SOFTWARE & TECH

Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus

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Introduction: A Legendary Duo in Fantasy Literature

For decades, the grim and perilous world of Warhammer Fantasy has captivated readers with its dark magic, monstrous armies, and heroic tales. Among the most beloved characters to emerge from this universe are a mismatched pair bound by oath and fate: a suicidal Dwarf Slayer seeking a glorious death and a reluctant human poet who records his doom-laden journey. **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus** collects the beginning of this legendary saga, offering both newcomers and long-time fans an essential entry point into one of the most iconic series in modern fantasy. Written primarily by William King, this omnibus gathers the first three volumes—*Trollslayer*, *Skavenslayer*, and *Daemonslayer*—along with additional short stories that flesh out the early adventures of the duo. In this article, we will explore what makes this collection so compelling, who these characters are, and why this omnibus remains a cornerstone of Warhammer literature.

What Is Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus?

Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus is a collected edition that brings together the earliest tales of Gotrek Gurnisson, a dwarfen Slayer who seeks death in battle to atone for a mysterious shame, and Felix Jaeger, a young nobleman who becomes his human companion and oath-sworn Rememberer. Published by Black Library, the omnibus includes not only the three main novels but also several short stories that bridge the gaps between them, creating a cohesive narrative arc that introduces readers to the dark fantasy setting of the Warhammer world. The omnibus is often the first purchase for those curious about the series, as it provides hundreds of pages of action-packed storytelling, rich world-building, and the evolving relationship between two very different characters.

The collection has been praised for its fast pacing, vivid battle scenes, and the emotional depth that emerges from Gotrek's quest for death and Felix's desire to survive and tell the tale. For readers unfamiliar with the Warhammer Fantasy setting, this omnibus serves as an accessible and thrilling gateway. For seasoned fans, it is a nostalgic return to the roots of a saga that would eventually span multiple authors and dozens of novels.

The Contents of the Omnibus

To fully appreciate the value of **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus**, it helps to understand exactly what is included. The collection typically contains the following works:

- Trollslayer – Originally published as a series of linked short stories and later collected into a novel, Trollslayer introduces the core premise: Felix saves Gotrek's life during a bar brawl, and as thanks (or perhaps as a curse), Gotrek makes Felix swear an oath to follow him and record his death. This volume is episodic, taking the duo through various adventures across the Empire, facing trolls, undead, and other horrors.
- Skavenslayer – The second book shifts to a more focused narrative, centering on the city of Nuln and a growing Skaven infestation. The Skaven are rat-like humanoids who dwell beneath the cities of men, and their scheming provides a more cohesive plot than the earlier episodic structure. This novel deepens the world-

building and introduces key secondary characters.

- Daemonslayer – The third novel takes the adventure to new heights—literally. Gotrek and Felix join an expedition to a floating island inhabited by daemons, answering a call for aid from a mysterious Dwarf engineer. This story expands the scope of the series, introducing Chaos and daemonic forces in a more direct way while testing the bond between the two protagonists.
- Short Stories – Depending on the edition, the omnibus may also include additional tales such as "Kineater," "The Last Defender," and other shorts that provide extra context and adventures. These stories enrich the reading experience and offer glimpses into side characters and events referenced in the main novels.

This collection, therefore, offers a substantial reading experience that can easily absorb a reader for many hours, all while building a foundation for the many novels that follow.

The Origins of a Legendary Duo

The story of **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus** begins not with the books themselves, but with the creative vision of author William King. Working within the Warhammer Fantasy setting created by Games Workshop, King was tasked with developing a series of stories that could showcase the world's dark humor, grim violence, and tragic heroism. He drew inspiration from classic buddy narratives, buddy-cop dynamics, and the literary tradition of the doomed hero. Gotrek is a Slayer, a Dwarf who has committed some unknown dishonor and now seeks redemption through death in combat. Felix is a former student and revolutionary who becomes bound by a debt of honor to accompany the Dwarf and write the epic poem of his final battle.

The dynamic is immediately compelling: Gotrek is stoic, brutal, and single-minded in his pursuit of a glorious end, while Felix is more cautious, educated, and often terrified of what lies ahead. Yet over time, a deep friendship and mutual respect develops between them. The omnibus captures this evolution perfectly, from their first uneasy alliance to the unspoken brotherhood that carries them through nightmare after nightmare. Readers witness Felix transform from a reluctant hanger-on into a true adventurer, while Gotrek reveals surprising depths of wisdom and even humor beneath his dour exterior.

