Evil ruined the world. In peaceful Shady Vale, half-elfin Shea Ohmsford knows little of such troubles. But the supposedly dead Warlock Lord is plotting to destroy everything in his wake. The sole weapon against this Power of Darkness is the Sword of Shannara, which can be used only by a true heir of Shannara. On Shea, last of the bloodline, rests the hope of all the races. The Elfstones of Shannara The magical Ellcrys tree is dying, loosening the spell that bars the Demons from enacting vengeance upon the land. Now Wil Ohmsford must guard the Elven girl Amberle on a perilous quest as she carries one of the Ellcrys' seeds to a mysterious place where it can be quickened into a powerful new force. But dark on their trail comes the Reaper, most fearsome of all Demons, aiming to crush their mission at any cost. The Wishsong of Shannara An ancient Evil is stirring to new life, sending its ghastly Mord Wraiths to destroy Mankind. To win through the vile growth that protects this dark force, the Druid Allanon needs Brin Ohmsford—for she alone holds the magic power of the wishsong. Reluctantly Brin joins the Druid on his dangerous journey. But a prophecy foretells doom, as Evil nurses its plans to trap the unsuspecting Brin into a fate far more horrible than death. Thus begins Terry Brooks's thrilling Shannara epic, an unforgettable tale of adventure, magic, and myth. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Terry Brooks's The Measure of the Magic. HIGH-STAKES ADVENTURE. RICH GRAYSCALE ILLUSTRATIONS. NARNIA MEETS OLD YELLER IN THIS UNFORGETTABLE DEBUT! This adventure's a throwback to simpler times. It appears to be prose-but it secretly rhymes. Kids can read to themselves. They can read it aloud. It's about a young boy who is brave and unbowed. The kid goes on a quest, and when danger appears, he discovers true grit-and he conquers his fears. When the dust has all settled and Martin returns, he makes difficult choices and finally learns that it's not always easy to do the right thing... But he makes it back home to his father, the King. When his quest is complete and brave deeds have been done, he discovers at last that his sword has been won! Black and white illustrations explode off the page-a feast for the eyes, irrespective of age. There's adventure aplenty...and frightening foes. There is also a knight-and he follows his nose, sniffing out those in danger to serve and protect. But this boldest of knights isn't whom you'd expect... There's much more than just action and marvelous art: there's a moral embedded to enter the heart and the mind of your child. It will challenge and thrill. This book won't be forgotten like other ones will. And the very best part? Martin makes a new friend! When kids finish this book, they won't want it to end. So bring joy to a child: buy a copy today! Come and meet the boy prince-and the knight named Sir Ray... 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. This dual biography of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King upends longstanding preconceptions to transform our understanding of the twentieth century's most iconic African American leaders. To most Americans,

Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. represent contrasting ideals: self-defense vs. nonviolence, black power vs. civil rights, the sword vs. the shield. The struggle for black freedom is wrought with the same contrasts. While nonviolent direct action is remembered as an unassailable part of American democracy, the movement's militancy is either vilified or erased outright. In *The Sword and the Shield*, Peniel E. Joseph upends these misconceptions and reveals a nuanced portrait of two men who, despite markedly different backgrounds, inspired and pushed each other throughout their adult lives. This is a strikingly revisionist biography, not only of Malcolm and Martin, but also of the movement and era they came to define. A father who lost his heart. A traveller who lost his love. A girl who lost everything. All in a world turned upside down. *The Book of Judith* tells the story of a fictitious Jewish woman beheading the general of the most powerful imaginable army to free her people. The parabolic story was set as an example of how God will help the righteous. Judith's heroic action not only became a validating charter myth of Judaism itself but has also been appropriated by many Christian and secular groupings, and has been an inspiration for numerous literary texts and works of art. It continues to exercise its power over artists, authors and academics and is becoming a major field of research in its own right. *The Sword of Judith* is the first multidisciplinary collection of essays to discuss representations of Judith throughout the centuries. It transforms our understanding across a wide range of disciplines. The collection includes new archival source studies, the translation of unpublished manuscripts, the translation of texts unavailable in English, and Judith images and music. 