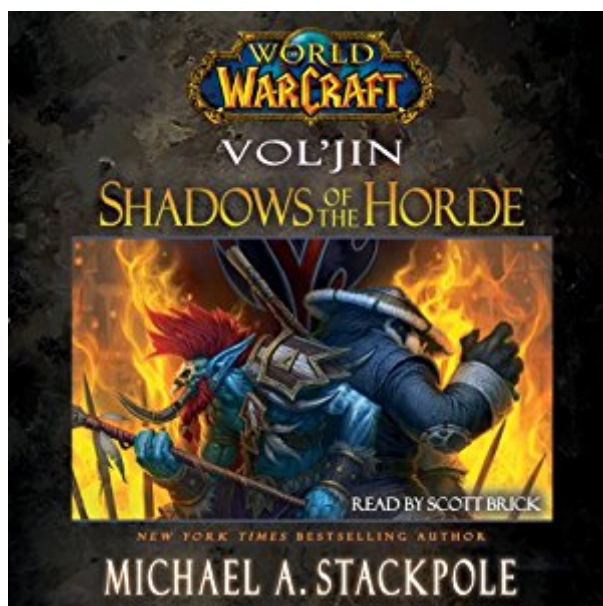


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World Of Warcraft: Vol'jin: Shadows Of The Horde



Synopsis

That night, visions mocked Vol'jin. He found himself in the midst of fighters, each of whom he recognized. He'd gathered them for that final assault on Zalazane, to end his madness and free the Echo Isles for the Darkspears. Each of the combatants took on aspects of a jinhui cube, faced to be at their maximum power. Not a fireship among them, but this did not surprise Vol'jin. He was the fireship, but not yet turned to display his maximum power. This was not a fight, though desperate, in which he would destroy himself. Aided by Bwonsamdi, they would slay Zalazane and reclaim the Echo Isles. Who be you, this troll, who be having memories of a heroic effort? Vol'jin turned, hearing the click of a cube snapping to a new facing. He felt trapped inside that cube, translucent though it was, and shocked that it had no values on any face. "I be Vol'jin." Bwonsamdi materialized in a gray world of swirling mists. "And who be this Vol'jin?" The question shook him. The Vol'jin of the vision had been the leader of the Darkspears, but was no longer. Reports of his death would just now be reaching the Horde. Perhaps they had not yet gotten there. In his heart, Vol'jin hoped his allies had been delayed, just so Garrosh could dwell one more day wondering if his plan had succeeded. That did not answer the question. He was no longer the leader of the Darkspears, not in any real sense. They might still acknowledge him, but he could give them no orders. They would resist Garrosh and any Horde attempt to conquer them, but in his absence, they might listen to envoys who offered them protection. They could be lost to him. Who do I be? Vol'jin shivered. Though he thought himself superior to Tyrathan Khort, at least the man was mobile and not wearing sick-robes. The man hadn't been betrayed by a rival and assassinated. The man had clearly embraced some of the pandaren way. And yet, Tyrathan hesitated when he should not have. Some of it was a game to make the pandaren underestimate him, but Vol'jin had seen through that. The other bits, though, as he'd hesitated after Vol'jin complimented a move, those were genuine. And not something a man be allowing in himself. Vol'jin looked up at Bwonsamdi. "I be Vol'jin. I know who I was. Who I gonna be? That answer only Vol'jin could be finding. And for now, Bwonsamdi, that be enough."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A good read--I actually started reading it second time because I liked it so much. Gives a lot of background on troll history, which is one of the few areas where there's not a lot of collected material on. It got a little corny between Chen and Yaliya, but it was cute and sorta normal for the high drama atmosphere that is Warcraft, so I just rolled with it. The book kinda left their future hanging though, which isn't so unusual for the Warcraft books because they're essentially a broken up series, but I found it a little disappointing all the same. I was really digging the relationship between Vol'jin and Chen--it was believable, and I LIKED it. They were comrades and they understood each other and it was great. The relationship between Vol'jin and Tyrathan, well, that was considerably less believable, but considering they were from opposite sides of the war, I understand that it's difficult to have two enemies just begin liking each other enough to fight a common enemy without killing each other in the process. It's hard to describe, but it almost felt like Tyrathan was supposed to be a stand in for a PC toon, even though nothing like what happened in the book happened in MoP. The fight scenes flow pretty well without a lot of gore and while I put that it had graphic violence, it really hovers more between "some violence" and "graphic violence"...I just put the latter because there was a LOT of fighting going on. I was suitably entertained and I'm glad I bought the book.

