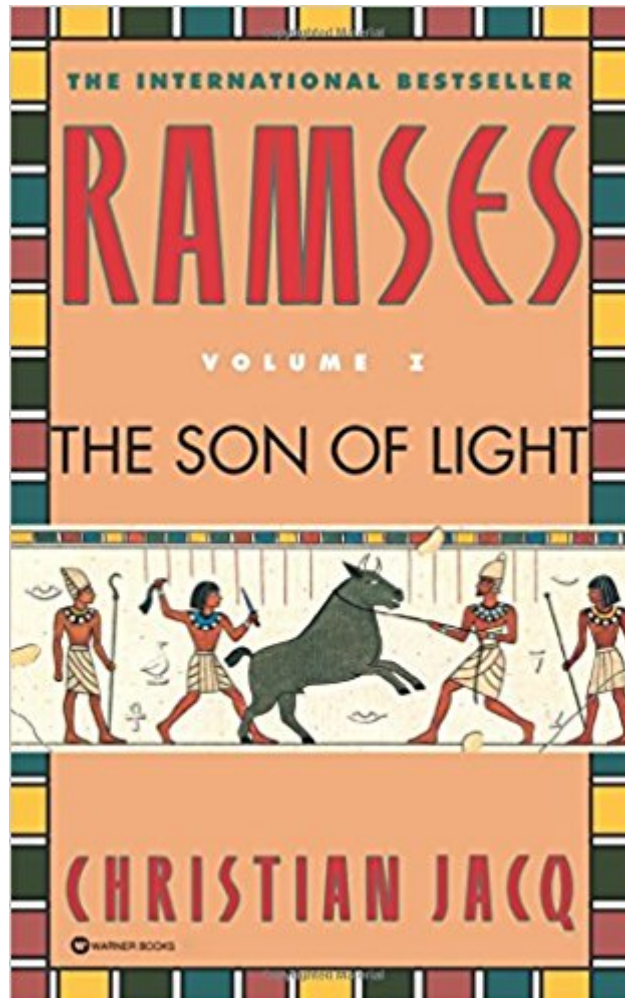




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Ramses: The Son Of Light - Volume I



Synopsis

Historical fiction meets mythology as ancient Egypt comes alive in this monumental epic with over 2 million copies sold around the world. At fourteen, Ramses, the second son of the Pharaoh Seth, must begin to pass a series of royal tests designed to build his mental and physical prowess or break him. Is Seth planning to leave the world's most powerful empire to Ramses, and not his corrupt brother, Shaanar? Before he knows it, the younger prince is surrounded by enemies and turning to his friends: Moses, the brilliant young Hebrew; Setau, the snake charmer and mage; Ahmeni; the frail scholar; and Set and Nefertari, the two beautiful women Ramses loves. And so begins the journey of the hero the world has yet to know... Let the saga begin. The first in Christian Jacque's bestselling Ramses series, recounting the thrilling story of Ramses, the legendary king who ruled Egypt for more than 60 years. Ramses sets into motion a tapestry of royal intrigue, treacherous plots, and romantic adventures that will keep readers spellbound and hungry for more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

I have to admit, I had been avoiding reading this series of novels for the reasons that many reviewers cite here. The language is simple, the character development is non-existent, the suspension of disbelief is nearly impossible. I suspect some issue may come from being translated from French into English, or just because Christian Jacq is not the strongest writer of fiction. As a

