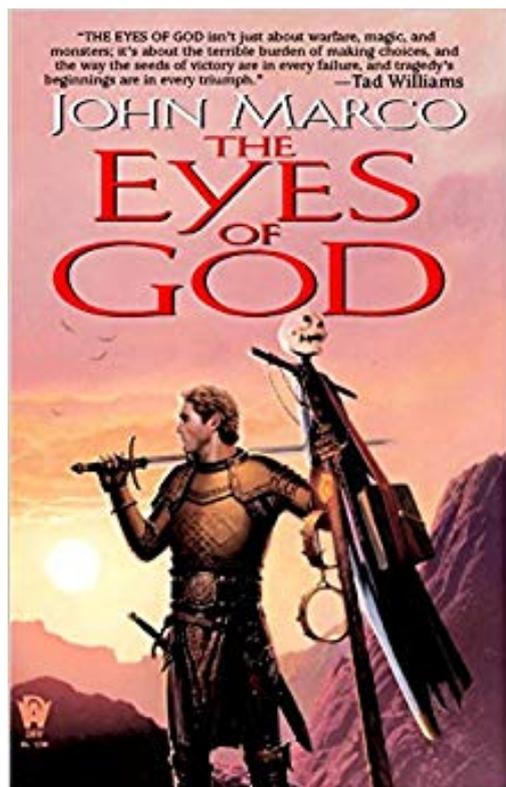


The Eyes of God *by* John Marco



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Akeela, King of Liiria, was a young and idealistic scholar who was determined to bring peace to his kingdom—a land that had been plagued by war with the neighboring kingdom of Reec for decades. Lukien, the Bronze Knight of Liiria, had been taken in by the royal family when, at fourteen, he saved Akeela's life, but he'd never forgotten the brutal lessons of the streets he'd grown up on. A bond of loyalty stronger than blood linked these two men—but no two souls could be more different.

And as Akeela and Lukien entered their enemy's stronghold on a mission of peace, neither man could foresee the turmoil this historic mission would wreak on their lives. For, to seal the peace, King Karis of Reec would bestow upon Akeela the hand of his charming, beautiful, and accomplished daughter Cassandra.

But Cassandra hid a terrible secret. She was experiencing the first symptoms of a disease which would threaten her life and cause unimaginable strife for all who loved her. For Akeela and Lukien, the quest for Cassandra's salvation would overwhelm every bond of loyalty, every point of honor, every dream of peace. For only the magical amulets known as the Eyes of God could halt the progress of Cassandra's illness. But the Eyes of God would also open the way to a magical stronghold which could tear their world apart and redefine the very nature of their reality.



Reviews of the **The Eyes of God** by John Marco

net rider

I read this while I was in high school and I just bought it now. I haven't had time to read any fantasy over the last few years because of college. But I read this in like 3 days, well worth the read and the price.

It isn't on the level of Lord of the Rings or Game of Thrones, but it is honestly a good book. I read the two sequels, and remember that they were even better than this one.

Sti

Good start for this engaging series of books on the Bronze Knight. I started this series by reading the last/most recent book entitled The Forever Knight, which was a really good story, and I wanted to know where and how it all got started. This first book doesn't quite have the character development and insight that I hoped it would have, but it introduces all the major characters. The subsequent books in the series are better.

Still In Mind

good book

Cordanara

At first glance the size/length of this book is incredibly daunting. I don't mind admitting it! Deciding to read a book almost 800 pages long can seem like a huge undertaking. Fortunately, the chapters and breaks are short enough that it always feels well-paced.

Though this book is set in somewhere fantastic, the knights and magic don't really choke the focal point of the story as they do in other novels of this genre. The real gold in this treasure is the character interaction and development. Marco plays out the motions of his characters very well making them all very intricate and interesting. Each person has their part to play and a huge amount of depth along with that, sometimes deceptively hidden during their introduction.

I'm not a fan of Robert Jordan's WoT series (and believe me, I've tried to be) and I wouldn't draw parallels between this and that. Normally I read 300-or-so page Forgotten Realms novels and was pleasantly surprised from this deviation. There was never a point where I was disinterested in the story; if anything I was urging the characters on!

All in all, the writing in this one is great but it gets only four stars because I feel like if you took away the Fantasy trappings the novel wouldn't lose much. Even though the title and setting would lead you to believe that the magic and whatnot is the integral part of the story an adventure through the pages proves otherwise. Definitely recommended.

Natety

I've been a fan of John Marco's writing since his first book of the Tyrants and Kings Series - The Jackal of Nar. While the Jackal of Nar and the rest of that series was in-your-face smash mouth

military fantasy, *The Eyes of God* is something much deeper and more character-oriented. A definite departure for Marco, but one that shows his incredible talent and flexibility for writing deeply personal stories as well as action-packed ones. Lukien the Bronze Knight is torn between his love for his king Akeela and also for Akeela's soon-to-be queen Cassandra. The story takes many twists and turns as Lukien battles with the inner-turmoil of knowing that he will alienate and possibly lose forever one of the two people who he loves most in the world. But this book isn't just about love and human behavior, not by a long shot. Once the story gets ramped up, there is plenty of action to keep you on the edge of your seat. Not enough credit is given to John Marco as one of the leading writers in fantasy today. While the Sandersons and the Weeks of the world get all of the pub, John Marco simply put, writes amazing fantasy. Hopefully some day he will get the credit that he deserves, but until then, I will continue to trumpet his talent and continue to read his books.

Marige

To look at the cover it does look like a romance novel. That aside decided to give it a go and found that it has ebbs and tides. There were times when I couldn't wait to get back into the novel at night because I thought the story line perplexing. Then there were times when it seemed as though I might get sick because of forced dialogue and boring interactions. I did think the book propelled me into the second novel without hesitation. It is definitely a great find as I sit here and wait for a *Feast For Crows*. It is not in the same league but I would rank it in my top 15 novels.

Cerana

John Marco gives us a very basic fantasy with *Eyes of God*. There's kingdoms and Good Kings and Bad Kings and Valiant Knights and caricature Middle Easterners and beautiful princesses and all that jazz. Then he deconstructs it all for us and things start getting interesting.

That is usually the first paragraph of a very good review. There's a problem. This isn't a very good review. This is actually a very bad review, for me. The problem? No follow through.

We start out with the Valiant Knight doing some things that aren't so Valiant, the Good King finding out that the world isn't very good, the scary mysterious person is a good guy, ghosts aren't so bad, it all starts great for an interesting twisting drama of political intrigue and trope deconstructions.

But then... things just start turning back to regular old fantasy tropes. A new, run of the mill villain manages to take the reins mid-book, and there's a quest and there's a growing-up story shoved in there for good measure.

This book had me throwing up my hands in frustration. After such a good beginning it had everything that I hate in a book. There's a quest. There's a peaceful people that really have no reason to be a peaceful people. Character's personalities fluctuate to fit the plot. And my major pet peeve, we're introduced to characters that don't matter. Now, I understand that this is the first of a series, but I don't need to spend a few chapters getting invested in a character that there's no conflict with until the next book. Her role could have been minimized.

Long story short, this book is very mediocre and considering how many great books there are out or coming out in the next few months, it really doesn't make sense to pick this up. I won't be picking up the next book in the series.

would buy from again

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