

legends of the fall analysis

Legends of the Fall: A Deep Dive Analysis

Introduction:

Are you captivated by the sweeping epic of Legends of the Fall? This isn't just a film about a family; it's a profound exploration of masculinity, love, loss, and the unforgiving beauty of the Montana wilderness. This in-depth analysis will dissect Edward Zwick's cinematic masterpiece, uncovering its layered themes, exploring its complex characters, and examining its enduring impact on audiences. We'll delve into the symbolism, the narrative structure, and the powerful performances that contribute to Legends of the Fall's lasting legacy. Prepare to revisit this cinematic classic with a fresh perspective, uncovering hidden depths and appreciating its artistic brilliance.

I. The Unfolding Tragedy of the Ludlow Family:

Legends of the Fall isn't simply a story; it's a tragedy unfolding across generations. The film masterfully portrays the disintegration of the Ludlow family, highlighting the destructive consequences of unchecked ambition, unwavering loyalty, and the devastating power of unrequited love. The idyllic setting of the Montana ranch serves as a stark contrast to the internal conflicts and external pressures that gradually erode the family's unity. We see this reflected in the brothers' divergent paths, each shaped by their individual experiences and the ever-present influence of their father, Colonel William Ludlow.

A. Colonel William Ludlow: The Patriarch's Paradox:

The Colonel is a complex and contradictory figure. He embodies a romanticized ideal of masculinity, deeply connected to the land and fiercely independent. Yet, his rigid adherence to his own code of

honor ultimately contributes to the family's downfall. His unwavering loyalty to his country and his uncompromising nature create a distance between him and his sons, fostering resentment and hindering healthy emotional development. The Colonel's internal struggles and the weight of his past traumas contribute to his detached demeanor, leaving his sons yearning for his affection and understanding.

B. The Brothers Ludlow: Divergent Destinies:

Each Ludlow brother – Alfred, Tristan, and Samuel – embodies a different aspect of masculinity and responds to their upbringing and the challenges they face in distinct ways. Alfred, the eldest, embodies ambition and a yearning for a life beyond the ranch. Tristan, the rebellious middle brother, embodies untamed passion and fierce loyalty. Samuel, the youngest, represents innocence and vulnerability, ultimately becoming a casualty of the family's internal conflicts and the brutality of war. The brothers' diverging paths illustrate the multifaceted impact of the Colonel's influence and the broader societal pressures of the time.

C. The Women of Legends of the Fall:

The female characters, though fewer in number, play pivotal roles in shaping the narrative. Susannah, a captivating and independent woman, becomes a catalyst for conflict and tragedy, entangled in the passionate affections of two brothers. Isabella, a more traditional female character, serves as a foil to Susannah, highlighting the contrasting roles of women within the context of the story. Their presence illuminates the complexities of gender dynamics and the limitations placed upon women within the patriarchal structure of the time.

II. Themes and Symbolism in Legends of the Fall:

The film is rich in symbolism, utilizing the Montana landscape and recurring motifs to amplify its themes. The vast, unforgiving beauty of the wilderness mirrors the characters' internal struggles and the unpredictable nature of life and death.

A. Nature's Unrelenting Power:

The Montana landscape isn't merely a backdrop; it's an active participant in the narrative. The wilderness reflects the untamed spirit of Tristan, but it also represents the unpredictable forces that shape and ultimately destroy the lives of the Ludlow family. The cyclical nature of the seasons mirrors the rise and fall of the family's fortunes, emphasizing the ephemeral nature of human endeavors.

B. Masculinity and its Consequences:

Legends of the Fall offers a complex and nuanced exploration of masculinity. The film challenges traditional notions of strength and stoicism, revealing the destructive consequences of repressed emotions and the societal pressures placed upon men. The brothers' struggles, their relationships with women, and their interactions with each other illustrate the various facets of masculinity and its potential for both creation and destruction.

C. Love, Loss, and Redemption:

Love and loss are central themes, driving the plot and shaping the characters' destinies. The film explores the consuming power of romantic love, the enduring bonds of brotherhood, and the agonizing pain of betrayal. The characters' experiences with love and loss highlight the complexities of human relationships and the enduring search for meaning and redemption in the face of tragedy.

