



Mortal

Ted Dekker , Tosca Lee (Contributor)

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Centuries have passed since civilization's brush with apocalypse. The world's greatest threats have all been silenced. There is no anger, no hatred, no war. There is only perfect peace...and fear. A terrible secret was closely guarded for centuries: *every single soul walking the earth, though in appearance totally normal, is actually dead, long ago genetically stripped of true humanity.*

Nine years have gone by since an unlikely hero named Rom Sebastian first discovered a secret and consumed an ancient potion of blood to bring himself back to life in *Forbidden*. Surviving against impossible odds, Rom has gathered a secret faction of followers who have also taken the blood-the first Mortals in a world that is dead.

But The Order has raised an elite army to hunt and crush the living. Division and betrayal threaten to destroy the Mortals from within. The final surviving hope for humanity teeters on the brink of annihilation and no one knows the path to survival.

On the heels of *Forbidden* comes MORTAL, the second novel in The Books of Mortals saga penned by Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee. Set in a terrifying, medieval future, where grim pageantry masks death, this tale of dark desires and staggering stakes peels back the layers of the heart for all who dare take the journey.

The Books of Mortals are three novels, each of which stands on its own, yet all are seamlessly woven into one epic thriller.

Mortal Details

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Scott Sawyer says

Mortal

By: Ted Dekker

Tosca Lee

This is a work of fiction by critically acclaimed and New York Times best selling author Ted Dekker and co-authored by Tosca Lee. This book is in the fantasy genre and is definitely similar to books like the Chronicles of Narnia or The Lord of the Rings trilogy. This book has many religious undertones, specifically of Christian beliefs. The entire story is essentially a symbolic representation of the life of Christ.

The book is set on Earth about 500 years into the future. However after the "Age of Chaos," which laid waste to world by way of nuclear war, all of today's modern technology was destroyed forever. Also a man made virus that was capable of destroying every human except for fear was released into the human population. Through this, a line of royalty, known as the Sovereign were capable of ruling what was left of the globe with the absolute power of fear.

The main character is named Rom. He is the strong willed leader of the Mortals. He is a great character that allows the reader to witness all the action of the book through a largely unbiased view point. This character aides the reader in understanding the big picture because, Rom is constantly thinking ahead and that allows the reader to consider the consequences of every decision made throughout the novel.

The main character Rom had, in the first book found a person who was meant to be the true Sovereign, his name was Jonathan and his blood was capable of returning all of the lost emotions to the people of the world. This character essentially symbolizes Jesus in that Jonathan is eventually killed, despite his innocence, and his spilt blood is utilized to bring "true life" to the "walking dead" of the earth.

The main antagonist throughout the course of the book is named Saric. He is the son of a former Sovereign, who through a series of scientific experiments discovered a type of synthetic serum that unlocks some of the emotions that humans formerly owned. However this serum is only capable of unlocking the negative side of any emotion, for example, hate, jealousy, anger, etc. Just as Jonathan is meant to symbolize Jesus, Saric is meant to symbolize Satan.

The main conflict occurs when Saric his army of genetically enhanced thugs against the forces of Jonathan. This helps the reader to understand the point of the novel, which is to point out the constant battle between the light side (Jonathan) and the dark side (Saric) of the human emotional and spiritual psyche.

This book is very similar to the novels by authors such as C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien in that the conflicts are between good and evil, light and darkness, in which there is no grey area to choose from. It points out that there is right and wrong and that these two opposing forces are constantly in conflict with one another.

Christian Fiction Addiction says

Mortal is a tale that is wonderfully grand in scope, an epic novel that pits the forces of good against evil in a satisfying and gripping read. The scenes are painted in vivid and crisp detail, marching like a movie across the screen of your mind, and the plot is filled with twists and turns where you wonder who is good and who is evil. Indeed, by the end of the book I realized that nothing is as it seems, making the wait for the final book in the series rather unbearable as I wait to see what is actually going on! My only criticism of the book is that there seemed to be quite a lot of similarities between Ted Dekker's Circle series and Mortal in some of the plot elements and scenes. While the books are indeed supposed to be connected, I experienced perhaps too much of a sense of familiarity in some of what I was reading, rather than my usual awe at watching these authors unveil unexpected story lines. Again, though, the power in this book is watching the different characters come to life, and realizing that those characters who I assumed were good were not necessarily all that good after all. The novel is rich with symbolism, leaving me pondering what it means to be spiritually alive and spiritually dead, and the crazy power of love and the upside-down-nature of God's kingdom. As with Forbidden, readers should be warned that this book contains scenes of violence and blood being spilled, and so readers who usually shy away from such material may not find this book to be to their liking.

