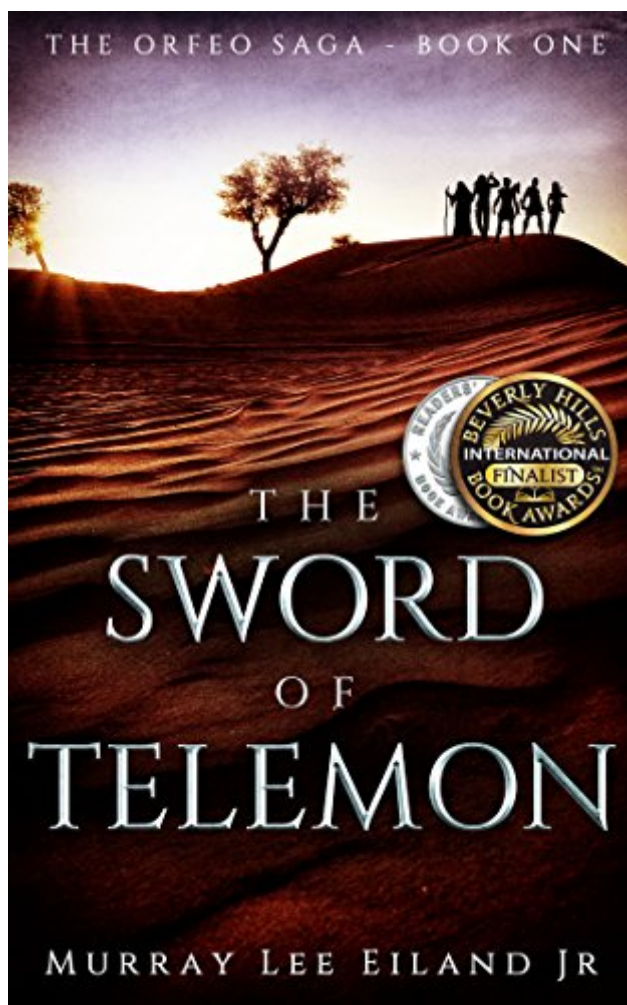


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The Sword Of Telemon (The Orfeo Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

The Homeric "long-haired Achaeans" were part of the Mycenaean culture of Greece (1600 BC - 1100 BC). They were a Bronze Age people who were quite removed in time and culture from the Classical period (5th - 4th centuries BC). In this novel a young Achaean prince is captured in a raid. His younger brother Orfeo, and a group of warriors, are sent on a mission to look for him. Telemon, a legendary warrior, and Zurga, an elderly member of a group called the Wanderers, are soon joined by Clarice, a girl who is a master of disguise. To their dismay they find that the kidnapped prince has been made a galley slave and that the maritime power of Thera plans to conquer the entire Mediterranean. Can they avert disaster? The story starts just before the eruption of Thera in about 1600 BC. This cataclysm destroyed the lavish Minoan culture of Crete. It also allowed the Mycenaeans to expand throughout the eastern Mediterranean. The Mycenaean culture - while originally warlike and rather rustic - developed vibrant cities, such as Pylos. This era was the setting for Homer's epic poems about the Trojan War (perhaps 12th or 11th century BC).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy young adult sagas and also historical fiction. This book provides both. It is enjoyable, but not

captivating. Predictable, but not emotional. Orfeo as the major character has the most delineation, but Clarice provides little clarity or understanding of who she is or why she is what she is. Her performances are mere descriptions. Telemon exists as a plot device but does not seem to have any depth. Zurga is intriguing, but again without substance. I finished the book, willingly, to see how it would all turn out but lacked a depth a feeling which makes a book memorable. Don't know if I will continue the series unless they are free.

I am truly fascinated to have this story from the age of heroes beautifully told to us in the 21st Century. Dr. Eiland's most pleasant rhythmic prose establishes the epic of Orfeo. This young man seems to be the very definition of a "wise person," that is, "one who learns from everybody." Orfeo is a goat-herder, an exquisite singer and skilled lyre-player. He is honed by the experience of going through incredible adventures with his companions to become a truly "wise and strong" person. He is finally designated as the future king of his country. And, the vivid descriptions of color, texture and fabric of the environment makes this epic immediate and real. We are fortunate to have The Sword of Telemon.

I really enjoyed this book and look forward to the rest of the saga, which I purchased all at the same time. The five star reviews here state everything I would say, and better than I would say it, so I won't rehash what has already been said, except to say kudos to the author for a fun read. I hesitated to do so, but I knocked a star off for a few minor reasons (yes, I'm really nitpicking here): 1) The names of the characters are so un-Greek for a novel the setting of which is Bronze Age Greece; 2) Ancient Syracuse was not yet founded at the time the story takes place; 3) the ships of the Therans (triremes and larger) did not exist until much later, nor did catapults; 4) the idea of a sinister city-state empire based at Thera and also the concept of "wanderer" characters is, to me, more suitable for a work of fantasy fiction than a historical novel concerning the Greek Bronze Age. Despite these relatively minor flaws of detail, the read was quite enjoyable and I am the better for having read it.

This story is a story that no matter where you come from or how people see you, you can still be a warrior. Orpheo proves this in this first installment. It lays down the foundation of what is to come and I can't wait to see what happens. Author Murray Lee Eiland, Jr. brings a story filled with adventure, lessons, and I could not get enough of it. The story is unique and the characters are very well written. It's very addicting and I could barely put it down. 5 Stars!!

I love any sort of historical fiction and am always searching for something that covers a time or place that I know nothing about. This was easily accomplished with author Murray Lee Eiland Jr.'s new novel, "The Sword of Telemon". A story set in the Mediterranean over a thousand years BC, the tale of young Orfeo is a most interesting coming of age adventure in a hostile and changing world. He is on a quest to rescue his brother and has picked up a host of allies along the way, only to find that their rescue mission has turned into much more. A very well written story that quickly captures the imagination.

"The Sword of Telemon" is a fantastic piece of historical fiction. I know very little about the region and the time period the author was writing about so it was wonderfully educational to me as well. The book is very exciting and beautifully described. The plot is very well paced and does not drag on or misdirect the reader with unbelievable plot twists. Eiland could teach a master class on character development. Every single character is believable and uses dialogue that does not seem forced or unnatural. I am definitely looking forward to reading more of the Orfeo Saga books.

Great book! Historical fantasy at its best! Murray Lee Eiland Jr. is the best little known writer around. I will read all four books in the series. He also wrote a great private detective series that's part satire, part great crime fiction.

Orfeo, a prince and the younger brother to the king's heir, is ransomed as a young boy to a neighboring kingdom. Raised in the teachings of a wise philosopher, he eventually escapes and returns home in shame, having broken a treaty as well as having become too much like his captors in mannerisms and thinking. Having little contact with his royal family, Orfeo lives the life of a lowly shepherd. But when his brother, the heir, is captured and believed to have been forced into slavery, Zurga, a respected advisor, persuades the king to include Orfeo in the search party. Orfeo and Zurga join forces with Telemon, a mighty warrior, and Orton, Telemon's trusted fighting companion. Together, the four journey to Pylos, in hopes of returning with the heir. Murray Lee Eiland Jr.'s *The Sword of Telemon*, book one in the Orfeo Saga, is a gripping novel. Set in ancient Greece, and interspersed with cameos of myths, legends, and historical events, this is an enticing read which builds in intensity as the story progresses. With a genuinely flawed cast of characters, the author regales readers with a tale of honor and courage, in which an unlikely band of brothers learn they all can benefit from the wisdom and experience of the others in their group. Philosophers and poets

join forces with fierce warriors in this compelling story that won't soon be forgotten.

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