'The Sword of His Mouth' is a study of the rhetorical and poetic form of synoptic sayings which argues that many of these sayings use a 'depth rhetoric' which seeks to challenge the hearer's fixed structures of meaning and value, moving one to new action by awakening new insight. This study brings to light important but neglected features of the texts and demonstrates the value of this new approach for gaining fresh insight into their significance. Special attention is given to pattern and tension. An attempt is made to show how form and content merge in producing utterances with provocative verbal power. Jesus emerges from this study as one whose language must be distinguished from casual speech. AD 439: The Roman Empire is on the brink of collapse. With terrifying speed a Vandal army has swept through the Roman provinces of Spain and North Africa, conquering Carthage and threatening Roman control of the Mediterranean. But a far greater threat lies to the east, a barbarian force born in the harsh steppelands of central Asia, warriors of unparalleled savagery who will sweep all before them in their thirst for conquest - the army of Attila the Hun. For a small group of Roman soldiers and a mysterious British monk, the only defense is to rise above the corruption and weakness of the Roman emperors and hark back to the glory days of the army centuries before, to find strength in history. Led by Flavius, a young tribune, and his trusty centurion Macrobius, they fight a last-ditch battle against the Vandals in North Africa before falling back to Rome, where they regroup and prepare for the onslaught to come. Flavius learns that the British monk who had fled with them from Carthage is more than he seems, and he is drawn into a shady world of intelligence and intrigue under the aegis of Flavius' uncle Aetius, commander-in-chief of the Roman armies in the west, the man who alone has the power to rally Rome and her allies and save the western empire from annihilation. Aetius is desperate to buy time until his army is strong enough to confront the Huns on the field of battle, and meanwhile will do anything to undermine their strength. Together they devise a plan of astonishing audacity that will take Flavius and Macrobius across the frontier and far up the river Danube to the heart of darkness itself, to the stronghold of the most feared warrior-emperor the world has ever known - and into alliance with the emperor's daughter, a warrior-princess who has sworn vengeance against her father for the death of her mother. In the showdown to come, in the greatest battle the Romans have ever fought, victory will go to those who can hold high the most potent symbol of war ever wrought by man - the sacred sword of Attila. After finding a dragon-headed doorknob in an old suitcase, Chase and Ava jump back in time and meet the wizard Merlin, who informs them they must save King Arthur in the launch of a new time-travel series from "New York Times"-bestselling author Mass. Illustrations. Nakamura Taisaburo's landmark book on the art of the sword includes technical information, thoughtful analysis, and fascinating recollections of his own training and teaching. One of the most famous Japanese swordsmen of the twentieth century, Nakamura sensei is widely acknowledged as the preeminent reinventor of the practice of tameshigiri (test cutting) as a test of technical and spiritual mastery. *The Spirit of the Sword*--first published in Japanese in 1980, now translated into English for the first time--is

regarded by many as the most complete of Nakamura's writings on Japanese swordsmanship. Here Nakamura instructs the reader on the integration of iaido, kendo, and tameshigiri; the correct mental approach to sword practice; training methods; numerous kata or forms; a guide to sword maintenance; and historical notes on the use of the sword as a weapon. Illustrated with over 800 original photographs, this book is a must-have for any student of the Japanese sword and an excellent resource for sword enthusiasts in general. Almost 300 line drawings illustrate the history of swords from prehistory to the early Romans. Burton explains why specific materials were chosen to make swords in various civilizations. *Won By the Sword* : a tale of the Thirty Years' War G. A. Henty In the days of King Arthur there stood a mighty oak tree within the walls of a castle. Peace reigned in the castle until the fearsome night when Lionel, longlost brother of Lord Weldon, returned to cause trouble and unhappiness. It was then that Shan, the son of Lord Weldon, took on the duties of a knight and hid the sword in the hollow of the giant oak. The days that followed were filled with adventures that tried the courage of the young boy. Shan was surprised by bearded robbers in the woods. He met noble knights in plumed helmets, and eventually he even made a trip to high-towered Camelot. His story is filled with the pageantry and color of England in King Arthur's time. It creates a vivid picture of the Knights of the Round Table and the wisdom of King Arthur himself. Mr. Bulla captures the spirit of those romantic days in a straightforward, exciting manner. The result is another delightful book for his wide audience of young readers. Paul Galdone's vigorous illustrations are as evocative as the text. Except for the dragon-shaped constellation that appeared at his birth, there was nothing that suggested Arthur was destined for greatness. Narration by Christian Coulson (Tom Riddle, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets). "Like swordplay itself, *By the Sword* is elegant, accurate, romantic, and full of brio—the definitive study, hugely readable, of man's most deadly art."