Fans of previous works by Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee will ultimately enjoy this well-crafted, superbly paced novel. I strongly recommend this book and award it 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of the publisher, Center Street, for the purposes of this unbiased review.

Nancy Johnson says

It's a decent book, just not my usual type of book. I like more modern day books. Plus there was one particular issue with the plot that was not discussed, but which would have ended the main conflict in my mind since it wasn't discussed. Anyway. I don't think I'll read the final book in the series.

Melanie says

Got halfway done with this and just cannot read any more right now. I am so bored!! The story line was just too hard to follow and I found myself getting lost as to what was going on. It's disappointing because I loved the first book. ./ I'm not sure if I'll ever finish this or just go to book three...or skip finishing this series altogether.

Chris says

I'm really enjoying this new series. My only (very minor) complaint is that it has so much in common with the Circle Series... which is my all time favorite. Similarities in some characterization, and even some of the plot points and metaphors used. Again... this is a VERY minor complaint for me that I am stretching at in regards to finding something I have an issue with. And there is a very good reason why the main metaphor in regards to the character and actions of Jonathan are so similar to that of Justin in the Circle series. A VERY good reason. =) No spoilers here!

Fast paced as always, vintage cliff hanger chapter endings that can keep you up until 5am... what's not to enjoy? Great series that is definitely at a "what on earth will be next" feeling because of the twists and turns we are taken on. I found myself excited, then confused, then hopeful, then shocked...etc. A very thrilling emotional and adrenaline filled ride. Can't wait for "Sovereign"...

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Mortal

The Books of Mortals #2

by Ted Dekker & Tosca Lee

Nine years have passed since Feyn gave her life so that Jonathan might rule, bringing hope of life to the walking dead. But mere weeks before he is to take the title of Sovereign, rumors that threaten Jonathan's power are becoming fact. Dark Bloods are a new power that has arisen, still Corpse but with the emotions, strength, and speed of Mortals. When the Mortals capture a Dark Blood he reveals that he is alive because his Maker, Saric has made him so.

Saric believed to be dead these last nine years has come into the Senate Hall and proclaimed that he alone is alive. Then to the horror of all present he brings forth Feyn the Sovereign who was to be. He has removed Feyn from the stasis she was placed in after Book cut her down. Then before all present he fills her with his blood restoring her to life though in an altered condition. Saric proclaims Feyn Sovereign and then kills Rowan regent for Jonathan before the Senate Hall.

But how can Jonathan fulfill his purpose and his destiny if Feyn is Sovereign? Even more disturbing is Jonathan's erratic behavior. Is their savior truly who they think him to be or has their faith and hope been misplaced?

Rom and Book are convinced that Jonathan is who they have thought him to be. But the Nomads that they have joined with now think that they are the superior race, a benefit of Jonathan's blood.

Mortal is a compelling book. When what we believe should happen does not, does that mean our faith was misplaced? Or were we merely misinterpreting what we knew and the answer is just different than what we believed it was to be?

As with most of Dekker's books blood plays an important part. Blood is the force of change, but who controls that force? And who is to say what change is right and what is wrong? Who will you place your faith in? Your answer may determine your future!

Book 3 Sovereign is scheduled for Spring 2013!

Alanna Rusnak says

The story is brilliant. The plot is fast-paced and emotionally charged. The character of Jonathan broke my heart. My only disappointment was the spelling/grammar mistakes. Once is an accident. Twice is forgivable. Five + is just embarrassing. Certainly not a reason to never pick this book up but...come on! There's an editor

somewhere not doing their job.

Cami V. Romero says

PRIMERA LECTURA 2017

3.5

Me confundía que las mujeres tenían nombre de hombre jajajja

SEGUNDA LECTURA 2018

4.0

Esta vez me gustó mucho más, creo que se debe a que le preste más atención xD

J.S. Bailey says

Congrats, guys...you have succeeded in making me cry like a little girl.

I would have given this five stars if not for the plethora of mistakes I came across while reading. Spelling errors were quite prolific, and portions of the story contradicted each other (Like how it was stated that Roland only had daughters, and then on the very next page it said he had a son. What?). But overall, the story was still good. I found the theme of sacrificial love especially moving; and echoes of the Holocaust added an eerie touch.

That being said, I look forward to reading Sovereign, the next and final novel of the Books of Mortals trilogy when it is released next year. I only hope Ted and Tosca catch more of their typos before the novel goes to print!