This, and 'Paragons': such a refreshing change and great authors. Hungry as we were/still are for any lore on Vol'jin, this is a tantalizing and fast-paced bit of lore & vivid sketch of his personality as he befriends a human bro, travels the shadow realms and more. The adventures are bananas. Can't believe he was taken away by Blizz so soon, but here he is so very vivid.. like Logan, "beta with age". Fills in explaining the Pandaren valley quests, but more importantly, his role as a Shadow Hunter and the eerie experience of that. Also much respect for including Vol'jin's private spiritual interactions with the once-great (now a minor lvl 43) spider goddess, Elortha no Shadra, and all the descriptions of the loa/shadow stuff. The writing is terrific.

Unlike most of the other World of Warcraft novels, *Shadows of the Horde* is primarily focused on the internal conflicts of the characters, philosophy, overcoming cultural differences, friendship, and destiny. It is ANYTHING but a humble approach to these topics, however. At least one other reviewer here said that the book wasn't a "page-turner" compared to the more action-oriented Warcraft novels, but I believe that the lack of action sequences makes this one all the more worth reading. This unique approach to the franchise was penned by Michael A. Stackpole, and this is his first entry into the WoW canon of books. I honestly believe this is the strongest author Blizzard has snagged yet, and I wait with great anticipation for his further works in this universe. Please, please Blizzard, get this man back to write more. This was, by far, the most excellent entry in your line of books. With some amazing lore tidbits for World of Warcraft fans, a deep examination of the Alliance and Horde philosophies, a humbling view of Vol'jin and his human counterpart, and a reminder that Chen is probably the most benevolent of the WoW main characters is enough to make this book more than a good read.

A shame Stackpole hasn't written more Warcraft books-- There are many lines in this book that have actually made me think, most warcraft books i read just like I eat candy, dont really expect much from it but some fun. But the dynamic between Vol'jin, the human hunter, and chen, is very interesting, it's a great look at different characters views in a world of war. My only complaint is as with every warcraft book there is never a summary of where in the timeline anything is taking place. Vol'jin has had an assassination attempt on him, but the details are never ever explained-- Why, who garrosh is, etc, you'd only know it by playing a specific scenario in the MoP expansion. I guess the trick is they want you to buy and play the game of course but for someone who already has the game I need a refresher.

Tying in books to video games has become en vogue for a good many years now. This series is based on the online subscription game World of War Craft. The story centers around a troll named Vol'jin leader of the Dark Spears. The rest of the characters are dog like or furry creatures called Pandaren and of course they live on Pandaria, an island continent that kind of reminds me of Australia. The shado Pan are Pandarian monks who practice martial arts that enhance their mental powers. These monks are clearly based on the Shaolin Monks of China. A little background on the story. Pandaria used to be controlled by the Mogu, giant magical beings that seem to live forever. They have been buried a god long time and now want to rise with the help of the Zandalari, powerful troll

nation. An armed conflict raging between the human Alliance and the trollish Horde. The trolls, or at least many of them wish to revive the old troll empire and rule the world. The story line itself is rather simple, When a brewmaster is called to a river in order to rescue and heal a wounded troll. That troll is Vol'jin who was set up by his leader Garrosh. Being ambushed in a cave by Surok creatures and ogres, Vol'jin is thought to be dead. While healing at the monastery he befriends a human named Tarathan. Together they become friends and allies against a Zandalari /Mogu invasion. During the invasion they offer resistance, get captured and then set traps for the invaders. At the end is an intense conflict. The story line to this rather simple as you have just read above, there is a lot of going inside the characters head and dealing with their thoughts. Some of them are rather extraneous and not important to the plot nor story line. The book was somewhat difficult at times to get into. But overall an enjoyable read.

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