reader, I can forgive him for these things. We open the story when Prince Ramses, second in line for the throne of the Pharaohs, is in scribal school with several friends. He is taken by none other than his father, Seti I to face down a bull. Ramses will either conquer the bull and his fear, or he will die. Surviving the incident, he is left wondering what life will have in store for him. Several other encounters with his royal father, leave Ramses wondering, and once in a while convinced, that he, rather than his manipulative and decidedly oily brother, Shanaar, will become Pharaoh. There are plenty of plots, campaigns into neighboring lands, wars that quell rebellious vassal states to keep you reading. Ramses, much like the scores of ancient Egyptian monuments that bear his name are larger than life. It is very different from the novels that I am used to reading, such as those by Pauline Gedge, who is the absolute gold standard against which all other authors are measured when it comes to historical fiction set in Ancient Egypt. I was pleasantly surprised, however, that while French Egyptologist, Christian Jacq is most definitely no Pauline Gedge, I rather did enjoy the book for the mindless fun that it provided for me. I have been fascinated by Ancient Egypt since I was about 9 years old. I have devoured every bit of fiction associated to it, both good and bad that I could lay my hands on. I also have many shelves lined with non-fiction texts, both for the lay public and university level papers and books geared toward professional Egyptology. With all of that, I have absolutely no illusions that the Ramses series is anything but mindless entertainment. This book, is neither historically accurate nor particularly good in terms of fiction. It was, however, a very fast read, and I devoured it in a matter of hours. I think Jacq, who is himself an Egyptologist, is just engaging in a fictional romp in a way that maybe Ramses himself would have painted the picture. Everybody, no matter how serious and learned their job is in real life, deserves to unwind and have a bit of fun. This book is just that and I am glad to have been taken along for the ride. For me, it was enough mindless fun to not only have read this book, but ended up purchasing the remainder of the series on my Kindle.

I found this book rather simply written, not much detail or character depth. As fairly well informed on the 18th and 19th dynasties, I expected more and found many questionable aspects of the book, which do not ring true with history. For instance, Seti I was a hands on guy who clearly was involved with his son from an early age. The idea that pharaohs never saw their sons until the boys were adults...waaa? Anyway, the juvenile way it was written did not intrigue me, so I struggled through it. Read Pauline Gedge instead.

The young Ramses stared the bull in the face. He was afraid. The bull was so fierce. The young

prince turned to his father, Seti I, for help. "You're sending me to my death", cried the young boy. The pharaoh responded "You must become the light of your people, shining like the sun. You were hidden in my hand like a star; today I am setting you free. To shine-or to vanish!" Thus would begin the long and vibrant career of Egypt's greatest pharaoh. The first of a five-volume set, Christian Jacq's novel of the life of Ramses the Great begins with the king's early life in Egypt. The supremely confident prince thought he was certain to succeed his father to the Horus Throne, but he was the only one who did. His brother, Shanaar, was the designated heir and he was jealous of his younger brother. His teacher said his name isn't even mentioned in court circles. He was told to leave town. Yet the prince was driven toward power and would never settle for anything less. He had a friend who felt the same way. A fire inside him driving him toward something great. That man was Moses. Even at a young age he began questioning the gods and was troubled by dreams he couldn't understand. Life would not be easy for the young prince. He would face many obstacles that would put his life in danger. His father was an enigma to him-leaving him to believe he was testing him for greatness and then abandoning him. If he was the Son of Light he would have to battle the forces of darkness and they would come from people very close to him. In ancient Egyptian culture the pharaoh was the protector of ma'at, the protector of order. To prove he was worthy of the honor he would have to prove it in the great battleground of Egypt. It would be order against chaos; light against darkness; and those storm clouds would gather threatening to consume the light before it had a chance to shine. Christian Jacq weaves together an exciting tale, based on the life of Ramses II of Egypt. This was the time of Moses and we're introduced to him as a young teenage friend of the Prince. It was also the time of the battle of Troy and in Greek mythology Menelaus and Helen were forced by a great storm to the shores of Egypt. Jacq even has Homer conversing with the Crown Prince sharing his stories and philosophy with him. Finally, there is the living pharaoh, Seti I, who is seen as the gentle and wise ruler imparting his wisdom to his son. It is an exciting beginning to what promises to be one of the ancient world's most glorious times.

I was thrilled to be able to read C. Jacq's Rameses novels here in USA. He is truly one of the great pioneer writers bringing Ancient Egypt to life. That said, the novel is yet somewhat flat as he is painting life as we have imagined it in the mid 20th cent. I am wishing for dialogues less brusque, less choppy and with more zest. Could it be the translation? Yet, the novel brings to life long forgotten great man and his phenomenal input to the world's heritage, for which we are simply grateful.

Written (or translated) as if by or for a child. (and not YA either!)

Great story loved this book!

It's an extremely easy and fast read but terribly misleading. Historically inaccurate. If you read this go into it knowing it's PURE fiction. Honestly, outside of it's misleading, the writing was so remedial I found it uninteresting. More like a soap opera than an opportunity to learn ANYTHING of the time. The only thing historical about this book would be the names Ramses and Moses...which the author does a fine job of bastardizing rather than bringing to life in a manner that is believable.

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