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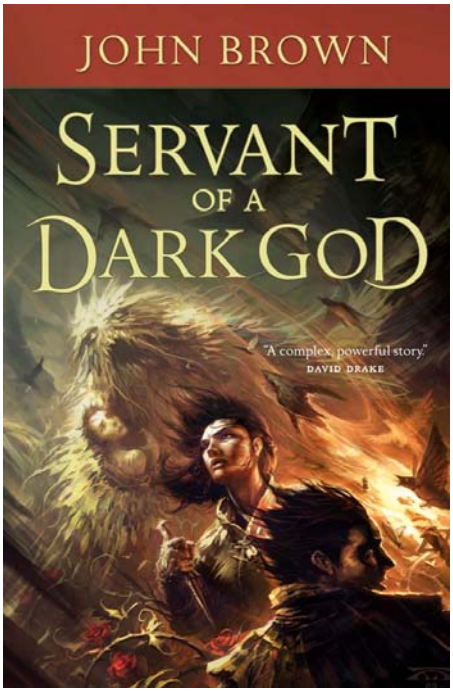
The debut fantasy novel from a writer to watch

SERVANT OF A DARK GOD

By John Brown



"Brown's first novel, the opener in a new fantasy series, creates an elaborate new world with a rich and deep spiritual and political background … this well-wrought tale of families in conflict against both politics and religion represents a welcome addition to large-scale fantasy."
***—Library Journal* ★Starred Review★**

"Solid pacing, a smart setting, and a great story." **—Brandon Sanderson**

"Thoroughly engrossing from the first page to the last...A writer with remarkable depth and power. I haven't seen a debut novel this good in years!" **—David Farland**

"A complex and intricate world, filled with all the permutations of human good and evil … Neither heroes nor villains are quite what they seem at first." **—L.E. Modesitt**

Tor is proud to present the launch of a towering new fantasy series by debut author **John Brown**. **THE SERVANT OF A DARK GOD** (Tor Hardcover; $25.99; October 13, 2009) introduces an elaborate new world, a strange and dark system of magic, and an intriguing cast of characters and monsters not to be missed. *Publishers Weekly* called it an "engrossing debut...a thoroughly enjoyable fantasy adventure."

The novel opens up with the young protagonist Talen living a seemingly ordinary existence with his family in a small village. At first, rumors of a dark and twisted magic—wrought by people beloved for years and thought of as family—are heard from neighboring villages. Then Talen, sent on a mission to outside cities, runs into age-old conflicts and rivalries and the surprising beginnings of a possible war, one to include everyone around him and stretch to the almost mythical lands beyond the seas.

If only humans were the only ones involved in the ominous developments. For an ancient and terrible force has awakened and begun to stalk the land and gather souls. Many have been in denial on the forces existing underneath everyday life, and a witch hunt begins among the villages. No one is certain of friend or enemy, those untouched by magic and those tainted by it.

Dark days are ahead as Talen and those close to him must come to terms with a wild and unwieldy magic—one that can exact a great price if used wrongly—as well as the many strange and unpredictable elements being revealed in the world around them.

Talen's peaceful village life becomes a thing of the past, as he begins to see the true sides of the world and people around him, even his own family. He must reevaluate his definitions of good and evil and come to terms with who he is and what kind of stand he will make if forced to take sides in the coming events.

A magnificent start to a new epic fantasy series, a coming-of-age tale, and a story about families and the ties—and the secrets—that bind, **SERVANT OF A DARK GOD** is all of those things and shows that **John Brown** is a writer to watch.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOHN BROWN currently lives with his wife and four daughters in the hinterlands of Utah, where one encounters much fresh air, many good-hearted ranchers, and an occasional wolf.

Visit his website at www.johndbrown.com

More Praise for John Brown

"A complex, powerful story of a youth trying to learn who he is and *what* he is … A book that copies nothing I have read before and goes its own way brilliantly." **—David Drake**

"A classic heroic saga, dealing with the bedrock issues of good and evil and identity. These are classic themes because they *Matter*, and Brown makes them matter both to his young protagonist and the reader." **—Kage Baker**

"A provocative, suspenseful beginning of a new series" **—Booklist**

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