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Swords of Joseph

Lisa Packard

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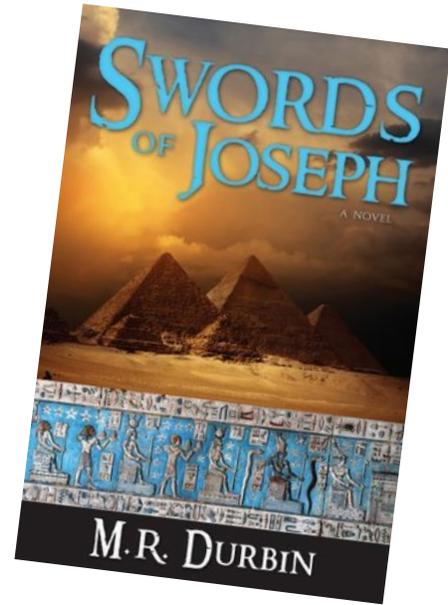
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Book Review

Title: Swords of Joseph
Author: M.R. Durbin
Reviewer: Lisa Packard
Publisher: Covenant Communications Inc.
Publication Year: 2013
ISBN: 9781621081524
Number of Pages: 300
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Outstanding



Review

Joshua and Caleb want to be free, but Pharaoh will not let the Israelites go. Moses insists he must because God has declared it. There is a prophecy about the bones of Joseph leading Israel out of Egypt. Moses sends Joshua, Caleb, and Gaddi on a quest to recover the bones and fulfill the prophecy. Joshua struggles to complete this task, but Caleb helps him find the faith he needs. While they are out on their quest, Moses brings about the plagues against Pharaoh so the Israelites will be let go. The priests of Pharaoh come up with a plan to sacrifice two virgins to stop the plagues, but also to insert a spy into Joshua's quest. Unfortunately, plans don't always go as you wish and Joshua picks up a spy, Liraz, and Ari'ela, a Hebrew. As Joshua and his friends follow the clues to Joseph's bones, the Egyptian soldiers are right behind. Joshua and Caleb realize there is a spy with them and come up with a plan to expose them. Joshua finds the bones of Joseph, along with a fake set and realizes that this could help him expose the spy. When Joshua returns to Egypt with the bones of Joseph, Liraz exposes herself as the spy. However, the bones of Joseph are already in Egypt and the Israelites are free to leave. Joshua and his friends triumph by following in faith.

Durbin lays out the story of Joshua and his friends very well. He includes many jokes to lighten the mood and create an atmosphere that you can relate to. His description of Egypt, including the desert, the Giza pyramids, and the several temples Joshua travels to are breathtaking. You can immerse yourself in the story and feel the trials the people go through. You are able to understand the doubt Joshua has and how he is trying to understand faith and a God he's been taught about, but has never truly believed in. His unwavering faith and conviction of people Joshua meets and how they help him on his journey are palpable. The descriptions Durbin provides for the several plagues that Moses commands are amazing. From locusts leaving everything desolate, hail stones that are as loud as thunder, boils so painful people could not move, to being protected by lambs blood when the first born of every family was killed. This book is not only fun and exiting, but gives you a new perspective on one of the greatest biblical events.