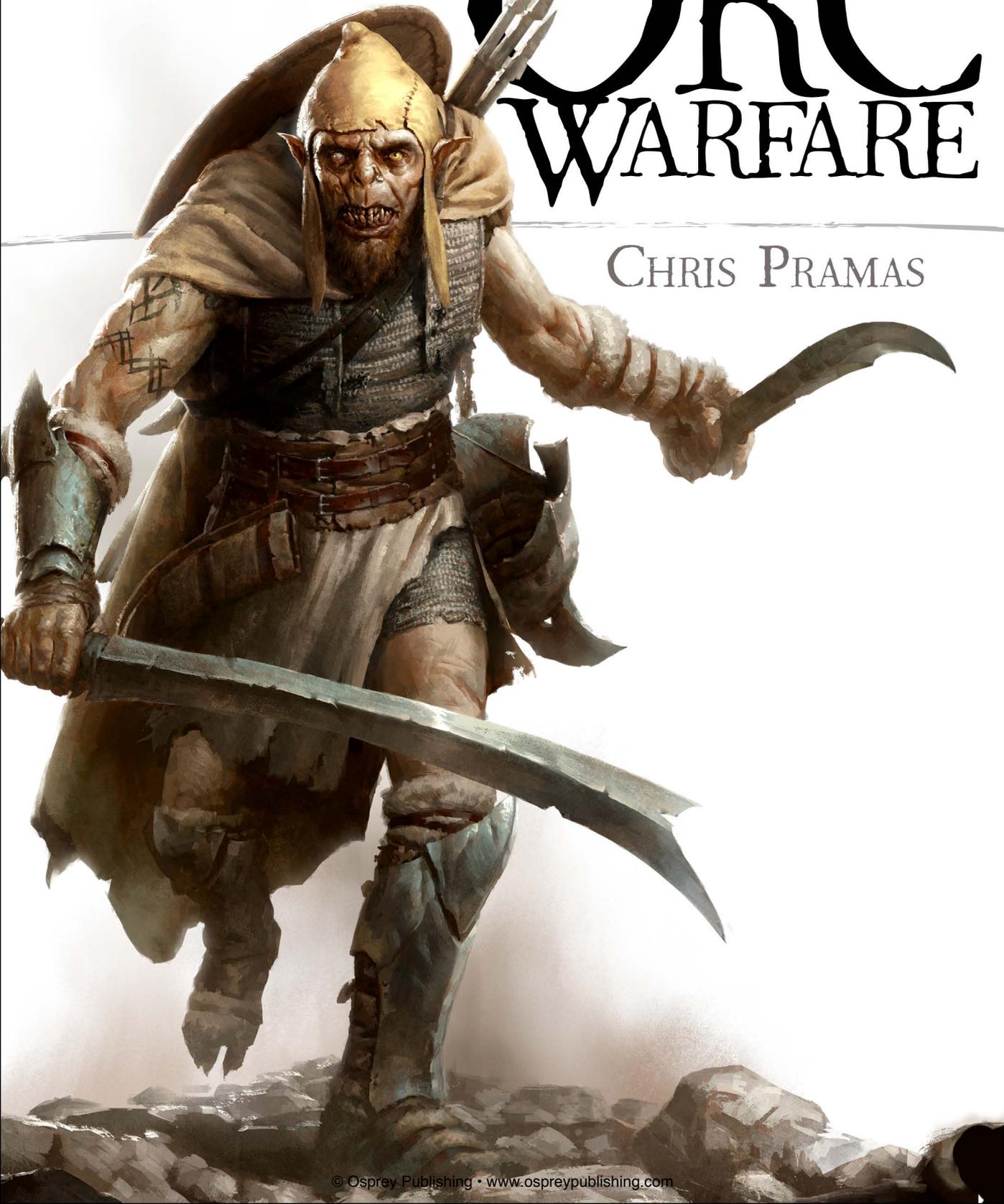


ORC WARFARE

CHRIS PRAMAS



INTRODUCTION

To use the word orc 100 years ago was to invite confusion. There were malicious faeries and spirits from folklore and mythology to be sure, but nothing quite like the orc. It began, as many fantasy staples did, with *The Lord of the Rings*. J. R. R. Tolkien set the template of the orc in modern fantasy. In his tales orcs are twisted, evil creatures – the foot soldiers of dark lords like Morgoth and Sauron. Their numbers seem endless, but they can be cowardly when confronted or when their leaders are slain.

From Tolkien, orcs spread to the role playing game *Dungeons & Dragons*, where they became pig-faced beast-men. And from thousands of readers and thousands of gamers, orcs spread to countless fantasy worlds. Now orcs are a go-to ingredient of modern fantasy, along with elves and dwarves. They are in books, games, and hugely popular movies. If you say the word orc today, many people will nod along. Yes, orcs, of course. They have become part of our culture.

It is therefore not as strange as it might appear that Osprey, a publisher known for its extensive line of historical and military books, would commission a book about orcs. Why not take orcs, the scourge of a thousand worlds, and give them a military and cultural analysis? Why not take a fantasy race and give it the Osprey treatment? *Orc Warfare*, the book you hold in your hands, attempts to do just that. The book is broken down into four chapters.

CHAPTER ONE: THE ORCS

This chapter introduces the orc race. It discusses their physique and breeds, and the many branches of orc kind that have spread across worlds. Chapter 1 also includes an overview of orc society, the anatomy of an orc horde, the difference between a warchief and a warlord, and details on shamanism and magic.

CHAPTER TWO: ORC TROOP TYPES

Orcs can field many different types of troops, from common warrior infantry to the rarely seen Flesh Eaters. This chapter catalogs the troops of orcs and some of their allies, and covers their basic tactical uses in the field.

CHAPTER THREE: ORC STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

Orcs have tactics? Indeed they do, and this chapter talks about them in some detail. The various tactical roles of troops are discussed, along with specific strategies and tactics. The focus is on field battles, but there are also sections on siege warfare and naval tactics.

CHAPTER FOUR: ORC VICTORIES

Analysis is all well and good but Chapter 4 is where we can see it all in practice. *Orc Victories* details four battles and one siege that show how orcs fight. It wouldn't be a proper military book without war stories and here they are.

That brings *Orc Warfare* to a close, but not the story of the orcs. That, as ever, marches on.



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