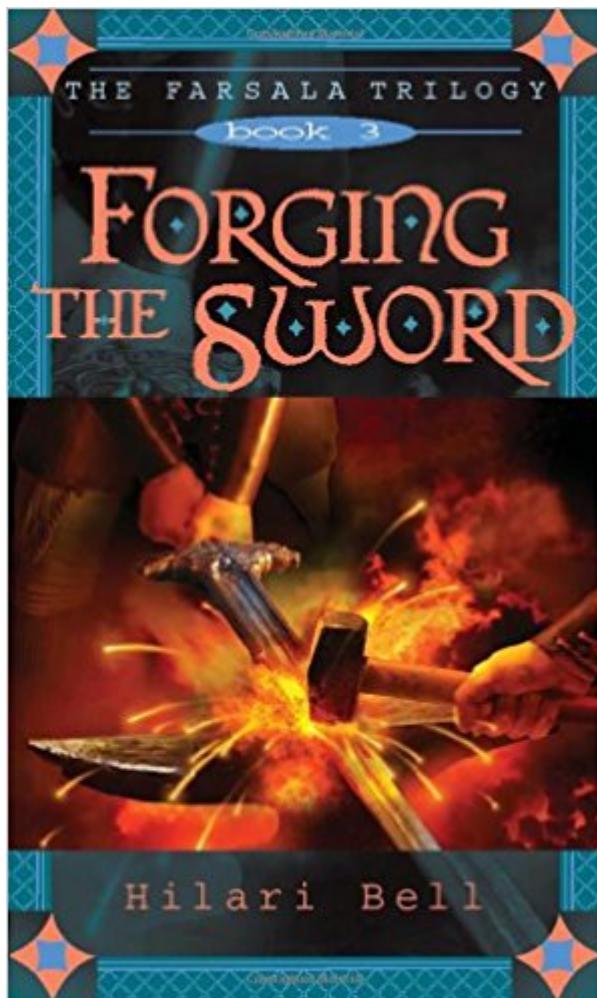


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# Forging The Sword (The Farsala Trilogy)



## **Synopsis**

The spirit of the ancient champion, Sorahb was reborn into the body of a deghan youth, who raised an army of peasants to resist their Hrum conquerors. Sorya, Kavi, and Jiann do everything they can to keep control of what little land remains free from Hrum rule. They have most of the peasantry, a small, untrained army, and the Suud helping them, but there is still one important piece missing: a sword that is able to withstand the Hrum's watersteel. Without it, Farsala will fall. But what none of these young heroes can foresee is the growing desperation of the Hrum leaders. It will lead them to break some of their own laws and sacred pacts. It will also reveal truths about the nature of war, the nature of human beings, and -- most important -- themselves.

## **Book Information**

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Series: The Farsala Trilogy (Book 3)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Zoe YanForging the Sword by Hilari BellHilari Bell's latest book, Forging the Sword, is probably her best book so far. Her previous books were very well written, too. I've been waiting almost a year for the end of the Farsala Trilogy to come out, and I have to say it was no disappointment. Forging the Sword is the conclusion of a fantasy story began in Fall of a Kingdom and Rise of a Hero. It doesn't stand alone very well, so be sure to read the first two books. This book continues the story of how

three protagonists, Soraya, Jiaan, and Kavi resist the Hrum invaders who try to conquer their country. The story is set in a fictional land, Farsala, which has marked similarities with ancient Persia. In the first two books, the Hrum defeated the Farsalan military and conquered most parts of the nation. Soraya, a former member of the deghan nobility, starts out as a conceited brat. The duty of responsibility, as well as her father's death, changes her. Jiaan is Soraya's illegitimate half-brother. He is one of the few that has both the skill and the courage to form another Farsalan army. Kavi is a peasant peddler who, after being maimed by an unscrupulous deghan years ago, hates nobility with a passion. The three of them start out as strangers with no commonalities and certainly no lost love among each other (not even among the siblings- remember, Jiaan is a "half-blood"). By the end of the second book, fate somehow manages to throw them together as the leaders of a motley conglomeration of ill-equipped Farsalan rebels. They hope that by keeping hold of several key cities and sabotaging Hrum equipment they'll be able to drive out the Hrum invaders. Forging the Sword starts off at a brisk pace, pulling the reader in a headlong adventure.

The third and final book in Hilari Bell's Farsala trilogy brings all her character-arcs and storylines to a satisfying conclusion, but not before sending Jiaan, Soraya and Kavi on one last nail-biting mission to repel the invading Hrum forces that are strengthening their hold over Farsalan cities. Over the course of Fall of a Kingdom and Rise of a Hero, the Hrum Empire (analogous to the Roman Empire) began its conquest of Farsala, yet now their self-imposed time limit to secure the country is reaching its end. According to their laws, the Hrum only fight for a year before seeking out a peace settlement, so as not to waste unnecessary lives. Currently, the city of Mazad is the only stronghold that remains between total Hrum control and Farsala's independence. Our three protagonists are Jiaan, one of the few survivors of the Hrum's first battle against Farsala and who has since then found himself the commander of the country's remaining forces; Soraya, Jiaan's half-sister whose legitimate birth and affluent upbringing was torn from her, leading her to seek refuge among the Suud people of the desert; and Kavi, a young peddler who initially threw in his lot with the Hrum in order to defeat the tyrannical deghans, only to find that his true loyalties lie with the Farsalan people. Since then he's joined forces with Jiaan and Soraya, all acutely aware that his initial betrayal of Farsalan forces lead to their father's death.

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