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Stiger: Tales Of The Seventh



Synopsis

The long awaited prequel to the Award Winning Chronicles of an Imperial Legionary Officer series that started with the bestselling military fantasy book Stiger's Tigers. A nobleman from an infamous family, Ben Stiger finds himself freshly assigned to Third Legion, Seventh Company as a lowly lieutenant in the opening stages of war between the Empire and the Kingdom of the Rivan. Third Legion has been tasked with pursuing a retreating Rivan army back to the border where the Empire can take the fight into enemy territory. However, a major obstacle stands in Third Legion's path: the river Hana. The crossing is sure to be contested and dangerous. Should Third Legion fail to force a crossing, the entire campaign could grind to a disastrous halt. This is Stiger's first military appointment. Inexperienced, young and unsure of himself, Stiger is ostracized by his fellow lieutenants. Worse, he's been placed under the command of an incompetent officer. With life and reputation on the line, he must learn to understand men far beneath his station and lead them into battle. Stiger struggles not only against the enemy, but against his family's history and his own side to prove himself worthy of serving the empire he loves and earning the respect of the men he leads. Set amidst the backdrop of an epic war, there are greater forces at work than the young Stiger can even begin to imagine, setting him on the dangerous and lonely path of destiny.

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Customer Reviews

I like the premise of this overall storyline: travel between worlds that results in an empire based on Roman, with Roman legions, etc... It allows the author to play with the Legions concept without being bound by actual history, which undoubtedly cuts down on the research, but is also fun for the reader. This is a prequel, so it's about when a younger Stiger first joins the Eagles and doesn't have the additional excitement of the later books with the fantasy elements and finding the 'lost' legion, etc. This story is completely focused on Stiger getting his feet under him, starting to build his confidence, and earning the respect of both his men, fellow officers, and superiors as well as a few detractors along the way - it's very much about the early building of his character. As with the other books, the writing is decent but somewhat lackluster. Descriptions will be above just basics (i.e., tables and stools will be rough tables and rickety-looking stools) but not truly gifted. It doesn't stop the reader from enjoying the story, but it does, unfortunately, make this book a bit less interesting than the later story as it isn't assisted by the additional fantasy elements. This story is just about Stiger and his first experiences in the military. Because the writing is just okay the reader never gets the kind of insight into Stiger's character that a truly gifted writer provides. Yes, he's unsure of himself. Yes, his family is disgraced because of his father and he has to deal with the resulting attitude from everyone he meets. Etc., etc., etc. And yes, he has his moment of epiphany as it were, where he dedicates himself to service to the empire, rather than glory...but as a reader, you never really feel it. The story has a good premise, it's interesting enough that I wanted to keep reading, but it falls just a little bit flat. I really want to connect with Stiger as a protagonist, but there isn't quite enough depth there for it to have happened. Still, it is a good story and I will continue to read the series as it's released. I find it difficult to find good fantasy material, and this is one of the more interesting ones I've come across in the past couple of years. This has a decent premise, and while the writing isn't great, it definitely isn't dreadful. And importantly, the author hasn't tried to make the story unnecessarily complex in order to make up for his writing. His writing should improve with time and experience. In the meantime, the story holds up well enough and is an enjoyable read. One note...I ranked the violence level as 'some' rather than 'graphic'. There is quite a bit of violence during the battle scenes, but I found that it doesn't really stick with you. Again, the writing isn't great, so any blood or gore is described rather perfunctorily and you pretty much forget about it as soon as you turn the page.

I'm pretty critical of authors who try to use historical elements. Marrying them with fantasy and a good sword fighting tale is asking for a disaster of a book. And as someone who loves history I usually want to slap the author. Not this time, the story is superbly written and though it keeps with the traditions of elves and fantasy it is not even for one page formula writing. I highly recommend this for your reading. It is a great sword based adventure. Oh, and he does the whole series without resorting once to long melodramatic love affairs or porn rated sex scenes! A skillful writer indeed !!!

OK, so this makes my fourth review of Marc's books on Stiger (only because he has only published four), and they are all at the top of my must read list. I'm a fan of military fiction (or science fiction) and these are among the best stories written in that genre. This story really fleshes out a lot of Steiger's history and how he got to where he is in the main story arc. It also develops his character to a great extent, making him seem more real than he was before. If you haven't read any of the books before, please be warned that this is an easy addiction to form, and that there are three more tales which you will certainly want to read. The historical aspects reflect correctly (in my opinion) my other readings on how the roman legions actually operated, so they are as historically accurate as is likely to be possible in this time. The politics of the time also seem reasonable for the day and age being described. The books are not for the very young in that there is blood, gore, and deaths (military fiction, remember?). I strongly recommend this book and this series for any fan of military fiction.

I haven't sat down to read a book let alone finish one in over 20 years, I had to take a trip that was 6 hours long. This book and the other Stiger's series has me hooked and got me through those tedious trips. Thank you as well for the audio version by an excellent linguist . So much detail and on edge moments, I very much look forward to the next part .

This should have been 1st as I finished reading the other 3 already. It was good to learn how Stiger came to be. Well written, and enjoyable, but sure would have been useful in the following books, which by the way are really great. It does reflect true to life scenarios. For example, Dealing with elitists and battling against politics in the military. But it was interesting to follow him as he develops into a learner and leader, and how gradually the mystical forces start entering his life.. This won't keep you awake nights, but it will be enjoyable.

As an ex-senior NCO, it was good to see a story that shows how a Senior NCO can help make an officer (if the officer is willing and able) whom his men would follow to Hell with an empty squirt gun or how the men (and the aforementioned capable officer) deal with officers you wouldn't follow to a camp fire with a fully deployed pumper truck. Normally, I don't like prequels as I already know the end of the story. But, this story was written with enough new material that it was not boring. It did not conflict with the characters we already knew and leaves you looking forward to the next books.

Marc Edelheit continues to delight with the new tale about Stiger and his early days with the Legion. Well written and an entertaining read. While not an historical novel in the strictest sense, the research behind the Roman legionnaires is exceptional. Reminiscent of Sharpe by Bernard Cornwall, this book...and Mr. Edelheit's other works...gradually develop their own unique world that is great fun to explore and leaving one wondering just what the heck is going to happen next!

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