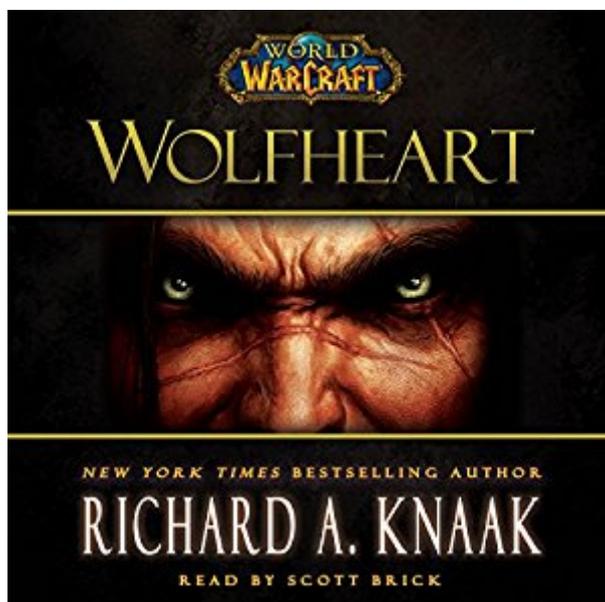


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World Of Warcraft: Wolfheart



Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Richard A. Knaak continues the thrilling story begun in the record-breaking MMO game expansion *World of Warcraft: Cataclysm* in this new audiobook!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Okay, I have to admit this book surprised me. I went in expecting Knaak to be his usual self. While I'm not among his legion of haters, I will admit that Golden is usually the superior writer. Not this time. Richard Knaak has outdone himself, taking the characters of Tyrande, Malfurion, Varian, and Maiev and bringing them to live with an interesting story about acceptance, both of others and oneself. First, I want to address the complaints about "bland characterizations." I'm often wondering if I read the same book as some other people. Yes, Varian Wrynn does start off his usual, obstinate, annoying self. But one of the plots of this book is deconstructing that, and moving Varian past his "King/Gladiator" dichotomy and making him one whole, balanced person again. Tyrande is a bit stickier question. In *World of Warcraft*, the character has done remarkably little, so her only "in-game" characterization comes from *Warcraft III*, where she was a bloodthirsty, borderline racial supremacist who had no qualms murdering her own people if they got in her way. In other words, she was a lot like Maiev. Does Knaak portray her differently? Yes. He treats her as a High Priestess. Someone's who believes in faith and hope, and thinks carefully before acting. I personally find this characterization vastly more endearing than the one from *WCIII*, who I didn't care if she lived or died. To each their own. As for accusations that she just sits there, that again, is overlooking her

role in the conference, and her own (admittedly short) fight scenes. Okay, back to the review. If you loathe Knaak's style, this book probably won't change your mind. But if you've been on the fence, or merely didn't like his own author-created characters, "Wolfheart" may just change your mind.

I was excited when I found out that we were returning to Varian and that his story would finally get a chance to resolve some of its issues. Varian was crazy before this book and he had some issues to resolve. I like this book a lot and it's not just because of Varian. Anduin plays a key role in this book and it was nice to see how he interacts with his father and influences the local politics. He also interacts with Prophet Velen for a bit, which was an interesting development. Genn Greymane is also a prominent character in this storyline and seeing how he and Varian develop their relationship is very enjoyable. We also see the return of Maeiv Shadowsong and learn what she's been up to since the end of Burning Crusade. Jarod Shadowsong also returns and I hope to see a lot more of him and Shandris Feathermoon in the future. That storyline was fun. Varian's rivalry with Garrosh is also rather interesting and you can see that while this is the story that stopped Varian going down a similar path to Garrosh, Garrosh is continuing his downward spiral. My only big issue with this book was about Varian's early behavior. He supports the Worgen with glowing praise at one point and then pulls a 180 for no visible reason in front of an audience of heads of state, insults everyone there and then departs. And the response is that everyone is angry at him. Malfurion seems to be the only person who thinks that something might be mentally wrong with him (like he's ill), not just that he's stupid, arrogant or drunk. I figured that we'd see a meeting of All the Heads of State plus Anduin but minus Varian about What's Wrong With Varian. But that's not what happened. It was off-putting.

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