A Detailed Look at the Stories in the Omnibus

Trollslayer: The Beginning of the Oath

Trollslayer is structured as a series of interlinked episodes, each following Gotrek and Felix as they travel through the troubled lands of the Empire. In the first tale, "The Adventure of the Lost Prince," the duo encounters a village plagued by a mysterious beast, leading to a confrontation with a troll that showcases Gotrek's incredible strength and Felix's growing competence. Later stories introduce vampires, mutants, and the corrupting influence of Chaos. The episodic nature of *Trollslayer* allows King to explore different corners of the Warhammer world, from haunted forests to decaying towns, all while building the mythology of the Slayer cult and the harsh realities of life in a fantasy realm under constant threat.

One of the standout aspects of *Trollslayer* is how it establishes the core themes of the series: honor, sacrifice, and the search for meaning in a world filled with violence and despair. Gotrek's death wish is presented not as a simple desire to die, but as a cultural and spiritual imperative for his people. Felix, meanwhile, grapples with his own cowardice and his evolving sense of duty. The book is fast, fun, and often surprisingly moving.

Skavenslayer: A City Under Siege

With *Skavenslayer*, the series takes a significant leap forward in both plot complexity and character development. Set almost entirely in the city of Nuln, the novel follows Gotrek and Felix as they become entangled in a massive Skaven conspiracy. The Skaven are one of Warhammer's most iconic enemy races—cowardly, cunning, and endlessly multiplying rat-men who live in vast underground cities and plot the downfall

of surface dwellers. King uses the confined urban setting to create a tense, claustrophobic atmosphere, as the heroes navigate sewers, academies, and noble courts while trying to uncover the Skaven's plans.

This novel introduces several recurring characters, including the brilliant but eccentric engineer Malakai Makaisson, who would play a major role in later books. It also deepens the relationship between Gotrek and Felix, as they face threats that require more than just brute force. Felix's intelligence and education become valuable assets, and Gotrek's grudging respect for his human companion grows. *Skavenslayer* is often cited as the book where the series truly finds its footing, balancing action, horror, and dark humor in equal measure.

Daemonslayer: Into the Realm of Chaos

The third novel in **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus**, *Daemonslayer*, raises the stakes to a cosmic level. When Malakai Makaisson builds a massive airship, the *Spirit of Grungni*, to rescue Dwarf survivors stranded on a floating island in the Chaos Wastes, Gotrek and Felix join the expedition. This journey takes them far beyond the familiar lands of the Empire and into the heart of the Realm of Chaos, where reality bends and daemons roam freely. The island, known as the Karag, is a place of ancient Dwarf ruins and unspeakable horrors, and the novel explores themes of madness, faith, and the cost of obsession.

Daemonslayer is notable for its expanded cast and its willingness to delve into the weirder, more surreal aspects of the Warhammer setting. It also marks a turning point for Gotrek, as he comes closer than ever to achieving his goal of a glorious death, only to be pulled back by Felix and the other characters. The novel ends on a note that is both satisfying and open-ended, setting the stage for the many adventures that follow in later omnibuses.

Key Characters That Define the Omnibus

While Gotrek and Felix are the heart of the story, **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus** introduces a memorable supporting cast that enriches the world and challenges the protagonists in different ways.

- Gotrek Gurnisson – A Dwarf Slayer with a mohawk, a powerful rune axe, and a death wish. He is fiercely honorable, incredibly strong, and haunted by a secret shame that drives him toward destruction. Despite his gruff exterior, he shows moments of protectiveness and even generosity toward Felix.
- Felix Jaeger – A former student of alchemy and poetry, Felix is the narrator of the tales. He is thoughtful, resourceful, and often terrified, but he grows into a capable warrior and a loyal friend over the course of the omnibus. His internal conflict between his desire for a safe, ordinary life and his oath to Gotrek is a central theme.
- Malakai Makaisson – A brilliant but unstable Dwarf engineer who appears in Skavenslayer and Daemonslayer. He is a tragic figure, haunted by past failures, but his inventions drive much of the plot in later books.
- Snorri Nosebiter – Another Slayer who becomes a recurring ally. Snorri is more jovial and simpler than Gotrek, but no less deadly in combat. He provides comic relief as well as surprising wisdom.
- Grey Seer Thanquol – A scheming Skaven warlock who serves as a primary antagonist. Thanquol is cunning, ambitious, and perpetually frustrated by Gotrek and Felix's interference. He is one of the most entertaining villains in the series, and his appearances are always a highlight.

These characters, along with a host of allies and enemies, create a rich tapestry that makes the Warhammer world feel alive and dangerous.

Themes and Writing Style: What Makes the Omnibus Special

The enduring appeal of **Gotrek And Felix The First Omnibus** lies not only in its action and adventure but also in its thematic depth. William King weaves several recurring motifs throughout the stories that elevate them beyond simple fantasy pulp.

Honor and Oath The premise of the series rests on an oath. Felix swears to follow Gotrek and record his death, and this vow becomes the moral anchor of his life. The concept of honor, particularly Dwarf honor, is explored in

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