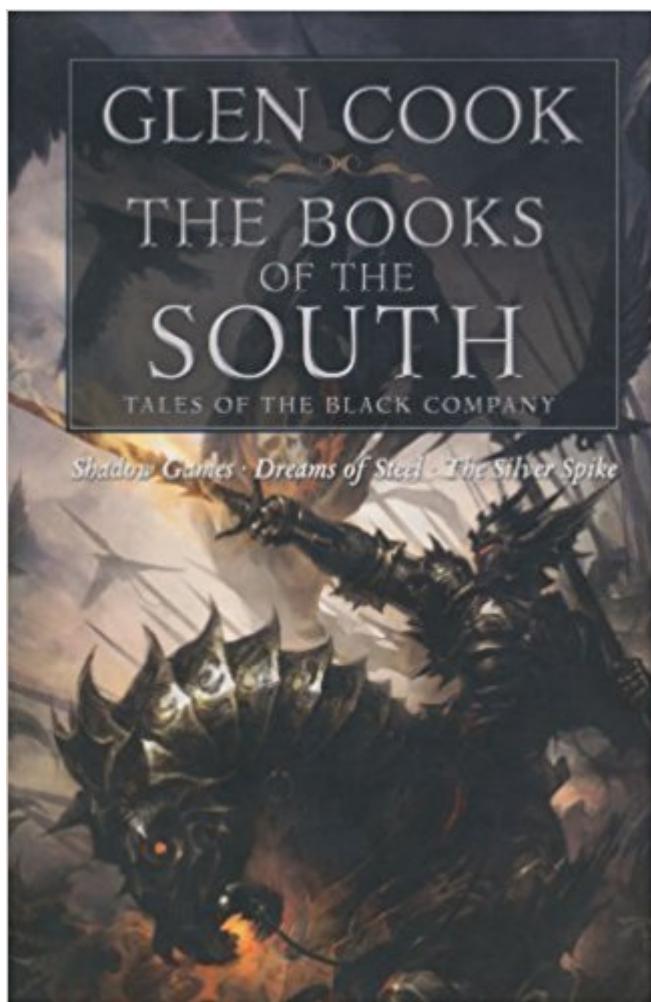


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Books Of The South: Tales Of The Black Company (Shadow Games / Dreams Of Steel / The Silver Spike)



Synopsis

Marching south after the ghastly battle at the Tower of Charm, the Black Company is hounded by shadowy figures every inch of the way. The game is on: the Company versus the Shadowmasters, deadly creatures that deal in darkness and sorrow. When hope dies, there's still survival. And there's still the Black Company. The Book of the South is the second omnibus of novels from one of the greatest fantasy epics of our age, Glen Cook's Black Company series • collecting Shadow Games, Dreams of Steel, and The Silver Spike.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (95 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This collection of three Black Company novels tells the story of the Company's journey out of the North, into the South, and how the Company came to fight the Shadowmasters. For several reasons, this isn't as cohesive a volume as "The Books of the North," but it still represents some of the best work done in military sci-fi/fantasy. Fans of the Black Company should pick this up for their bookshelves. Newcomers will also find a lot to like, but I'd recommend starting with "The Books of the North" or skipping straight to the Glittering Stone storyline. "Shadow Games" is set-up book, telling about the mercenary Black Company's flight from the North after its near-destruction at the end of "The White Rose." Still narrated by physician/historian/Captain Croaker, it feels very much like the first three books. The story is very episodic, in keeping with the storytelling mechanic of having Croaker tell the Company's history in the Annals. As with the previous three novels, a lot happens here, and there's not a single paragraph you can afford to skip. "Dreams of Steel" shifts the

narration to Lady, who is either your most or least favorite character. Either way, there's no denying that she's fascinating, and telling the story from her perspective was a great way for Cook to compress events. Instead of Croaker's style of telling a three-month tale in the space of a single chapter, Lady provides more detail, and this novel covers a lot less territory as a result. This is the only novel Lady narrates, and it sets up the events of "Bleak Seasons" (which, I hope, will come out soon in a "Glittering Stone" collection). A previous reviewer named "The Silver Spike" as her personal favorite, and I'm glad to hear I'm not alone there.

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