III. The Cinematic Craftsmanship of Legends of the Fall:

Edward Zwick's direction and the film's overall cinematic style contribute significantly to its power and impact. The breathtaking cinematography, the evocative score, and the compelling performances of the actors all work in harmony to create a truly immersive and unforgettable cinematic experience.

A. Visual Storytelling and Cinematography:

The stunning visuals capture the beauty and brutality of the Montana wilderness, reflecting the emotional landscape of the characters. The sweeping shots of the landscape create a sense of awe and wonder, while the close-ups reveal the characters' inner turmoil. The cinematography masterfully enhances the storytelling, creating a visual tapestry that complements the narrative.

B. The Power of the Score:

James Horner's haunting score perfectly complements the film's emotional intensity. The music underscores the film's themes, heightening the dramatic moments and adding depth to the characters' emotional journeys. The score becomes an integral part of the storytelling, shaping the audience's emotional response.

IV. Enduring Legacy and Impact:

Legends of the Fall continues to resonate with audiences because it explores timeless themes that transcend cultural boundaries and historical contexts. Its exploration of family, love, loss, and the complexities of human nature guarantees its continued relevance and enduring appeal. The film's legacy extends beyond its cinematic achievements; it prompts reflection on the human condition and inspires continued discussion about the themes it so powerfully portrays.

Name and Outline of the Analysis:

Title: A Comprehensive Analysis of Legends of the Fall: Tragedy, Masculinity, and the Unforgiving Beauty of the West

Outline:

Introduction: Hook, overview of the analysis, and key themes.

Chapter 1: The Ludlow Family – A House Divided: Exploration of the Colonel and his sons' divergent paths and the role of female characters.

Chapter 2: Symbolism and Themes: Analysis of the Montana setting, masculinity, love, loss, and redemption.

Chapter 3: Cinematic Mastery: Examination of the cinematography, score, and acting performances.

Chapter 4: Enduring Legacy and Impact: Discussion of the film's continued relevance and impact on audiences.

Conclusion: Recap of key findings and final thoughts.

(Note: The detailed explanation of each chapter point is provided above in the main body of the article.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central conflict in *Legends of the Fall*? The central conflict revolves around the fractured relationships within the Ludlow family, fueled by the Colonel's rigid personality, the brothers' competing desires, and the complexities of love and loss.

1. What are the major themes of *Legends of the Fall*? The major themes include masculinity, the destructive nature of unchecked ambition, the power of love and loss, the unforgiving beauty of nature, and the cyclical nature of life and death.

1. How does the setting of Montana contribute to the film's narrative? The vast and unforgiving

Montana landscape serves as a powerful symbol, mirroring the characters' internal struggles and the unpredictable forces that shape their lives.

1. What is the significance of the character Colonel William Ludlow? The Colonel is a complex and contradictory figure whose rigid adherence to his own code of honor ultimately contributes to his family's downfall.

1. How are the brothers – Alfred, Tristan, and Samuel – different? Each brother represents a distinct facet of masculinity, with Alfred embodying ambition, Tristan embodying untamed passion, and Samuel representing innocence and vulnerability.

1. What role do the female characters play in the film? The female characters, though fewer, are crucial in driving the narrative and highlighting the complexities of gender dynamics within the story's context.

1. How does the film's cinematography contribute to its impact? The stunning cinematography masterfully captures the beauty and brutality of the Montana landscape, enhancing the film's emotional intensity and visual storytelling.

1. What is the significance of James Horner's score? Horner's score is integral to the film's impact,

perfectly complementing the emotional intensity of the narrative and enhancing the dramatic moments.

1. Why does *Legends of the Fall* continue to resonate with audiences? The film's enduring appeal stems from its exploration of timeless themes—family, love, loss, and the complexities of human nature—that remain relevant across generations and cultures.

