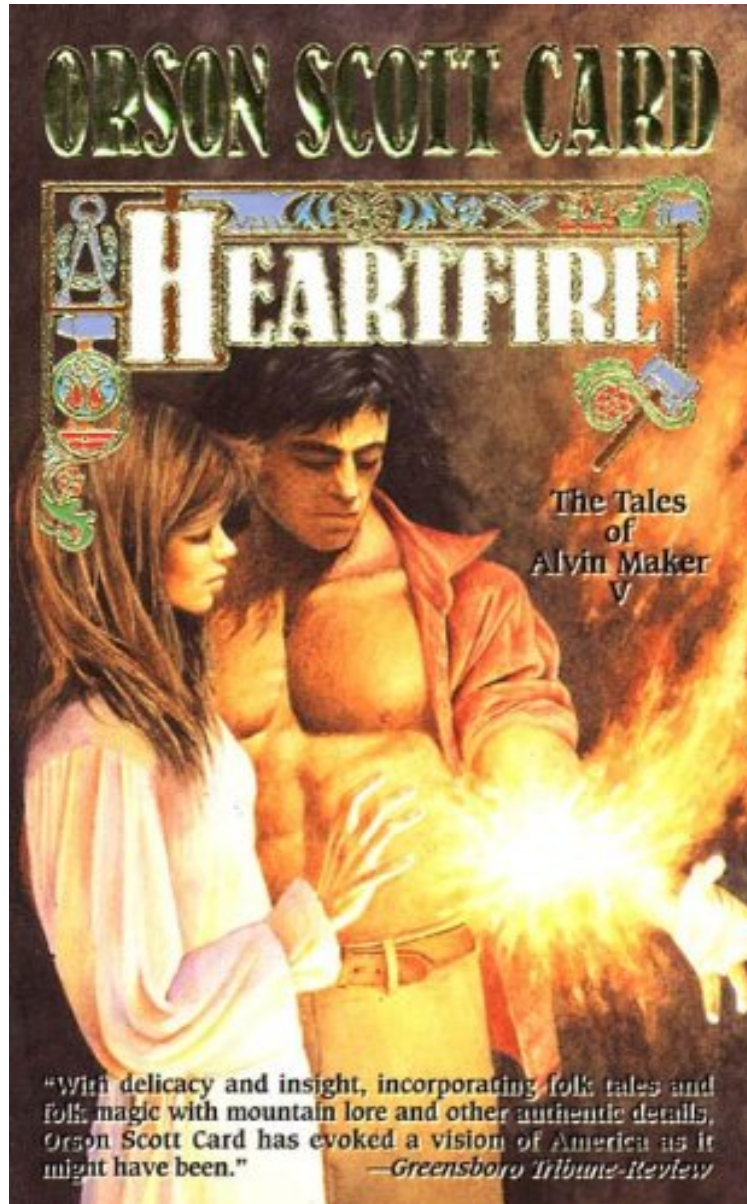


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Heartfire: The Tales of Alvin Maker, Volume V

Von Orson Scott Card

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Von Orson Scott Card : Heartfire: The Tales of Alvin Maker, Volume V before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heartfire: The Tales of Alvin Maker, Volume V:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Card has written a poor journeyman work.Von Gilker Kimmell've followed Orson Scott Card's career from his first professional

