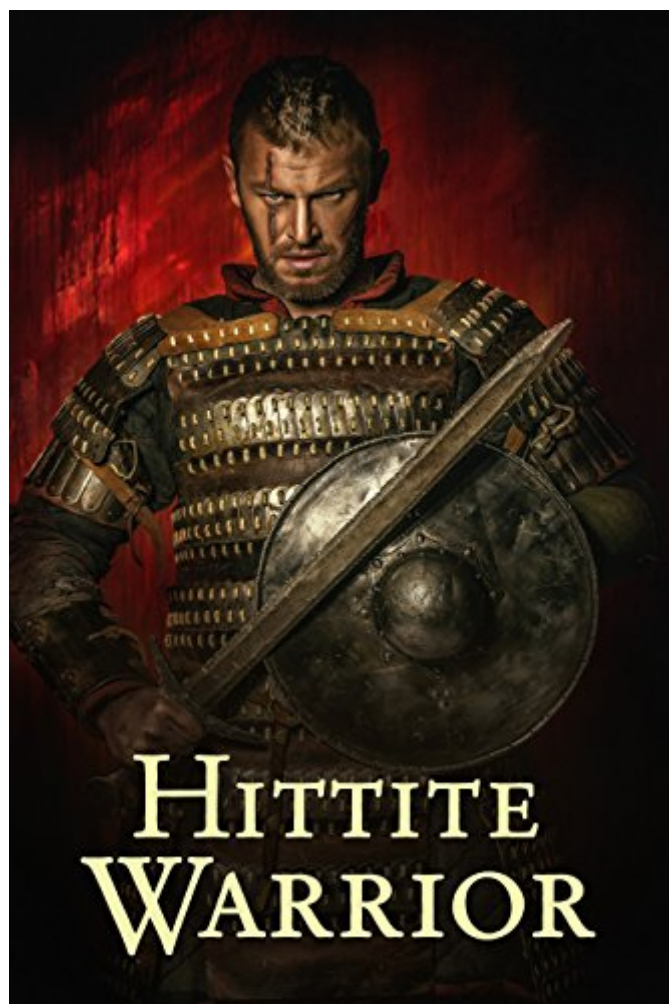


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Hittite Warrior



Synopsis

Once a dominant force in the ancient world, the Hittite Empire is now on the brink of collapse. Uriah Tarhund, a young Hittite warrior, soon finds his village in smoldering ruins and the empire crumbling. His only hope of survival is to seek the aid of Sisera of Canaan, his father's ally. But the road to Canaan is long and the times are perilous and Uriah is waylaid along the way. A warrior without a nation, Uriah's adventures bring him amongst both the Canaanites and the Hebrews and ultimately into the brewing war between them as he seeks his own survival...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The basic idea and plot of this book is really neat. The story is set in the Biblical time of the Judges before Israel had a king. We are introduced to a Hittite youth living in the Mediterranean about the time that Greeks, particularly those from Crete, were gaining ascendancy. The Hittites as a people are conquered and become fugitives. Our protagonist flees first to the Phoenicians and then into the hills of Judea, where he meets Deborah, the prophetess, and Berek, the Israelite general who is to defeat Sisera. He ends up fighting in the battle on the wrong side, but eventually marries a Israelite woman and settles down in the area. On the way, we are introduced to all kinds of Hittite,

Phoenician, Israelite, and Canaanite customs. We learn about their dress, their gods (particularly the dreadful Moloch), their methods of fighting, their habits of enslaving captive peoples, and so on. The book has obviously been carefully researched, and the plot is plausible and interesting. I give the book three stars because the writing is terrible. The fact that the book is for children does not excuse this. Sentences are frequently awkward in construction, and the book reads like a first draft. For instance, the writer will say something like, "The warrior rushed towards me, and I hit him with a stick that I had picked up several moments ago before he attacked me." That's a paraphrase, but you see what I mean. Why on earth weren't we told about the stick BEFORE the warrior rushed towards him? It's as though the writer just thought of the weapon, and instead of putting the event in its proper place, she flings it in as an afterthought. This kind of sloppy editing occurs throughout the text. As imaginative fiction, it's great, but this book is NOT a good example for kids to follow in style, editing, or structure.

...at the enormity of the sacrilege.' Hittite Warrior tells about a Hittite boy, Uriah Tarhaund, and his adventures after his family is killed by the Greeks, or as they are referred to, the 'Sea People'. Told by his father, he promised to go to Siseria, a man in Canaan. He is brought to Tyre to be rewarded for saving a merchant from thieves. He is 'adopted' into the family. One of the servants of the merchant's father, Ethbaal, saves a child from being sacrificed to their God, Moloch. Forced by the servant, Jotham, to come with him, he lives with Jotham's Hebrew tribe for a while. Keeping his promise, Uriah went to Siseria but was captured on the way. After being released he took part in defending Canaan from the Hebrews. He loses the battle and retreats across the river Kishon to Dor in the company of another soldier. He returns to Ethbaal to save his daughter, Mehitabel, from the Philistines. The end of the story is very touching. I found the tale extremely intriguing. It had some facts regarding the structures of buildings, the chariots, etc... There is, for those of you who like war, a battle in the story. I find it a very good book for a person in their early teens. I also recommend: The Cat of Bubastes (G. A. Henty), For the Temple (G. A. Henty), The Golden Goblet (Eloise Jarvis McGraw)

I'm a mom of three home-schooled girls, and I bought the book for them. I decided to read the first few pages to make sure that the reading level was appropriate for my oldest. I couldn't put it down! From the very beginning, the author gets you interested in this Hittite young man. The descriptions of the battles were interesting without being upsetting to children. Besides battles, there are horses, spies, lots of interesting information about what it might have been like to live during this time in

history, and some good plot twists.

Hittite Warrior is an original book set in the thirteenth century BCE. It is perhaps the only childrens' book in print in which the main character is a Hittite, by name Uriah, who flees his crumbling kingdom and ends up with family friends in the Phoenician city of Tyre. Kidnapped by Israelites from the interior, Uriah gains a unique insight into the two-sidedness of the war that follows. Sadly, this so far fun read stumbles and falls when it reaches the ending. Inexplicably, the book abruptly changes direction and the ending simply does not make sense in conjunction with the rest of the story, perhaps because the moral behind the book didn't fit with the plot with the plot; Uriah's actions made little sense and the Hebrews' less. It wasn't terrible - it had a good message about forgiveness - but it very badly needed streamlining with the rest of the story, and the characters' motives could have done with much more attention. For me, it just seemed too implausible and somewhat soured my experience of the novel, which was a shame. The characterisation of this book was competent, although some of the characters felt a little lifeless. The writing strategy was equally competent - a previous reviewer has correctly pointed out it's occasional clumsiness, but by in large it keeps the book going. This book's real strength and driving force was it's plot, which was full of adventure, action, and fascinating descriptions of civilisations neglected by history. Overall, a just about worthwhile read for anyone under the age of 13 or so.

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