Related Articles:

1. The Symbolism of Nature in *Legends of the Fall*: An exploration of how the Montana landscape reflects the characters' inner struggles.
2. Masculinity and its Consequences in *Legends of the Fall*: A deep dive into the film's complex portrayal of masculinity and its pitfalls.
3. The Complex Relationship Between Tristan and Susannah in *Legends of the Fall*: An analysis of their passionate and ultimately tragic romance.
4. Edward Zwick's Directorial Style in *Legends of the Fall*: A study of Zwick's cinematic choices and their impact on the film's overall effect.
5. James Horner's Score: A Key Element in *Legends of the Fall*: An examination of the music's role in enhancing the film's emotional resonance.
6. Comparing the Book and Film Versions of *Legends of the Fall*: A look at the differences and similarities between the novel and the cinematic adaptation.

7. The Legacy of Legends of the Fall in Popular Culture: An exploration of the film's lasting influence on cinema and popular culture.
8. Thematic Parallels Between Legends of the Fall and Other Epic Dramas: A comparative analysis drawing parallels with other films exploring similar themes.
9. The Historical Context of Legends of the Fall: An examination of the film's historical setting and its influence on the story's development.

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woman gravely wounded, hoping to find a better life for herself in more civilized parts of the nation. The two have only just met, both riding a steamboat north through the county to escape foul dealings in their respective lives, but a violent attack by a rogue mage has ensured their abrupt alliance. Armed with Evaline's wits and weaponry and Trivan's instincts and common sense, the women will have to plot their way through hostile territory and wild woods in the hopes of defeating the mage and freeing themselves of its volatile magicks. What Was Your Name Downriver? is an introduction to The Shattered Frontier, a Tolkien-esque fantasy world that has advanced into an age of steam, gunslingers and gold rushes. Follow Evaline and Trivan in their adventures across one of the most hostile counties in the land, replete with scoundrels of all shapes, sizes, and magical ability. CONTENTS: What Was Your Name Downriver?, a novella The Horse Thieves of Ariasun County, a short story Gunfight at the Thornmount Colossus, a short story ***RUNNER-UP FOR THE 2016 BAEN BOOKS FANTASY-ADVENTURE AWARD***

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legends of the fall analysis: Legend Marie Lu, 2011-11-29 Legend doesn't merely survive the hype, it deserves it. From the New York Times bestselling author of The Young Elites What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets. Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills.

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legends of the fall analysis: Shadow Fall (Star Wars) Alexander Freed, 2020-06-23 Alphabet Squadron's hunt for the deadliest TIE fighters in the galaxy continues in this Star Wars adventure! News of the New Republic's victory still reverberates through the galaxy. In its wake, the capital ships of the newly legitimized galactic government journey to the farthest stars, seeking out and crushing the remnants of imperial tyranny. But some old ghosts are harder to banish than others. And none are more dangerous than Shadow Wing. Yrica Quell's ragtag Alphabet Squadron still leads the search for Shadow Wing, but they're no closer to their goal—and the pressure to find their

quarry before it's too late has begun to shake them apart. Determined to finish the fight once and for all, Quell works with New Republic Intelligence's contentious Caern Adan and the legendary General Hera Syndulla to prepare the riskiest gambit of her starfighting career—a trap for Shadow Wing that could finish the chase once and for all. But in the darkness, their enemy has evolved. Soran Keize, last of the Imperial aces, has stepped into the power vacuum at the head of Shadow Wing, reinvigorating the faltering unit in their hour of need. Once adrift in the aftershocks of the war, Keize has found meaning again, leading the lost soldiers of his unit through to safety. The only thing standing in his way? The most mismatched squadron in the New Republic Navy, led by his former mentee: the traitor Yrica Quell.

legends of the fall analysis: *Catch Me When I Fall* Nicci French, 2010-04-10 From the bestselling author of *Killing Me Softly* and *Beneath the Skin* comes a stunning new novel of psychological suspense.