sale of science fiction. Reading his short work was aptly described as "playing pattycake with Baby Huey." If you seek out these early works, you can see a writer who worked his way through a brilliant apprenticeship to become a solid talent. Card's Alvin Maker series is ambitious, there's no denying that. The first books in the series laid out nothing less than a coming-of-the-Messiah story set in an alternate North America where magic works and the Revolution didn't. Any writer who could bring that off deserved respect and Card had mine. Until lately, that is. In the terminology of the Alvin Maker universe, Card seems to have banked his heartfire, the spark of divinity that defines our talents and course in life. Where *Seventh Son* turned a pioneer family's struggle to find a new home into an epic tale, *Heartfire* lets an archetypal struggle between good and evil slide into being! ! a mere spat between bratty siblings. Oddly enough, the book generated the most emotion in me in a way that I doubt Card intended - his description of the Puritan New England colonies. What was most chilling wasn't so much the description of the overbearing theocracy so much as the implicit assumption that such a theocracy would be admirable if only it didn't get 'out of hand.' It's one thing to describe psychic abilities in terms of theology when the characters are obviously steeped in their mythos, but when a Big Brother State is put up as something of a 'near-miss', well, thanks, but no thanks. I'm from Texas, a place that has just decided to throw away millions of educational dollars on the whim of a group of religious fanatics, a place that leads the thundering herd of no-nothings in stamping biology back to a pre-19th Century level. I don't need to read about how wonderful it would be to live in a Christian country. I'm familiar with history. I already know of a! ! time when the world lived under Christianity. It was called the Dark Ages. I wish I could chalk up my dislike of this book to Card's theistic bent, but that just isn't the case. The entire series has been steeped in theism which did nothing to put me off. No, the sour theological undertaste is only disturbing because the book has so little working for it. I hope Card can get his act together, get his head back on straight and write the next book in the series in a way that blows this place-keeping little tale out of my memory. Otherwise, I think I'll just save the cash.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It's a good book but I'm getting frustrated. Von Ein Kunde This latest in the Alvin Maker series is, like all of Card's writing, entertaining, thoughtful and contains elegant prose. Unfortunately, the only reasons for this installment seem to be the exposition of the alternate America--we already get it, I think--and the introduction of new "disciples"--enough already! The half of the book that covers Alvin's experience with New England witchcraft laws would be far more interesting if most of this moral territory hadn't been covered so thoroughly in *Seventh Son*. Purity is an interesting new character, but there are already enough major characters in this saga. I think most readers, like me, are itching for some progress toward the Crystal City, assuming that Card intends to take the series that far. We can only hope that later installments will reveal a vital purpose for each of the "good guys". Much more interesting was the part set in Camelot--Card's concept of the name-taking is quite good. We do see some change in Calvin's heart after he nearly dies, I think. But still, at the end, the only definite change in anybody's situation is that Alvin will have a couple more followers. The one non-plot related complaint I have is that some of the dialogue--especially the banter in the opening chapters--is a little tiresome. It's better later, though. If you like Card or have read the previous books in the series you should read this book. It's not as good as some others in the series but still a darn good read. If you haven't read any of the Alvin Maker series DON'T START HERE, it will just confuse you. All in all, this book meets Card's high standards--it just fails to meet some of the longtime reader's expectations.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 'Card blows it again' Von Michael Scott Well, he's done it again. Orson Scott Card blows off yet another series. As he's previously done to the Ender series and the 'Earth' novels, he turns in an utterly horrible novel in the middle of his series. 'Heartfire' has none of the charm of the first books in the series. The main plot lines consist of slaves voluntarily trapping their 'spirits' (for lack of a better term), and Alvin's quest to help a girl with special powers. As if that's not enough Card does nothing to advance his 'Crystal City' storyline. He saddles the reader with incredibly annoying characters.. Mike Fink (I believe his name is) who swears and serves no purpose I can fathom.. the frenchman-philosopher (whose name I can't recall).. ditto Fink.. and Arthur Stuart, who becomes more and more annoying with each passing page. If I were Alvin I'd leave the annoying child behind. If Card weren't so good at creating interesting fiction I'd stop reading him in a heartbeat. I don't know whether he gets bored with his series, or there are no new stories to tell, but just as with books 34 in the Ender series (awful), and books 45 (especially 5) in the Earthfall series, Card apparently quits on another series.

Kurzbeschreibung Peggy is a Torch, able to see the fire burning in each person's heart. She can follow the paths of each person's future, and know each person's most intimate secrets. From the moment of Alvin Maker's birth, when the Unmaker first strove to kill him, she has protected him. Now they are married, and Peggy is a part of Alvin's heart as well as his life. But Alvin's destiny has taken them on separate journeys. Alvin has gone north into New England, where knacks are considered witchcraft, and their use is punished with death. Peggy has been drawn south, to the British Crown Colonies and the court of King Arthur Stuart in exile. For she has seen a terrible future bloom in the heartfires of every person in America, a future of war and destruction. One slender path exists that leads through the bloodshed, and it is Peggy's quest to set the world on the path to peace. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold

without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied..deThis is the fifth novel in Orson Scott Card's popular Alvin the Maker series, based on an alternate America where some people are born with knacks, which resemble magical abilities. The protagonist of the series, Alvin, is a maker who not only can fix things (such as restoring a wounded bird to health with his doodlebug) but is also something of a natural leader. Alvin and his small band of followers are on a quest to build the Crystal City, a place where those who have knacks can live in safety from the people who sometimes burn them as witches. While Alvin visits the nearly holy province of New England to find out just how cities work, his wife Margaret, traveling under the name Peggy, journeys to the kingdom of Camelot, which was formerly known as Charleston, South Carolina. There she hopes to persuade the exiled King Arthur to help her abolish the practice of slavery. Heartfire is an excellent midseries novel that's sure to delight fans of Alvin. --Craig E. EnglerFrom BooklistDevotees of Card's Alvin Maker series will rejoice that the fifth book quickly follows the fourth and that it further demonstrates the historical and folkloric scholarship, insight into the religious impulse, ethical concern, and lucid prose that distinguish its historical fantasy predecessors. Alvin is with Mike Fink and other companions in New England to fight against the laws that make witchcraft a capital offense. He is condemned and imprisoned under them, but, helped by a local girl and old--but still hard-nosed in pursuit of justice--John Adams, he triumphs. Wife Margaret, meanwhile, though pregnant with their daughter, travels to the southern colonies to persuade them to abolish slavery. There she discovers that the slaves are being made passive by Denmark Vesey and a shamanistic partner, who are stealing their aggression. The release of all this aggression bodes a bloody slave rebellion that Alvin averts in the nick of time. The pace is brisker this time, although Card's attempt to tell two stories in one compact book may make some feel that something has been left out or that Alvin's increasing powers diminish suspense. Most who have come this far with Alvin will find this an exceedingly well told, satisfying continuation of a major fantasy saga. Roland Green