



Iron Dawn

Matthew Woodring Stover

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Ten years after the fall of Troy, an evil necromancer threatens to take complete control of the thriving city of Tyre. An axe-wielding mercenary and her two partners find themselves unlikely heroes as they stand against him. But these three hardened soldiers are realizing that this war goes far beyond a struggle for supremacy

Iron Dawn Details

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Author : Matthew Woodring Stover

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From Reader Review Iron Dawn for online ebook

Richard says

A good story from a favorite author. It begins slowly and picks up pace slowly. This is a standard heroic fantasy story, almost sword and sorcery. Toward the middle of the book the profanity seemed to come out, so if that offends you then be sure to stay away, but otherwise it was a solid good read. This one didn't grab me like the Caine novels but a good read none the less.

Zan says

A quick read, a great mix of sword & Sorcery in a historical (ish) backdrop. Characters are deeper than you'd expect, but not so deep as to bog down the plot. Plot is slow to get moving, and ends abruptly, but on the whole everything is good fun. Stover writes action brilliantly as usual.

Doesn't hurt the score that my D&D party basically mirrors the 3 main characters too. It's...rather uncanny actually.

Craig Rettig says

The book started out somewhat slow, but it had some good action scenes and character moments.

I also liked how it was set in an altered history, referencing various battles and such from pre-A.D. times and just adding magic or subtle changes to suit the story.

Overall, I recommend this to fantasy fans who want something more down-to-earth than your typical dungeon raids and dragon-slaying.

Newton Nitro says

Uma das coisas que mais busco em um romance de fantasia é a sensação de estar lendo algo diferente, uma nova forma de usar os temas tradicionais desse tipo de narrativa. A grande profusão de livros de fantasia faz com que os clichês contaminem muitos autores. Clichês surgem principalmente da preguiça dos autores em se esforçar para criar algo diferente, ou pelo menos retrabalhar os elementos tradicionais em uma forma que fique interessante para os leitores mais veteranos de fantasia.

Não é por acaso que virei um seguidor fiel da obra de Matthew Woodring Stover. Seus Acts of Caine (cujos quatro volumes resenhei aqui: Heroe's Die, Blade of Tyshalle, Caine Black Knife, Caine's Law) são fascinantes pelo modo como ele renova, desconstrói e ao mesmo tempo reforça a tradição literária da Espada e Magia, introduzindo elementos contemporâneos ao mesmo tempo que mantém a energia e a selvageria tradicionais do gênero.

Corri atrás dos outros livros do cara, e descobri seus dois primeiros livros, a duologia Heart of Bronze, Iron Dawn (vol.1) e Jericho Moon (vol. 2). Esses livros, que estão fora de catálogo, forma recentemente republicados em versão ebook no site Fsand. A versão física do livro possui uma capa que não ajuda muito, mas a história é muito boa, e dá para notar já nesse primeiro livro, que esse é o autor que futuramente escreveria Heroe's Die (que também ganhou inicialmente uma capa horrenda).

Iron Dawn, publicado em 1997, antecipou a onda de mulheres guerreiras com Barra, uma bárbara picta que usa machados como sua arma favorita. A história se passa na Era do Bronze, na cidade de Tiro, a cidade mais importante da Fenícia, pouco tempo depois da batalha de Tróia (1.200 a.C.). Barra é uma mercenária, e junto com seus parceiros, o gigante ateniense Leucas, e o mago egípcio tarado viciado doidimais Kepheru, enfrentam uma grande conspiração que ameaça toda a região.

A narrativa mistura elementos fantásticos com uma recriação histórica da cidade de Tiro, que, como um centro comercial importante do período, é repleta de mercadores, mercenários e viajantes de diversas partes do mundo. A prosa de Matthew é bem ágil e viva, e apesar da primeira parte da história ser mais lenta, os personagens são bem caracterizados, principalmente a guerreira Barra (que é uma mãe solteira que preferiu a vida de mercenária a ficar em casa cuidando dos filhos).

