

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN WORLDS — VOLUME I

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# AWAKENING IN GREEN FLESH

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*A Novel*



*For everyone who has ever stood on a bridge  
and waited for someone on the other side  
to look up.*

*"They told me the green-skins could not think. They told me the iron-clads could not feel. The first lie I ever uncovered was that both sides had told me the same lie."*

*— from the private journals of the one called Korrak the Quiet*

# THE BRIDGE BETWEEN WORLDS

*A Saga in Five Volumes*

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## **VOLUME I** *Awakening in Green Flesh*

A man dies in his world and wakes in the body of a low-ranking orc. He learns the brutal logic of the Horde, saves a small warband, spares his first prisoner, and begins to suspect that both sides have been lying to themselves for a very long time.

## **VOLUME II** *The Bridge Builder*

Korrak builds bridges — literal and symbolic — between the factions. He spares human soldiers, opens the first secret channel to an Alliance scout, faces resistance from his own kind, and begins to gather a neutral following.

## **VOLUME III** *The Weight of Blood*

The war escalates. Korrak is forced to kill former allies. Betrayal rises within his own ranks. He begins to question whether peace is even possible — and pays an emotional price he had not budgeted for.

## **VOLUME IV** *The Storm Before Dawn*

Full-scale war. Korrak leads combined forces in the siege of a major stronghold and nearly dies in the breach. In the silence after the smoke clears, both factions, at last, begin to listen.

## **VOLUME V** *The Long Peace*

The aftermath. Political struggle replaces battle. Extremists on both sides try to undo what was won. Korrak makes a final unification effort, and the saga ends on a peace that is fragile, imperfect — and real.

## ABOUT VOLUME I

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Volume I, *Awakening in Green Flesh*, is the opening movement of a five-book saga about the slow, stubborn work of ending a war neither side remembers starting. It is, on its surface, the story of a modern man dropped into the body of a young orc named Korrak. Underneath, it is the story of an organisation — of two organisations, in fact, locked in an embrace that has long since stopped serving anyone inside it — and of one quiet, patient mind that begins, paragraph by paragraph, to find the seams.

There are no glowing letters in Korrak's vision. There is no system. There is only a body that smells of smoke and old blood, a warband that has not yet decided whether to trust him, and a small warm presence behind the bridge of his nose that, when asked very gently, agrees to make his palm warm. From these unpromising materials, a peace will eventually be built. Not in this volume. Not for many years. But it begins here, with a fifteen-year-old prisoner who is not killed, and a widow who is not burned, and a tired captain who, on a snowy road, asks the only question that matters.

*Read slowly. The work is slow.*

## C O N T E N T S

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**Chapter One** *The Last Ordinary Day*

**Chapter Two** *Gor'thak's Yard*

**Chapter Three** *The Shape of the World*

**Chapter Four** *Names of the Dead*

**Chapter Five** *The Boy from Ardenhold*

**Chapter Six** *The Question of Mercy*

**Chapter Seven** *The Widow's Barn*

**Chapter Eight** *Gor'thak's Tent*

**Chapter Nine** *The First Snow*

P A R T O N E

*The Body in the Barracks*