Jan says

From reviews of others who read the first book in the series "Forbidden", it sounds like most thought it was very good. Unfortunately I did not read Forbidden, and I honestly could not make it past page 45. Neil Gaman, Pathrick Rothfuss and George R. R. Martin have completely spoiled me with their incredibly developed characters and rich storylines. I found this writing dry and boring. Maybe I'll start over with the series and read Forbidden.

Emilee (Fantastical Paper Realm) says

(I'm going to start with my negative comments. I did like the book, read on for the positive) *RING* Uh, Ted Dekker, the circle series called...IT WANT'S ITS STORY LINE BACK!!!! There were so many of the same things in this book that were in the Circle. I won't go into them, though I want to, because I hate reviews with spoilers.

POSITIVE This book was a lot better than the first one! It was a little faster paced(not quite fast enough),

it had more action, and it was more enjoyable! I give it 3 stars instead of 4 because of lack of originality. There was a lot of symbolism in the book, and that was cool to decipher. I even found a new favorite character! I like the blood aspect in the book and the 4 factions of society, it makes it more complex, and thus more fascinating.

All in all, I would recommend the book. Though I don't think anyone younger than 13 or 14 should read this series (mainly because of one character).

Sarah says

While I still love the post-apocalyptic world Dekker and Lee created, I found this one to be a little lacking compared to the first. I missed hearing more of Rom's voice. I was expecting to see more redemption for Feyne's character given her sacrifice. (I'm still hoping to see this in the last one with everything she has endured.) And unfortunately the messiah figure, Jonathan just didn't work for me. He was more on the wimpy side, which I guess could have been an intentional foil to the warrior-like nomadic figures he surrounded himself with who could use some of his meekness. Nevertheless, I didn't have as much emotional investment into his character. Consequently, I didn't really care what became of him (which I truly hate saying).

On the positive, Saric's developed into even more of an interesting character in this book. Dekker and Lee developed a wonderful nemesis in this man that you love to hate. There were some predictable elements in this book, but others at the end that took me by surprise.

In a nutshell: The duo's writing was still wonderful; I was simply a little more disappointed with this book. We have the last book in the series on our shelf, so I'll go to it next, hoping to see some redemption and loose ends tied in the last pages.

Candy says

Extreme disappointment with the book makes me very sad to say I stopped reading this book. I pushed to page 139 thinking it would get better, but all I saw was the characters going on and on about how their senses were heightened with the receiving of life on page after page. I quickly became bored with this, and at the extreme descriptions of everything around the characters. Besides that, and this is nothing to do with the story itself, I kept finding mistakes in spelling, in grammar and even in using the correct words. For example, in one place the sentence was supposed to read "He kissed her on her forehead." Instead it read "He kissed her on her forward." Things like that take me out of the story. On one page the characters wife is said to have only given him two daughters, and two pages later he is remembering her as she gave birth to a son. Huh? Anyway, I may pick this back up at a later date and finish it and if I change my mind about it at that point, I can always change my review. I had really hoped to enjoy this series, and I did like the first book. Now I am not sure I will finish the series. Very sad indeed as I love both Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee.

Tiffany says

Not having read Forbidden, I had to go back and get a bit of the backstory before I could dive into this book.

Initially, I was on the fence and tempted to stop reading it but around mid-way through, I found myself engaged in the storyline. I've already placed on hold on the third book in the series so that I can follow the storyline to it's end. Symbolism and human psychology combine.

Erika Hayes says

Oh boy, it is the same book as the first. The book draaaaags. I am still dumbfounded at the use of underground "tube" I am only assuming old subways that get the black bloods through to the death camps but the horse as the primary mode of transportation for the sovereign and bro. I actually appreciate the story and the ideas but I am pulled out of the story by so many little things like this. The idea that there are subways but they still use lights (candelabras- great Scott, that word is waaay overused in both books. Sorry if I pointed that out to you and it drives you as batty as it did me!)

The Jonathan aspect is weary, are you trying to make him like Christ? I mean if I had to do a literary analysis of this book I would say yes, but then NO because well I don't want to add spoilers. I finished this book and am struggling to decide if I want to invest this much time in the last... I just want it to move at a much faster pace... this book CRAWLS along. SOOOOO decisions, decisions. It is a weird book but that is part of the charm. Maybe I will read something else and come back to this one. ALL honesty, it is a good story it just needs the pace picked up! I honestly think I could have skipped like 75-100 pages and still gotten everything I needed to follow the story. I hate this because I really want to know how it ends but so much time invested in slow books... Who are we kidding I don't quit on a book series -- well I have on ONE but only one and I am so glad I did. I will read the last one in the series I just pray it moves a little faster!