A segunda parte do livro é emocionante e, mais uma vez, o final é bem desesperador, bem no estilo do Stover. Esse autor é da escola "George R.R. Martin" de sentar o cacete em seus protagonistas, o que torna Iron Dawn mais um livro para leitores de nervos fortes.

Kepheru, o mago egípcio, é um espetáculo a parte e o livro valeria só para conhecer esse mago pervertido. Sua magia é baseada em pós, poções e conhecimentos químicos (que para a época era algo totalmente sobrenatural).

Fica a recomendação, um excelente livro de fantasia que quebra várias expectativas do leitor de maneira inteligente.

E agora vamos para Jericho Moon, infelizmente o segundo e último livro desse cenário.

Stephen says

Fun bit of fantasy. This is not quite my genre, but it was well written. The author had great detail and story telling.

Lizy says

I gave up re-reading this book on page 250, not because the book was awful, but because I can't stay awake while reading it. I'm honestly baffled by it.

This is a good book. This is my second time reading it, actually. The first time was in 2012 while I was on vacation and I thought this book was incredible. I still do think it's incredible, I swear, I just can't get through it.

What I really love about this book is the sheer diversity of the characters. A Pict, an Athenian, and an Egyptian are the main characters, and the book is so rich in other cultures that it astounds me. You can tell Stover did his research on different ancient cultures. He brings them back to life in such a vibrant, real way that I'm constantly in awe. It's not 'here's the Pict culture and just the Picts' like so many other novels out there, it's 'here's the Pict culture when it's grafted into the Greek culture and adopted by Tyreians.' I love it. I'm sad to be putting this down, but I need to move on. Maybe I'll finish it for sure on spring break.

Luana says

They were still doing sword & sorcery in the late 90s? An exciting, gory adventure following three mercenaries who aren't as heartless as their money-hungry ways may suggest. It's also a rare fictional reconstruction of the Greek Dark Ages and the Egyptian empire's border territories in its waning days (give or take a platoon of corpse-warriors).

If only this had been written but five years later and Barra could have been properly gay...

Ethan says

Not bad for his first book. I'd rate this guy somewhere between two and three stars. The book kept my interest and had a lot of great stuff going for it: clever dialogue, plenty of action, and a compelling story without gaping plot holes. The characters did seem a tad bit flat--Stover makes some effort to round them out, but simply doesn't quite make them (or their troubles) compelling enough. Leucas in particular didn't really show any personality beyond the basic warrior archetype. Kheperu had a little bit going for him but didn't quite manage to be three-dimensional. Barra only managed a semblance of personality because of the sceon-tif (or whatever it was called) made her. And these guys need more motivation than following Barra around because she's one tough chick.

The bad guys were truly and horribly bad, despicably so, and I wish Stover would have made them at least a little bit more sympathetic. This is just a matter of taste, of course.

Stover could do with a little less gore and violence. Rape and torture are facts of life, I suppose, but they don't have to be so in-your-face disgusting. I prefer a more subtle approach to horror. Less manipulative.

The wolf as pet pretty much flopped. Anybody who knows anything about wolves and wolf hybrids will know that they aren't dogs and can't be domesticated in the same manner as dogs, no matter how young you get them...so a lot of the Graegduz stuff fell completely flat for me.

Nivarius says

A great Fantasy book mixing Ancient History and Might and Magic badassery. Very enjoyable.

Shawn says

With all the trappings of a terrible fantasy novel (bad name and cover art) I'd never have picked this book up if it wasn't written by Stover. It started a little slow, but turned out to be a great read. I'm looking forward to the next in the series, the (yet again) terribly named Jericho Moon.

Jeremy Schoolfield says

I have yet to read a Stover book I haven't liked, but I didn't love this entry. Part 1 was rather slow, but Part 2 picked up considerably for a tremendous conclusion. If there was an option for 3.5 stars on this forum, that's what I'd give "Iron Dawn," but it just wasn't quite four stars for me.
