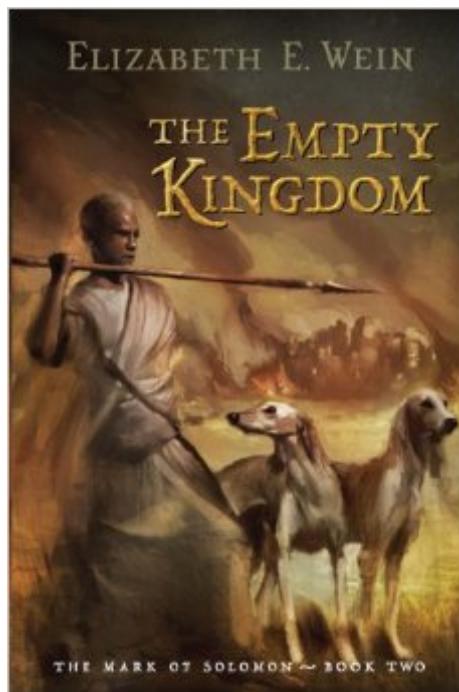


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The Empty Kingdom (Mark Of Solomon Book Two)



Synopsis

In *The Lion Hunter*, Telemakos—the half-British, half-Aksumite grandson of King Arthur—was sent for his safety to stay with one of Aksum’s former enemies. When Abreha, ruler of Himyar, allegedly the boy’s protector, catches him in the midst of what appears to be treachery, he sentences him to a fate seemingly worse than death. Not only is Telemakos forbidden to see his beloved younger sister, Athena, but he is also commanded to reproduce the maps that Abreha plans to use in order to invade Aksumite territory. Countries away from his family, lacking any way to tell them what has happened, Telemakos must bring all of his subtle talents to bear in order to regain his freedom. *The Empty Kingdom* is a stunning conclusion to the *Mark of Solomon* duology—a triumph of historic suspense.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 217 pages

Publisher: Viking Juvenile; First Edition edition (April 17, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670062731

ISBN-13: 978-0670062737

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,081,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa #596 in Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #32293 in Books > Children’s Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

I raced through this book in a day and evening after the cliff hanger of the previous book, *The Lion Hunter*. The two books are meant to be read together but they fit with the previous series of three beginning with *The Winter Prince*. Perhaps they could be read out of order but I would not recommend it. Upon finishing I just sat with a smile on my face when I closed the last page. So many twists and turns and such a beautiful ending that began five books ago with *The Winter Prince*

which is a very different variation of the Arthurian legend. This amazing author began a book where Medraut (her version of Mordred) is writing the story to his evil mother, Morgana. Through the next two books we enter the story of his son conceived in Ethiopia and named Telemakos. Telemakos is the grandson of two kings, one of Britain (Artos/Arthur) and the other of his homeland. He has dark skin and his father's almost white hair. Medraut is an unforgettable book character as written in these books, but the first book is truly his own. He is wound into the books from beginning to end, but the story becomes Telemakos journey. I can not even explain why these books are so wonderful. The characters for sure, the intrigue that is subtle at times, and slams you in the face at others. I honestly would not have been interested in reading a series that for much of the time is about a young boy and his even younger sister. It's just not my thing. Yet here I am a couple of weeks after I read the second book, A Coalition of Lions, naming this a favorite series. I read the first book in October of 2012 and somehow was satisfied to stop there.

I purchased this and another book from Wein's list. I thought she was going to do a fair job. Instead I discovered an extremely sloppy storyline and even worse facts. Wein seems to be running interference for the recent Ethio Eritrean war and on the Eritrean side. Everyone familiar with Ethiopian history knows that the region that we know today as Ethiopia is but a shadow of what those ancient Ethiopians and Axumites ruled. Yet Wein repeatedly misses this. She insists on a dubious and outright falsified peering of the Axumite Empire with, what was at that time, Roman and Byzantine ruled Britain. Axum, contemporary to Byzantium, numbering only 3rd in power next to the Persians and Chinese is reduced to entertaining with barbarians from Britain to the extent of intermarrying with them. The ridiculousness doesn't stop there. Wein insults the history she writes about by not even respecting the hard facts that remain of it. When taken to task, as she evidently must have, she argues that her work is a work of fiction not history. But then she rounds about and testily remarks that her account is as factual as the records of that time allow it to be. Not so fast. There was no record, NONE, of any interruption between the reign of Kaleb(Ella Asbeha) and Wazeb(Ella Gebre Meskel) the two Emperor's she focuses on. Yet Wein creates one just to insert her British caricature and gives him the title Ella Amida, the name of the great-great grandfather of Kaleb and the father of twin Emperors Ezana, Sezana and their younger brother Hadefan. It gets even more confusing since Ella Amida lived about 400 years before Kaleb. Is she trying to tell us in her non-historical history that no Ethiopian could suffice and we had to, alas and alack, rely on a barbarian to rule us ?

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