



Heroes Die (Acts of Caine Book 1)

By Matthew Woodring Stover

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Heroes Die (Acts of Caine Book 1) By Matthew Woodring Stover

HEROES DIE

But Caine's no hero. He's an assassin.

Renowned throughout the land of Ankhana as the Blade of Tyshalle, Caine has killed his share of monarchs and commoners, villains and heroes. He is relentless, unstoppable, simply the best there is at what he does. He is free.

At home on Earth, Caine is Hari Michaelson, a superstar whose adventures command an audience of billions. Yet he is shackled by a rigid caste society, bound to ignore the grim fact that men die on a far-off world for the entertainment of his own planet--bound to keep his rage in check.

But now Michaelson has crossed the line. His estranged wife, Pallas Rill, has mysteriously disappeared in the slums of Ankhana. To save her, he must confront the greatest challenge of his life: a lethal game of cat and mouse with the most treacherous rulers of two worlds.

Matthew Woodring Stover has created a spectacular, page-turning epic where a Jackal-type assassin maneuvers through a vivid Tolkienesque world. With a plot as driven as its main character and drawn against a setting as vivid as the very best in fantasy, *Heroes Die* is a brilliant feat of the imagination.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After two fantasy novels (Iron Dawn; Jericho Moon), Stover combines fantasy and SF in this vigorous adventure story. Our world has developed a hyper-rigid, occupation-based caste system in which the reading of freedom-based philosophy, from John Locke to Robert A. Heinlein, is punished. For entertainment, people participate vicariously in recorded Adventures from the Overworld, an other-dimensional realm of sword and sorcery with its own repressive government. On Earth, Hari Michaelson is the most popular Actor in Adventures; in Ankhana, with its rich palaces and criminal slums, he is known as Caine, the Blade of Tyshalle, famous assassin and warrior. Tired of killing, Hari agrees to return to the Overworld, driven to save his estranged wife, Pallas Ril?Actor and sorceress, unable to return to Earth due to a powerful spell?and ordered by the Studio to kill the tyrant Ma'elKoth. Stover's writing throughout is unoriginal but vivid, and his story is well plotted (though relentlessly violent), with numerous noteworthy secondary characters, from Hari's father to Kierandal, the non-human manager of a vice-den in the Overworld's Alien Town. Hari begins as a stereotyped cold-blooded killer but develops credibly, gaining a sense of moral responsibility and realizing that his true enemies are not on the Overworld but within the Studio that directs his life for its profits. Stover's fans and those who like their fantasy/SF tinged red should enjoy this energetic tale. Author tour.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Dubious sf/fantasy hybrid from the author of the paperback Iron Dawn. Stover's future Earth is run by and for the entertainment networks, with society locked into a rigid and unforgiving caste system. Coexisting with Earth but in another dimension is planet Overworld, with its stereotypical medieval sword-and-sorcery fantasy scenario. Entertainers from Earth can be projected into Overworld, their adventures then relayed back for vicarious VR enjoyment. So on Earth, Actor Hari Michaelson does what his boss, Arturo Kollberg, chairman of San Francisco Studio, tells him; on Overworld, Hari becomes Caine, a dreaded and highly successful assassin. But now also on Overworld, the Emperor Ma'elKoth, together with his henchman, the supernally skillful swordsman Count Berne, has achieved supreme power by mounting a successful pogrom against ``Aktirs," thus threatening Earthly profits and the engineering of new dramas. Kollberg therefore orders Hari back to Overworld, where his mission will be to kill Ma'elKoth and rescue his ex-wife, the Actor Shanna Leighton, trapped on Overworld in one of her two identities, as the revolutionary Pallas Ril or the resistance fighter Simon Jester. Unfortunately for Hari, Ma'elKoth is already aware of Caine and Pallas/Simon and has devised his own plans accordingly. So, can Caine kill his enemies, survive a voyage of painful self-discovery, and win back his lovely wife? Shallow and unsurprising, a furious, gory hack-'em-up with even for this subgenre a high expletive count. Stover does, however, work hard to develop his characters. (Author tour) -- *Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"DAY OF THE JACKAL MEETS LORD OF THE RINGS . . . A marvelous conspiracy thriller of worlds within worlds, where no one is necessarily who or what they seem."

--SIMON R. GREEN

Author of the Deathstalker series

"Vivid . . . Well-plotted . . . [A] vigorous adventure story."

--Publishers Weekly

From the Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Brown:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has different personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great along with important the book *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1). All type of book can you see on many sources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Odis Hillyard:

Now a day people who Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources in it can be true or not need people to be aware of each information they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1) book because this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Shelia Tonn:

This *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1) is great publication for you because the content which can be full of information for you who have always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it facts accurately using great arrange word or we can point out no rambling sentences included. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1) in your hand like finding the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world with ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt which?

James Valenzuela:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This book *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1) was colorful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book *Heroes Die* (Acts of Caine Book 1) has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teenagers. For example *Naruto* or *Private investigator Conan* you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading this.

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