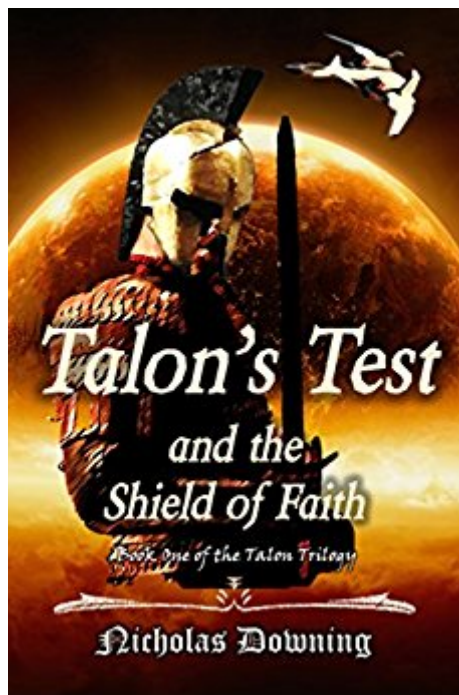




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Talon's Test And The Shield Of Faith (The Talon Trilogy - Christian Science Fiction & Fantasy Series Book 1)



Synopsis

#1 Kindle Bestseller - Teen & Young Adult Christian Science Fiction! When Darkness Descends... Heroes Must Rise! CHRISTIAN FICTION collides with MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY ADVENTURE, and SPACE OPERA ROMANCE in this epic, faith and family-friendly adventure written to inspire readers of all ages! Frequently ranked as an Kindle Bestseller among Christian Science Fiction and Fantasy novels, Talon's Test and the Shield of Faith is the first exciting installment of the Talon Trilogy! Despite a checkered past, Knight Centurion Talon Vance has proven himself to be a hero of the highest order. But now an unprecedented challenge lies before him. Crown Princess Naomi, heir to her dying father's throne, has been targeted for assassination by the evil General Mirkham Hesatan. Their desperate flee from persecution will take them from the perils of deep space combat to a desolate world full of exotic locales, treacherous environments, a legendary flying sand serpent, and hostile natives of both human and alien origin. But the greatest test of all lies within the heart. With the fate of an entire Star Kingdom hanging precariously in the balance, our heroes will be forced to choose... between Duty and Desire."An old-fashioned, rollicking, roller-coaster space opera full of battles, plot twists, heroic characters and truly evil villains... Mr. Downing's prose flows smoothly as a mountain stream... The plot is incredibly fast-paced with some twists, turns and surprises that never cheat the reader... a remarkable performance. If you like action and adventure, don't miss this novel." - End Times Tavern "I had trouble putting it down. Here we are introduced to a hero and heroine who are truly inspiring... I'm really looking forward to Book 2." - Radiqx Press "Absolutely Brilliant. Really enjoyed this book, could not put it down. Can not wait for the next book. Best book I've read in ages. Excellent!!" - Miranda, UK Review "...Hair raising encounters, literal leaps of faith, and enemies within striking distance... Talon's Test and the Shield of Faith is an action-packed science fiction, faith adventure read. With elements of romance, science fiction, Christian truth, and just plain good writing, this is an amazing read." - Woad Writer

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed reading this book. I had trouble putting it down. Here we are introduced to a hero and heroine who are truly inspiring. The story moved along well with lots of action and excitement. There is a tendency to take quite a few teaching breaks, and to say them with stereotypical conservative biblical church language. In addition, the stilted KJV language regularly popped me out of the world shared in the book. I do not mind the sermonizing or the bible quotes, but they were jarring. I would have loved to have read the words to be rewritten in a language more fitting to the world which has been built. Using scripture in fiction There seems to be a real divide in the minds of many, if not most, Christian authors. It is seen especially in the inerrancy believers. I would think that IF the Lord Jesus called a person to write, that author could then also trust the Holy Spirit to provide an accurate paraphrase in the language used with in the book. After all, He caused it to be written in the first place. For most authors, this is a leap of faith too far to be comprehended. That's sad, because the witness of stories like this would be much more effective expressed in the language of the people. But this is a truly excellent story and only marred by this personal quibble of mine. I'm really looking forward to Book 2.

This book is an old-fashioned, rollicking, roller-coaster space opera full of battles, plot twists, heroic characters and truly evil villains. And space opera is used as in the definition of "colorful, dramatic large-scale SF competently and sometimes beautifully written." Didn't you always want to read a novel that the Knights of Adonai as a fighting force? Or had a pirate ship

name Reprehensible? Or another ship named 'Serpent's Tooth'. In a space opera battle of good and evil, there is no room for subtlety. There is everything in this novel. Space battles, land combat, martial arts, international conspiracies, aristocratic snubs, sand serpents, philosophic Birdmen and much more. The novel also has a hero that makes Lancelot and Galahad seem shady around the edges. It boasts air combat scenes and land fights that are remarkable. When Talon is on the bank of the soaring, huge sand serpent, the reader feels the wind, the foul smell of the serpent and grimaces as Talon's knife slices green blood from the monstrosity. Most new authors tend to tell rather than show. While the author slides into the former occasionally, most of the time he shows, so the action is real. You'd be correct to guess Mr. Downing has a military background. He also has impressive prose. Reading some writers is akin to hacking your way with a machete through a rain forest. Mr. Downing's prose flows smoothly as a mountain stream. The plot is incredibly fast-paced with some twists, turns and surprises that never cheat the reader. I had a few qualms with the novel. At times, the dialogue doesn't sound real. Instead of sounding like normal conversation, it sounds like it has been written to sound good. Often the characters sound alike, even though they are aliens and from different cultures. The book has a strong Christian theme "which is fine with me - but at times the author does get a tad preachy. But Mr. Downing is also prone to great sentences such as, "That was fine with Gaston, who had no desire to be a hero as long as he could pretend to be one at parties. He wanted power and prestige, girls and glory" he just didn't want to have to do anything strenuous to earn them. Very nice. A remarkable performance. If you like action and adventure, don't miss this novel.

The Novel is an enjoyable read and covers a 'faith filled Christian Warrior' in a futurist setting. As a result it is fairly unique from what I have read before. I felt the story started a bit slow (too much reflective thinking in the middle of a battle) but keep reading as it picked up as it went along. A fair view references to the bible passages but they fitted in with the Character's position in the story. The author has covered a few different events and so the story moves on. Some of it was predictable once you got to know what the Author was aiming for, but it didn't detract from the story as different events happened to continue to encourage you to keep reading to see what would happen next. It was well written over all and the reading flowed. Being a trilogy of course, there should be two more books but this book does finish in a fairly well rounded way, no annoying cliff hanger which makes you think this story is unfinished. A few threads will be dealt with in the next couple of books which I look forward to reading.

Downing does a good job at creating his universe, with several well-defined civilizations, though each possesses a stereotype of each culture. Manna is the home of the hero, Talon Vance, who is both a warrior and a priest. Seeing him address taking a man's life should be instructive for all of us. Though the conclusion should be obvious from the beginning, the cliff-hanger ending begs for its sequel, which I hope the author is already working on. The author's experience in the military, martial arts, and Christianity are patently obvious, and at times seem a little too forced, like the author wanted to make sure you knew exactly where his source material came from without making a footnote. The heroes and the villains were simple and one-sided, with little character development or dimensions to their characters. Bad was bad and good was good. It could be described as a Christian Flash Gordon. But I enjoyed the read, and look forward to the next installment.

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