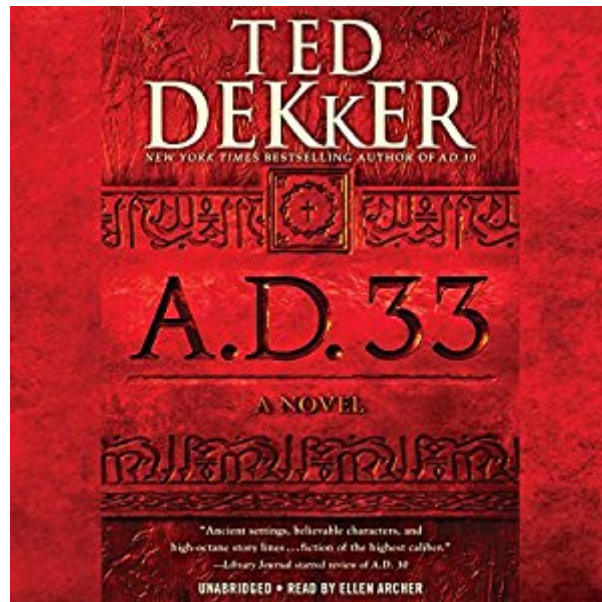


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A.D. 33: A Novel: A.D., Book 2



Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Ted Dekker delivers the gripping story of Maviah, a slave who becomes a queen in Arabia in AD 33. They call her the Queen of the Outcasts. Maviah, a woman whose fate was sealed on her birth by this world - unwanted, illegitimate, female, a slave - subject to the whims of all. But then she met a man named Yeshua who opened her eyes. She found strength in his words, peace from the brutal world around her. Because of what he taught her, she has gathered her own traveling kingdom of outcasts deep in the desert, wielding an authority few have seen. But when her growing power threatens the rulers around her, they set out to crush all she loves, leaving her reeling as a slave once more. She must find Yeshua to save her people, but when she does, she will be horrified to discover that he faces his own death. Enter a story full of intrigue, heart-wrenching defeat, uncompromising love, and staggering victory - one that reexamines everything you thought you knew about the heart of Jesus' stunning message and the power that follows for those who follow his easily forgotten way.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Three years have passed since Maviah the slave became Maviah the Bedu Queen "Queen of the Outcasts, Daughter of Yeshua. Those three years have not been easy. Her lover lies in prison in Dumah. She is the leader of all those cast out by the Thamud. Life is harsh, yes, but life is real and worth living as a daughter of the King. And now the time is come. It is time to set the captives free. From page one, A.D. 33 throws readers back into the carefully crafted Beduoin world of the first century, a world strangely foreign to even scholars of the Gospels. Dekker wastes no time getting

readers up to speed, meaning that while A.D. 33 can be read by itself, you most certainly will not want to do that. Instead, take some time to travel through A.D. 30. It will give you much needed insight into the characters and their motivations. The story is a surprise a minute, peppered with thoughts that make you slow down and think. The A.D. series has been some of Dekker's most personal work and, as such, let me be frank, the message is not very subtle. Many times I heard Ted speaking, rather than his characters. Take that as a flaw, take that as a highlight, your choice. But the message is wrapped around an incredible story of war and intrigue as Maviah seeks to hold true to identity as a daughter of Yeshua while yet dealing with those who would come against her to destroy her. Though I doubt Ted would forthrightly claim such, I definitely saw shades of Thomas Hunter in Maviah's character. I shan't say much about the plot, lest I spoil the surprise. Dekker handles the characterization of Yeshua very well. Usually, "Jesus characters" either come off as less-than-Jesus or incredibly forced and stilted.

WOW! Three simple letters that define how blown my mind is by Ted Dekker's latest novel. It quite literally goes beyond what the human mind can comprehend or even begin to put into words. Perhaps the best part of this novel is the disclaimer that Ted offers to readers that this is a fictional novel written using various portions of Scripture from the Bible to transport readers back in time to a pivotal moment in history that has forever changed the world. A.D. 33 is the sequel to Dekker's previous novel A.D. 30 in which the queen of the desert known as Maviah finds herself questioning the very experience of Yeshua whom she encountered in the city of Petra. She now finds herself in great opposition in defending that very faith for the lives not only of the Bedouin people, but also the life of the orphan boy, Talya, she is raising since the death of her own child, at the hands of those that defy Yeshua and His teachings. As she attempts to reconcile the recent kidnapping of the love of her life, Judah, she finds she must search within herself and resolve the very identity she believes defines her and those around her. As a woman in the culture of the Middle East, she carries as much weight as those considered outcasts by society. She struggles with knowing how to apply the power she has found in her faith in Yeshua, but like all of us, when pushed to the breaking point, realizes that her faith is much like that of seed scattered among the rocks, when adversity comes, it withers. As those she truly cares for and loves is brought under the tyranny of those in power, she wonders how those who follow Yeshua keep their faith.

This continues Maviah's story from AD 30. Now, she's in the desert, queen of her people --the only woman given a voice in council--and facing trials (what's new?). Her beloved Judah is imprisoned

by the ruthless betrayer Kahil. Her backstabbing brother (Maliku) continues to side with the enemy. Her people are at risk of starvation. The men want war with those who stole their place, property, and pride. But Maviah seeks to do as Yeshua taught: live with and by peace, not the sword. However, just when it seems that peace will be theirs and starvation averted--unexpected problems. New betrayals. And bad counsel. When Maviah heeds the voice of man and rage and not the voice of Yeshua, when the way of sword seems the right and inevitable course, peace will be lost. And much more than peace. She must seek and find Yeshua's voice again...and that will lead to new surprises for her. The best part of this, for me, is being in Maviah's head and in her voice. She's a hugely likable and courageous character, though not perfect. Like us, she doesn't always know what is the right thing to do and can make mistakes. But Dekker writes her voice very well, nobly. Readers should enjoy visiting the milieu of desert people and their difficult life and foreign ways. Dekker's fantasy/SF fans will enjoy the strategy, machinations, and battling. And those moments of faith when it "feels" like magical-wonder. Christians will enjoy seeing how often (very often) Scripture is used, paraphrased, and integrated into dialogue and character thoughts. The teachings of Christ saturate this story. Here's an example: "He was ruled by bitterness, I by acceptance. He, then, was the slave of this harsh taskmaster called earth, not I.

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