legends of the fall analysis: *Caraval* Stephanie Garber, 2017-01-31 The acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Welcome, welcome to Caraval*--Stephanie Garber's sweeping tale of the unbreakable bond between two sisters. It's the closest you'll ever find to magic in this world... Scarlett has never left the tiny island where she and her beloved sister, Tella, live with their powerful, and cruel, father. Now Scarlett's father has arranged a marriage for her, and Scarlett thinks her dreams of seeing Caraval, the far-away, once-a-year performance where the audience participates in the show, are over. But this year, Scarlett's long-dreamt of invitation finally arrives. With the help of a mysterious sailor, Tella whisks Scarlett away to the show. Only, as soon as they arrive, Tella is kidnapped by Caraval's mastermind organizer, Legend. It turns out that this season's Caraval revolves around Tella, and whoever finds her first is the winner. Scarlett has been told that everything that happens during Caraval is only an elaborate performance. But she nevertheless becomes enmeshed in a game of love, heartbreak, and magic with the other players in the game. And whether Caraval is real or not, she must find Tella before the five nights of the game are over, a dangerous domino effect of consequences is set off, and her sister disappears forever. *Welcome, welcome to Caraval* . . . beware of getting swept too far away. New York Times bestseller #1 IndieNext Pick Publishers Weekly Flying Start Entertainment Weekly Best 10 YA Books of 2017 Teen Vogue Best YA Book of the Year Amazon Best Book of the Year Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year BuzzFeed Best Book of the Year The Hunger Games meets The Night Circus. Grade: A- --Entertainment Weekly Impressive, original, wondrous. --USA Today Spellbinding. --US Weekly Magnificent. --Publishers Weekly, starred review I lost myself in this world. --Sabaa Tahir, author of *An Ember in the Ashes* Beautifully written. --Ren e Ahdieh, author of *The Wrath and the Dawn* Shimmers with magic. --Marie Rutkoski, author of *The Winner's Curse* Darkly enchanting. --Kiersten White, author of *And I Darken* Decadent. --Roshani Chokshi, author of *The Star-Touched Queen* Like stepping into a living dream. --Stacey Lee, author of *Outrun the Moon* Destined to capture imaginations. --Kirkus Reviews Ideal for fans of *The Night Circus*, *Stardust*, and *The Hunger Games*. --School Library Journal

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They were so masterful at war and so skillful with their arrows and lances that they stopped the northern drive of colonial Spain from Mexico and halted the French expansion westward from Louisiana. White settlers arriving in Texas from the eastern United States were surprised to find the frontier being rolled backward by Comanches incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands. The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation. Gwynne's exhilarating account delivers a sweeping narrative that encompasses Spanish colonialism, the Civil War, the destruction of the buffalo herds, and the arrival of the railroads, and the amazing story of Cynthia Ann Parker and her son Quanah—a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being. Hailed by critics, S. C. Gwynne's account of these events is meticulously researched, intellectually provocative, and, above all, thrillingly told. *Empire of the Summer Moon* announces him as a major new writer of American history.

legends of the fall analysis: *Champion* Marie Lu, 2013-11-05 The explosive finale to Marie Lu's New York Times bestselling LEGEND trilogy—perfect for fans of THE HUNGER GAMES and DIVERGENT! He is a Legend. She is a Prodigy. Who will be Champion? June and Day have sacrificed so much for the people of the Republic—and each other—and now their country is on the brink of a new existence. June is back in the good graces of the Republic, working within the government's elite circles as Princeps Elect while Day has been assigned a high level military position. But neither could have predicted the circumstances that will reunite them once again. Just when a peace treaty is imminent, a plague outbreak causes panic in the Colonies, and war threatens the Republic's border cities. This new strain of plague is deadlier than ever, and June is the only one who knows the key to her country's defense. But saving the lives of thousands will mean asking the one she loves to give up everything he has. With heart-pounding action and suspense, Marie Lu's bestselling trilogy draws to a stunning conclusion. New York Times bestseller YALSA BFYA ALA Top 10 nominee Chicago Public Library Best Book VOYA YA Perfect Ten List Bank Street Best Book Featured on Entertainment Weekly's Must-List From ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY: "Fine writing and excellent execution. Sequel, please!" From THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Legend doesn't merely survive the hype, it deserves it." From USA TODAY: "Marie Lu's dystopian novel is a 'Legend' in the making."

