



Tyrant: Destroyer of Cities

Christian Cameron

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Demetrius, son of Alexander's former comrade, Antigonus One-Eye, was perhaps the most dashing and charismatic of the Successors, the Macedonian generals who fought a bitter war for the spoils of Alexander's short-lived empire.

Still smarting from his epic defeat at the hands of Ptolemy, Demetrius has his eye on one of the richest prizes in the ancient world—the naval superpower of Rhodes. But the Rhodians know that defeat will mean annihilation, and Demetrius's campaign will entail five separate naval battles over several years before he can begin to breach the city walls—leading him to employ an array of fantastic war machines: ancient super-weapons, like his gigantic lens of polished bronze used to focus on the city's wooden ramparts and set them ablaze. If she is to survive against such a merciless assault, Rhodes will need the help of every ally she can muster—including the newly crowned King of the Bosphorus, Satyrus, and his fiery twin, Melitta...

Tyrant: Destroyer of Cities Details

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Author : Christian Cameron

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From Reader Review Tyrant: Destroyer of Cities for online ebook

Robin Carter says

Review

Cards on the table I'm a big fan of the writing of Christian Cameron, that said i approach every book by every author with the same open expectation of "wow me".

It was like having old friends come to visit with wild tales of exploits and adventure ... Simply brilliant.

Reading Tyrant Destroyer of Cities has had that WOW, it is a fantastic tale broad in scope, both for stand out historical moments and also Great names from Greek history and yet its still written and characterised in such detail that you live eat sleep and breathe the ancient Greek world.

As it was the 5th book in the series it was like donning your favourite slippers, and slumping in a favourite armchair with a nice cuppa, a lovely comfortable feeling, and yet still full of emotion and action to have you wanting to step into the line of battle and save some of those wonderful characters, to weep at the waste of life, so hug your comrades in words and arms. As ever Christians attention to detail and history is second to none. Add to that the fact that his sea borne stories get better and more detailed with every one, putting him up there with the greats of the waves like O'Brian, it almost feels he wrote the book whilst riding the waves.

Another personal like is that there is yet another link to the Long War series and Satyrus's ancestor Arimnestos of Plataea coupled with the demi god Herakles, it adds that extra dimension bringing the whole Cameron world together.

You can read this as a stand alone tale, but i would say dive in at book one and follow the journey of the whole family... and then get the long war series and follow the tales of Arimnestos of Plataea. There is no finer writer of Historical Fiction and adventure.

Very Highly Recommended

(Parm)

Chris says

Must say I'm a big fan of Christian Camerons Historical Fiction Novels.

Tyrant V: Destroyer of Cities did meet my high expectations.

Rooted in the Wars of the Diadochi- era- the succession wars over Alexander the Great's leacy, Tyrant V features the siege of Rhodes 305-304 BC by Demetrios, the golden one, son of Antigonos one- eye.

The protagonists of the novel, Satyrus and Melitta, the children of Kineas of Athens and Srayanka, queen of the Assagetae (The Skythians) featured in Tyrant 1 and 2. Have risen to power themselves als King of the Bosporus and Queen of the Assagetae. (Tyrant 4), now they both get drawn into the conflict between Demetrios and Ptolmy.

King of the bosporus Satyrus has to protect his economy , which relies heavily on the grain production and grain trade, and for that he needs that independent distribution and consumption market, which is is Rhodes. With Athens, Greece and Asia minor already firmly in the grip of Demetrios, it is vital for the Kingdom of

the Bosphorus to support its old allies Ptolmy and Rhodes – the ones that helped Satyrus carve out his kingdom in the first place- to retain the balance, and retain the independence of the Kingdom.

When he sets off in spring with his grain fleet and war-fleet to protect it- before he knows it he's in the middle of the Maelstrom. He's in the big sea battles, in the sea raids to protect Egypt from the invasion of Antigonus one-eye, and eventually ends up on Rhodes where he is in the middle of the siege, and becomes one of the key figures in the defence, aided by his twin sister amazon queen and her warriors who ships in to support her brother.

In all of this Christian Cameron plays the plot with a masterful hand. Stunning sea action, stunning battle action, wily naval and defence tactics, and a stunning level of historical detail in all of this that makes it all so vivid like you're really there in middle of the turmoil of the hellenistic world in 305 and 304 BC.

In Tyrant V- Christian Cameron also connects and links his two major novel series in the classic greek and hellenistic era- the Tyrant series and the Long War series. The bloodline of Arimnestos the Plataean from the long war series flows through Kineas of Athens straight into the bloodline of the Kings of the Bosphorus. What a family of heroes!.

As far as I know there is no historical evidence whatsoever that puts the King of the Bosphorus directly in the middle of the siege of Rhodes, but for me as a reader Christian Cameron is excused for taking this liberty. Satyrus is a great hero, and moreover a very credible and human hero. The perfect vessel for Christian Cameron to play out his superb narrative skills and vast encyclopedical knowledge of the era.

Tyrant V is a good stand alone, but also one of the highlights of the Tyrant series so far. Reading it felt like meeting old friends.

One point of criticism.. The cover is ugly as hell, but I got much too much reading pleasure from Tyrant V to let that affect my rating :)

Mark says

My least favorite of all the Tyrant books. In Destroyer of Cities, Kineas' son, Satyrus, seems more resilient and unbeatable than his near demi-godlike father. And seems to follow a predictable course. He enters a major battle, miraculously defeating all enemies, yet, despite his win, his allies still seem to be losing. This happens a couple of times, then he gets hurt badly, or deathly sick, is out of commission for a while. then he returns and the process begins again. SPOILER ALERT: He dominates the story and he wins. Also, his twin sister, Mellita appears to play a minor role in the book, seemingly added onto her brother's tale, for some reason, adding little too the story until the very end. where she makes an appearance, shoots her bow, and, of course,Spoiler..... she succeeds in hitting her target,

Ian says

The siege of the great city of Rhodes, by Demetrios the Besieger of Cities, told through the eyes of a defender. Well, what can I say? Well written, exciting, lots of political and personal details, but, I grew tired of the constant slaughter, death, and destruction. I raced through the last half of the novel. If anything, this novel tells how dumb things are repeated through history.