—Simon Winchester With a new Preface by the author Napoleon fenced. So did Shakespeare, Karl Marx, Grace Kelly, and President Truman, who as a schoolboy would practice fencing with Bess—his future wife— when the two of them returned home from school. Lincoln was a canny dueler. Ignatius Loyola challenged a man to a duel for denying Christ's divinity (and won). Less successful, but no less enthusiastic, was Mussolini, who would tell his wife he was "off to get spaghetti," their code to avoid alarming the children. *By the Sword* is an epic history of sword fighting—a science, an art, and, for many, a religion that began at the dawn of civilization in ancient Egypt and has been an obsession for mankind ever since. With wit and insight, Richard Cohen gives us an engrossing history of the world via the sword. Praise for *By the Sword* "Touché! While scrupulous and informed about its subject, Richard Cohen's book is about more than swordplay. It reads at times like an alternative social history of the West."—Sebastian Faulks "In writing *By the Sword*, [Cohen] has shown that he is as skilled with the pen as he is with the sword."—The New York Times "Irresistible . . . extraordinary . . . vivid and hugely enjoyable."—The Economist "A virtual encyclopedia on the subject of sword fighting."—San Francisco Chronicle "Literate, learned, and, beg pardon, razor-sharp . . . a pleasure for practitioners, and a rewarding entertainment for the armchair swashbuckler."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Rescued into another universe by the youngest of eight mage-brothers, world-weary Kelly Doyle finds herself exiled on an island where women are forbidden and surrounded by four sets of twin brothers who are struggling to avoid a curse. Reprint. *The Sword of Eden* tells the story of Eve and Mary from their points of view. It connects their lives—Eve as the mother of us all, looking forward to the birth of one who is promised to bruise the head of the serpent in the garden, and Mary as the New Eve whose son will do so. They tell their own stories which are central to the biblical story of salvation as well as their typical lives as women, wives, and mothers. Grindal has used sonnet forms to tell their stories. Philip Jenkins delivers a fearless examination of the dark and violent verses of the Bible—and a call for us to read them anew in pursuit of a richer, more honest faith. From "one of America's best scholars of religion" (The Economist), this daring exploration of the Scripture's most difficult passages forces us to confront and accept the violence that was integral to the formulation of Christianity's message as it was for many other of the world's religions, and shows us how a full understanding of the Scripture will allow us to finally move towards a more peaceful, spiritual world. Readers of Bart Ehrman's *God's Problem*, John Selby Spong's *The Sins of Scripture*, and Jenkins's own *The Jesus Wars*, as well as every Christian eager to square the recurrent violence of the Scripture with Christianity's enduring message of peace, will find these difficult questions explored in full in *Laying Down the Sword*. "Like

swordplay itself, *By the Sword* is elegant, accurate, romantic, and full of brio—the definitive study, hugely readable, of man's most deadly art."—Simon Winchester With a new Preface by the author Napoleon fenced. So did Shakespeare, Karl Marx, Grace Kelly, and President Truman, who as a schoolboy would practice fencing with Bess—his future wife— when the two of them returned home from school. Lincoln was a canny dueler. Ignatius Loyola challenged a man to a duel for denying Christ's divinity (and won). Less successful, but no less enthusiastic, was Mussolini, who would tell his wife he was "off to get spaghetti," their code to avoid alarming the children. *By the Sword* is an epic history of sword fighting—a science, an art, and, for many, a religion that began at the dawn of civilization in ancient Egypt and has been an obsession for mankind ever since. With wit and insight, Richard Cohen gives us an engrossing history of the world via the sword. Praise for *By the Sword* "Touché! While scrupulous and informed about its subject, Richard Cohen's book is about more than swordplay. It reads at times like an alternative social history of the West."—Sebastian Faulks "In writing *By the Sword*, [Cohen] has shown that he is as skilled with the pen as he is with the sword."—The New York Times "Irresistible . . . extraordinary . . . vivid and hugely enjoyable."—The Economist "A virtual encyclopedia on the subject of sword fighting."—San Francisco Chronicle "Literate, learned, and, beg pardon, razor-sharp . . . a pleasure for practitioners, and a rewarding entertainment for the armchair swashbuckler."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Essential reading for anyone interested in Japanese culture, this unsurpassed masterwork opens an intriguing window on Japan. Benedict's World War II-era study paints an illuminating contrast between the culture of Japan and that of the United States. *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* is a revealing look at how and why our cultures differ, making it the perfect introduction to Japanese history and customs.

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