



The Blade Itself (The First Law)

By Joe Abercrombie

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The Blade Itself (The First Law) By Joe Abercrombie

The first novel in the First Law Trilogy and debut novel from *New York Times* bestseller, Joe Abercrombie.

Logen Ninefingers, infamous barbarian, has finally run out of luck. Caught in one feud too many, he's on the verge of becoming a dead barbarian -- leaving nothing behind him but bad songs, dead friends, and a lot of happy enemies.

Nobleman, dashing officer, and paragon of selfishness, Captain Jezal dan Luthar has nothing more dangerous in mind than fleecing his friends at cards and dreaming of glory in the fencing circle. But war is brewing, and on the battlefields of the frozen North they fight by altogether bloodier rules.

Inquisitor Glokta, cripple turned torturer, would like nothing better than to see Jezal come home in a box. But then Glokta hates everyone: cutting treason out of the Union one confession at a time leaves little room for friendship. His latest trail of corpses may lead him right to the rotten heart of government, if he can stay alive long enough to follow it.

Enter the wizard, Bayaz. A bald old man with a terrible temper and a pathetic assistant, he could be the First of the Magi, he could be a spectacular fraud, but whatever he is, he's about to make the lives of Logen, Jezal, and Glokta a whole lot more difficult.

Murderous conspiracies rise to the surface, old scores are ready to be settled, and the line between hero and villain is sharp enough to draw blood.

Unpredictable, compelling, wickedly funny, and packed with unforgettable characters, *The Blade Itself* is noir fantasy with a real cutting edge.

First Law Trilogy

The Blade Itself

Before They Are Hanged

Last Argument of Kings

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Red Country

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British newcomer Abercrombie fills his muddled sword-and-sorcery series opener with black humor and reluctant heroes. Logen Ninefingers, a barbarian on the run from an ex-employer who's now king of the North, finds his loyalties complicated when he switches sides and becomes a valuable source of intel to the beleaguered Union. Glokta, a torture victim turned torturer, gets roped into securing the Union's position against both the invading Northmen and the incompetent Union king and council, and ruthlessly wields his skills in attempts to weed out traitors. Foppish Jezal, a preternaturally excellent swordsman, manages to win the contest to become the Union champion, thanks to a little help from Bayaz, a mage with his own agenda. The workmanlike plot, marred by repetitive writing and an excess of torture and pain, is given over to introducing the mostly unlikable characters, only to send them off on separate paths in preparation for the next volume's adventures. (*Sept.*)

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Review

"Pointed, driven, and sharp."? *Locus on Red Country*

"Magnificent, richly entertaining" ? *Time on The Heroes*

"Imagine *The Lord of the Rings* as directed by Kurosawa." ? *Lev Grossman, Wall Street Journal on The Heroes*

"[Abercrombie has] begun breaking his own rules. And succeeding wildly at it. ... [R]arely has Abercrombie had so much fun while rollicking through his colorful cast's foibles and witty dialogue - and rarely has he dished out so much straight-for-the-heart poignancy." ? *The A.V. Club*

"New, fresh, and exciting." ? *The Independent (UK)*

"Exhilarating... Abercrombie's knack for wit and grit holds your attention throughout, and his eye for character means that there's heart as well as muscle." ? *SFX (UK)*

"Abercrombie writes fantasy like no one else." ? *Guardian (UK)*

About the Author

Joe Abercrombie is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Country* and the First Law trilogy: *The Blade Itself*, *Before They Are Hanged*, and *Last Argument of Kings*. He is a full time writer, and occasional freelance film editor, who lives in Bath, England with his wife and three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warren Damron:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students because they are still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that question above. Every person

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Ericka McCall:

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Paul Frazier:

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