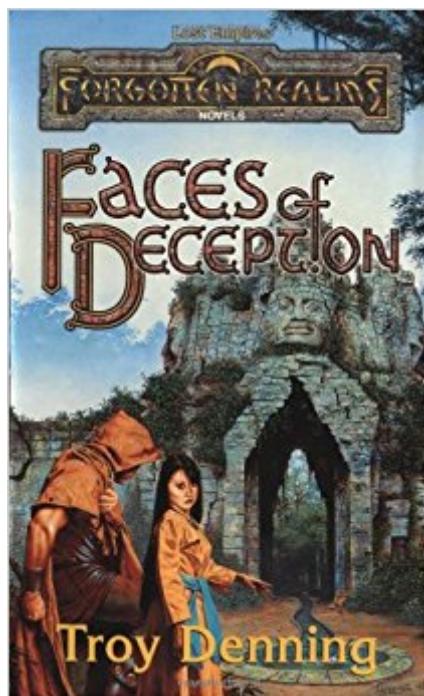


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# Faces Of Deception (Forgotten Realms: Lost Empires, Book 2))



## **Synopsis**

Atreus of ErlkazarHidden from his powerful family's enemies behind the hideous mask of his own face. Sent by the goddess of beauty on an impossible mission. Driven to find a way past his own flesh, into a soul torn between destiny and love.Deep in the ancient valleys of the enigmatic Utter East, Atreus will finally look into the . . . Faces of Deception.

## **Book Information**

Series: Lost Empires

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## **Customer Reviews**

don't know how this book gets such bad reviews.. it's a great read . Funny ,great action, interesting characters and a fun plot. Honestly I've learned to ignore the reviews on most books that get panned . Some of the best books I've read get hammered by wannabe critics, if you like the high fantasy genere ( as I do) give it a read. Sure not all books are Tolkien, but I love variety and pleasant surprise's...and more often than not I find em..

Faces of Deception is the second in a series of four novels (known as the Lost Empires series and which includes The Lost Library of Cormanthyr, Star of Cursrah, and the Nether Scroll) that deal with the secrets of four of Toril's long lost ancient civilizations.The book describes the adventures of Atreus Eleint of Rivenshield, a Quasimodo-like follower of Sune (!!!) (and his ogre bodyguard!), as he sets forth to complete a quest for his goddess which includes finding the mythical realm of Langdarma and bringing back a vial of sparkling water from the Fountain of Infinite Grace found therein.The book was a great disappointment from beginning to end and is reminiscent of Troy

Denning's other poor work (i.e. The Veiled Dragon) as opposed to his commendable work (e.g. Waterdeep, The Parched Sea, Prince of Lies, and Crucible: The Trial of Cyric the Mad to mention a few). Troy Denning sets up the Mar as being very similar to the inhabitants of India and the Ffolk to the British. Subsequently, Rishi Saubhari's words should be read with a thick Indian accent for accuracy. On the positive side, Troy Denning does a good job of acquiring and presenting essential knowledge relevant to Toril, including customs, religion and history, such as the Bloodforge Wars described on pages 14-15. Additionally, the author does a wonderful job of describing ogre customs: "...don't let the crows get your eyes." "They believed crows to be spies of Skiggaret, the fear-loving god of their bugbear enemies." (p.241) Moreover, on page 123 he provides a very good description of the effects of fear, while on page 107 he does a formidable job in presenting a barbazu. Additionally, Troy Denning is on the ball when he has Atreus stating that: "There is no duty greater than that of a mother to protect her child." (p.235) Finally, the author strikes gold with graphic descriptions of violence such as: "So powerful was the strike that the man's eye popped free of its socket." (p.117) "The man's nose exploded across his face, spewing blood and cartilage in every direction. (p.120) "Atreus grinned and leaped into the fray, biting an ear off and gouging two eyes out with his naked fingers, both favorite ogre brawling tricks." (p.120) "The slaver's jaw clacked shut. He spit out the tip of his tongue and stumbled back, blind with pain and slashing his dagger about madly (p.135) "Atreus kept his jaw clenched, nearly snapping his own neck as the devil's ear came off in his teeth." (p.193) "Tarch went sailing down the icefall, leaving his tail in Yago's hands and trailing an arc of rust-colored blood." (p.194) "His mangled eye was dangling out on his cheek, and his wounded leg lay stripped to the bone from the hip down." (p.294) On the negative side, the author repeatedly fails in accurately describing the barbazu and instead treats it like any other natural creature. Specifically, a barbazu would not have let go of Atreus' ankle after being stricken by a mundane club since they can only be hit by +1 weapons or better. (p.124) In addition, a barbazu, once per day, may gate 2 to 12 abishai or 1 to 6 additional barbazu, hence it should have made minced meat of the adventuring party. In short, the struggle against the barbazu was rather sad! Moreover, how was a slavers' captive able to hold on to her pouches and brew a healing potion in the midst of commotion? (pp.112-113) Additionally, what mother (particularly a lawful good one) that has lost her child is in the mood for love-making less than a month after its loss, especially when she was responsible to a great extent for its death??? Other drawbacks include Troy Denning giving the impression that he will include a generous dose of Planescape when he does not, the characters never-ending bad decisions, and Yago never revealing Atreus' mother's name!!! Furthermore, Tarch reminded me of the ice mephit in Soldiers of Ice (a rather dull novel by

David Cook for the Harpers series) Finally and most importantly, the characters were just not likable, making the reader not really care about the outcome and taking away from the overall enjoyment; the ending was a different (and very disappointing indeed) story altogether with nearly all questions left unanswered. In conclusion, *Faces of Deception* was like watching a National Geographic documentary, which although can be very enjoyable, there is a place and a time for that and not at the expense of a *Forgotten Realms* novel. Nevertheless the book will provide for a fair amount of entertainment if you are looking for a D&D fix. Troy Denning allows for a dramatic cliffhanger, however, I do not believe one ever materialized due to a lack of demand attributed to the weak plot and the weak characters.

As with most forgotten realms books and the fantasy genre. The story is about a trip going from one place to another and what happens along the way. This book is about that.

ok

Book was interesting and leading to a good resolution, however ending of book was abrupt. After checking for a sequel and finding there was none I was ready to throw the book across the room.

I started to care about the characters until the very end. It just leaves you hanging. I would definitely read a sequel that could tie up all the loose ends and questions that it leaves you with.

This book could not be more aptly named. I feel deceived many times over. This book is masquerading as a piece of literature, while it is truly little more than a trite lot of drivel. The Main Character spends the whole book fawning over the Romantic interest and gets nowhere. I read fantasy fiction for tales of wonder and adventure. Not for examples of how stupid Hormone-ridden men can be easily duped. If you are a fan of the Fantasy Genre or even of Mr. Denning's other work, steer clear of this piece, because it will let you feeling down, confused, angry, and deceived. Just like me.

"*Faces of Deception*" carried with it a possible masterpiece of a tale but fell just short. "*Faces*" brought more of the Utter East's landscape but no more detail than what was seen in the Double Diamond Saga. The characters portrayed excellence individually but I thought that they lacked a 'togetherness' better seen in Mr. Denning's previous novels. Overall, the book held a steady ground

in what was being shown, perhaps too detailed, and framed what the characters were doing and feeling with excellent wording and emotion. I gave four stars partly because I like Mr. Denning's work and partly because of the story. All in all it was a good read and I recommend it to anyone who reads fantasy.

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