legends of the fall analysis: The Chaneyville Incident David Bradley, 2013-08-06 Winner of the PEN/Faulkner: "Rivals Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* as the best novel about the black experience in America since Ellison's *Invisible Man*" (The Christian Science Monitor). Brilliant but troubled historian John Washington has left Philadelphia, where he is employed by a major university, to return to his hometown just north of the Mason-Dixon Line. He is there to care for Old Jack, one of the men who helped raise him when he was growing up on the Hill, an old black neighborhood in the little Pennsylvania town—but he also wants to learn more about the death of his father. What John discovers is that his father, Moses Washington, left behind extensive notes on a mystery he was researching: why thirteen escaped slaves reached freedom in Chaneyville only to die there, for reasons forgotten or never known at all. Based on meticulous historical research, *The Chaneyville Incident* explores the power of our pasts, and paints a vivid portrait of realities such as the Underground Railroad's activity in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and the phenomenon of enslaved people committing suicide to escape their fate. This extraordinary novel, a finalist for the National Book Award, was described by the Los Angeles Times as "perhaps the most significant work by a new black male author since James Baldwin dazzled in the early '60s with his fine fury," and placed David Bradley in the front ranks of contemporary American authors.

legends of the fall analysis: The Library of Legends Janie Chang, 2020-05-12 "A gorgeous, poetic journey threaded with . . . magic about a group from a Chinese university who take to the road to escape the Japanese invasion of 1937" —Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of *The Alice Network* and *The Huntress* China, 1937: When Japanese fall on the city of Nanking, Hu Lian and her classmates at Minghua University are ordered to flee. Lian and a convoy of more than a hundred students, faculty, and staff must walk a thousand miles to the safety of China's western provinces, a journey marred by hunger, cold, and the threat of aerial attack. And it is not just the student refugees who are at risk: Lian and her classmates have been entrusted with a priceless

treasure, a 500-year-old collection of myths and folklore known as the Library of Legends. Within the convoy, Lian finds friendship and romance with handsome Liu Shaoming. But after one classmate is murdered and another arrested, Lian must escape before a family secret puts her in danger. Accompanied by Shao and his maidservant Sparrow, Lian makes her way to Shanghai, hoping to reunite with her mother. On the journey, Lian learns of the connection between her two companions and a tale from the Library of Legends, The Willow Star and the Prince. Learning Shao and Sparrow's true identities compels Lian to confront her feelings for Shao. But there are broader consequences too, for as the ancient books travel across China, they awaken immortals and guardian spirits to embark on an exodus of their own, one that changes the country's fate forever. "Janie Chang has beautifully melded history and the spirit world to create an adventurous love story."
—Lisa See, New York Times bestselling author of *Shanghai Girls*

legends of the fall analysis: Zac and Mia A. J. Betts, 2014 *The Fault in Our Stars* meets *Eleanor and Park* in this tough and tender young adult novel that's a lot about love (and a little about cancer).

legends of the fall analysis: *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 "A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

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legends of the fall analysis: *When the Legends Die* Hal Borland, 2011-11-29 A young Native American raised in the forest is suddenly thrust into the modern world, in this novel by the author of *The Dog Who Came to Stay*. Thomas Black Bull's parents forsook the life of a modern reservation and took to ancient paths in the woods, teaching their young son the stories and customs of his ancestors. But Tom's life changes forever when he loses his father in a tragic accident and his mother dies shortly afterward. When Tom is discovered alone in the forest with only a bear cub as a companion, life becomes difficult. Soon, well-meaning teachers endeavor to reform him, a rodeo attempts to turn him into an act, and nearly everyone he meets tries to take control of his life. Powerful and timeless, *When the Legends Die* is a captivating story of one boy learning to live in

harmony with both civilization and wilderness.

