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The Man Of Legends



Synopsis

Award-winning science-fiction mastermind Kenneth Johnson blends epic adventure, romance, and evocative drama into an intense supernatural thriller rooted in one of the great untold legends of human history. New York City, New Year's weekend, 2001. Jillian Guthrie, a troubled young journalist, stumbles onto a tantalizing mystery: the same man, unaged, stands alongside Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, and Gandhi in three different photographs spanning eighty-five years of history. In another part of town, Will - an enigmatic thirty-three-year-old of immense charm, wit, and intelligence - looks forward to the new year with hope and trepidation. Haunted by his secret past and shadowed by a dangerous stranger, he finds himself the object of an intense manhunt spearheaded by an ambitious Vatican emissary and an elderly former UN envoy named Hanna. During the next forty-eight hours, a catastrophic event unites Will, Jillian, and Hanna - and puts them in the crosshairs of a centuries-old international conspiracy. Together, the three must unravel an ancient curse that stretches back two millennia and beyond, and face a primal evil that threatens their lives and thousands more. The full list of narrators includes: Eric Pierpoint, Emily Adams, Stephen Mendel, Alexis Evans, Kerrie Keane, Jackson White, Terri Treas, Francesca Ling, Jackie Mah, Jeff Marcus, Kenneth Johnson, Nelson Estevez, and Susan Appling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ok, can I just say that I am sick of writing critical reviews. Nobody likes them. They don't make me happy. They don't make the author happy. I frequently have to deal with angry comments... The

entire operation is about as fun as a kick in the teeth. But in this case, I don't know what else to say, because I hated this book. I quit at pg 83, and there isn't a single one of those pages I didn't have to force myself to read. Yes, there absolutely is a chance it got better past the point where I stopped...But quite frankly, life is too short to waste on a book that is incapable of engaging me in a whopping 83 pages, particularly considering all the books out there that are. Books capable of engaging me within the first paragraph of the first page. I want to spend my life on THOSE books. Also, I'd like to say up front here that, "the start of this book was boring/confusing/you-have-to-read-past-100-pages", is a common theme, even among five star reviews. If that's ok with you, then get it!!! But again, life is too short for me. As to why I hated it, it's hard to put into words. I don't know where to start. The book opened on a dream, following the main protagonist (who I didn't realize was the main protagonist until page 50 or so) and I couldn't have cared less about him OR his dream. I didn't even know him, and the dream was completely irrelevant and boring. After he woke up, he almost immediately gave a description of himself by looking in a mirror--something I absolutely hate since I simply CANNOT connect with a character that way--and after that, the book launched into a literary ocean of frustration, confusion, and boredom. Seriously, I really do hate critical reviews, but at some point around page 60 all I wanted to do was start bashing my head against the wall. There were so many POVs I couldn't keep track of them all. It wasn't until around the aforementioned page 50 that I realized what I was following was: Will. And other random, irrelevant characters whose only purpose seemed to be to observe Will, for the benefit of the reader. And all of it was just one boring rehash after another of a point about Will's character that had already been driven home. Honestly, how many times do you have to observe someone handing out charity money to understand that yes, obviously, he's a good guy? OBVIOUSLY. That particular scene was repeated about 6 times, but I got it the first time, so the other 5 were epically unnecessary. And as for the rest, it wasn't any better. I didn't care about anyone, including Will. I hadn't been given a reason to care. I couldn't get into anyone's head. I had no idea who was actually relevant to the story later on, and who was just a convenient prop for demonstrating bits of information or more of Will's character. I didn't care about the mystery either. It turns out (though I didn't really get this from the description) that it's a religious thriller. Off the top of my head I'd say like Angels and Demons, but that book had me hooked from the first chapter. This one only fed me vague hints about some mysterious darkness, in a manner that was prominent enough it was

obvious I should care about said hints, but so vague and with so little information there is no way I could possibly know enough to feel genuinely disturbed as, yes, I so obviously should have. I cared about nothing and no one, and so finally, I allowed myself to quit. It wasn't the too-many-POVs that got me. I recently read *Into the Water* (14 POVs) and gave it 4 stars. It was the fact that I was 83 pages in, and I still hadn't been given a single legitimate reason why I should WANT to keep reading. Not. ONE!!!! give this 2 stars because while I hated just about everything else about this book, the writing was solid. I'm absolutely positive a lot of people will love this book, and that it will get its fair share of glowing reviews. But I'm not one of them. And this review isn't it.

A great premise. It was intriguing, the writing grabbed me and pulled me through the first 150 pages. Who or what was Will? I changed my mind a couple of times. Then the story meandered; it seemed lost...It peaked in a strong sequence and slid home. 300, rather than 420, pages would have made for a tighter book.

This book is exceptional. The story kept my interest throughout. Some reviewers objected the extensive descriptions. I found them absolutely exquisite in themselves, as well a way of increasing my anticipation for the next portion of the story. The author did a masterful job of weaving together the stories of the major characters with those of the minor ones. The main character was condemned to an eternity of wandering the earth, but the author did not reveal the reason until maybe halfway through the book. Until the reason was revealed, I kept trying to unravel that mystery. Another man appeared off and on throughout the book. I was able to guess at his identity fairly early on, but the confirmation came toward the end of the book. The true reason this man was being pursued through the centuries and across continents was also revealed in the latter chapters. I enjoyed the tales told by the main character of interactions with famous people throughout history. The major characters were very well developed, as were some of the lesser ones. I am finding it especially difficult to write this review. I cannot do justice to the book. I became quite engrossed in the life of this wanderer and his interactions with various people he met. The book was brought to a satisfactory conclusion, though perhaps not what you might desire after the events in the warehouse. The ending was true to the story as a whole. I recommend this book highly. I couldn't put it down, and kept reading chapter after chapter. One last thought -- Although many people are telling their stories throughout this book, I had no trouble keeping them straight. The name of the narrator of each section appears in bold type at the beginning. I lied -- I have another last thought,

but one that is very important to me. This book had an excellent copy editor. I found no misspellings or words misused or repeated. That was the cherry on the cake.

I am not a big fan of books with so many undeveloped characters, especially when they are hard to track. The author uses phonetically spelled dialogue to remind the reader that one is Jamaican, ("what's up wid dat, mon?") and one is a street kid graffiti artist, ("axing" questions) as a couple examples. I was surprised that the French priest wasn't treated in the same way, complete w/ohh la las thrown in there, or "Sacre bleu"! Also, a 5 year old girl has better grammar than either the Jamaican or the street kid, and uses larger words..... pretty annoying all around. I try to suspend my sense of real world belief when it comes to fiction, after all, it's not meant to be believed, right? I couldn't take the guy in a coma, telling a story a couple of chapters long, and answering questions quite lucidly, while still in the coma. I am willing to go with the story, but found myself wanting to jump to the last chapter, just to finish it! Maybe it means something to want to know the ending.... as it is, I wouldn't bother if there is a sequel.

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