legends of the fall analysis: *Legend of the Fall* Peter M. Duyzer, 2014-03 Within Pentecostal and Charismatic circles William Branham appeared a man with the combined prophetic status and prowess of Moses, Elijah and John the Baptist. His ministry of healing spearheaded the Healing Revival of the '40s and '50s. The miraculous which was said to attend his meetings dwarfed even the biblical accounts of Jesus' ministry. Appearances of pillars of fire, Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, clouds and other phenomena were stated to accompany his meetings. Discernments of illnesses and personal information of his patients, staggered the minds of many. His name is found in many religious encyclopedia and in countless Internet Websites, pro and con. *Legend of the Fall* examines Wm. Branham's life and ministry from the position of an insider. Peter M. Duyzer's evaluation of Wm. Branham's life and his message challenges the status quo of Wm. Branham as a man sent from God. Duyzer holds a Master's degree (MACS) in Modern Apologetics from Northwest Baptist Seminary at Trinity Western University, in Langley, BC, Canada.

legends of the fall analysis: *The Widow Nash* Jamie Harrison, 2017-06-13 Winner of the 2017 Reading the West Award A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice What keeps you reading is not just the quality of the writing, which is just absolutely wonderful, but also to find out: Is [Dulcy] going to [remake herself]? Can this be successful? Or is she going to be found out? —Nancy Pearl, Morning Edition, NPR Dulcy Remfrey has traveled the globe with her eccentric father, Walton, a wealthy entrepreneur obsessed with earthquakes and catastrophe, searching to cure his long battle with syphilis through any crackpot means necessary. Their deep connection is tested, however, when Walton returns from an African expedition without any of the proceeds from the sale of his gold mine. It seems he's lost his mind along with the great sum of money, his health declining rapidly. Her father's business partner (and her ex-fiancé) insists Dulcy come to Seattle to decipher her father's cryptic notebooks—a dozen in all, wrapped in brightly colored silk—which may hold clues to the missing funds. Yet when her father dies before they can locate the money, Dulcy falls under suspicion. Petrified of being forced to spend the rest of her life with her ex-love, Dulcy decides to disappear from the train bringing her father's body home. Is it possible to disappear from your old life and create another? Dulcy travels the West reading stories about her presumed death and settles into a small Montana town where she is reborn as Mrs. Nash, a wealthy young widow with no burden of family. But her old life won't let go so easily, and soon her ex-fiancé is on her trail, threatening the new life she is so eager to create. *The Widow Nash* is a riveting narrative, filled with a colorful cast of characters, rich historical details, and epic set pieces. Europe in summer. New York in fall. Africa in winter. The lively, unforgettable town of Livingston, Montana. And in Dulcy, Jamie Harrison has created an indelible heroine sure to capture the hearts of readers everywhere. This gorgeously written historical novel follows Dulcy, a young woman in 1904 who attempts to flee her late father's business problems—and her violent ex-fiance's grasp—by traveling west and posing as a wealthy widow. —Entertainment Weekly

legends of the fall analysis: *The Legend of the Poinsettia* Tomie dePaola, 1997-10-06 In Mexico, the poinsettia is called flor de la Nochebuena flower of the Holy Night. At Christmastime, the flower blooms and flourishes, the quite exquisite red stars lighting up the countryside. This Mexican legend tells how the poinsettia came to be, through a little girl's unselfish gift to the Christ Child. Beloved Newbery honor-winning author and Caldecott honor-winning illustrator Tomie dePaola has embraced the legend using his own special feeling for Christmas. His glorious paintings capture not only the brilliant colors of Mexico and its art, but also the excitement of the children preparing for Christmas and the hope of Lucida, who comes to see what makes a gift truly beautiful.

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six-walled fortress, Dros Delnoch—a great citadel that seems destined to fall. If it does, the Nadir will sweep inexorably across the land, killing all who oppose them. Reluctantly Druss agrees to come down from his mountaintop to lead this last, hopeless fight. Lost causes mean nothing to him—he has fought in such battles a thousand times in a thousand lands. And he is a hero to inspire a new generation of warriors. He is Druss the Legend. Thus begins David Gemmell's most celebrated novel—an unrivaled classic of mythic heroism and magnificent adventure. . . .

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