I would recommend to any interested reader of histfic, but I don't believe I will be rereading.

Clemens Schoonderwoert says

This astonishing book is the 5th volume of the wonderful and gripping Tyrant series.

Once more the book has been historically very well researched and described in the historical and author's note at the end of the book, and you'll find a well defined glossary at the beginning of the book as well.

Great storytelling makes it once again an absolute joy to read this tale, simply because from start to finish this thrilling adventure keeps you spellbound and gripped throughout.

The book starts off in the year 306 BC until well into the year 305 BC, and it tells us mainly about the Siege of Rhodes by Demetrios, son of Antigonus One-Eye.

Demetrios is determined to take Rhodes at all costs, and so he and his army and fleet are completely surrounding Rhodes with deadly siege engines to destroy the city.

Against him he will find Satyrus, King of the Bosphorus, who's surrounded by his closest friends, and this same Satyrus is determined to save the city from destruction.

What will follow is a thrilling book with great battle scenes, wonderful interaction between all the characters within this very entertaining tale, not forgetting of course dirty politics, intrigue and treachery, and last but not least a most fascinating and exciting telling of the Siege of Rhodes itself.

Very much recommended, for this is a superb historical novel, and one that I like to call as "A Tremendous Read"!

Steve says

Great addition to Tyrant series. Satirus and Melitta are at their prime and continue to fight for their right.

Cameron comes back to the seas and as always delivers an incredible insight into ancient naval warfare.

This installation of the series also brings a new phase to historical and warfare account of the period with an engaging and detailed view into siege warfare.

Well written and entertaining, with never failing action and combat.

MirkoHauer says

the best book in the saga. it's great.

PaleHorsemen says

3,5

The first two books were masterpieces, the third one I liked very much. But the fourth and now the fifth one begin to change my attitude to the series. This one's plot (unlike the previous one) was good even if the siege description was too loong. But the final fight and duel, black and white presentation of some characters spoiled the impression. two main characters who grow more whimsical, blind and hypocrite and cause good people's deaths irritate me more and more .

Cristian says

¡Que buen libro! es el último (por ahora) de la saga y la guerra de los Diádocos cada vez es mejor. El mejor ejemplo de cómo, después de un líder absolutamente brillante pero acaparador (Alejandro), surgen conflictos inimaginables y con proporciones realmente épicas como el asedio de Rodas. Muy recomendado.

Bill says

The grain trade is central to the survival of the Kingdom of the Bosphorus. Satyrus goes to the aid of ally and trading partner Rhodes as Demetrius, son of Antigonus, puts the city under siege. Historical fiction at its best!

Matt Hepe says

I am a huge fan of Christian Cameron's books. This one did not disappoint. As usual Cameron does a wonderful job filling his novels with historical detail without sounding like he is lecturing you. The rich history and culture of the Hellenistic world comes through as a natural part of the story.

Filled with gripping action, the novel follows Satyrus (mostly) and Melitta (to a much lesser extent) as they take part in the epic Siege of Rhodes. I am very much looking forward to the next book in the series.

Chris Wray says

I enjoyed this penultimate entry in the Tyrant series, and the historical setting in which Satyrus and Melitta live is absolutely fascinating. I have enjoyed the fact that they control small (Satyrus) and peripheral (Melitta) kingdoms that are caught up in the clash of empires that followed the death of Alexander the Great. In particular, the siege of Rhodes provided a great backdrop to the second half of the book. Satyrus is still not quite a compelling character, but is definitely more interesting and has more depth than in earlier books in the series. Like Kineas before him, he is all too aware of his flaws and mortality, and that makes him human and quite convincing. It is also interesting to see him start to learn to be a king.

There were also a few things that annoyed me, and that held me back from giving this four stars. The first is Melitta herself, as her character was pretty pointless in this book. I also remain unconvinced that a high born Greek lady could transform herself into the warrior queen of the Scythians. Another thing that was unconvincing was the ending, as the final victory was just a little bit too convenient. I get that it was meant to be like a storm breaking after the tension had mounted over several hundred pages, but it just didn't feel quite right to me. Some of the dialogue was also a bit irritating and sounded too modern. This might all sound like nitpicking, but I have come to expect a lot from this series. Altogether, this was an enjoyable enough read but missed out on being anything more.

Jeff Frane says

Excellent volume in Cameron's series on the Diadochi, the successors to Alexander the Great. Most of the book takes place during the year-long siege of Rhodes, which ultimately resulted in the abandonment of the siege by the aggressor. Cameron seems to be getting better and better, especially in comparison to a few of the earlier books in the series. There is a "final" volume in the series published this year, although the author is a little cagy about whether or not the series is really over.

Liviu says

The 3rd Satyrus and Melitta novel and moving ahead in time some 5-6 years after the events of King of the Bosphorus, Destroyer of Cities continues superbly the series with high octane action, narrative energy and the usual "realistic feel" of the author.

While the main event is indeed the famous siege of Rhodes, the book covers much more and is chock full of action, intrigue and powerful moments.

The prose style is very smooth - this was the main issue in the earlier C. Cameron novels but now the author seems to write effortlessly and roll on all cylinders.

The historical background is reasonably accurate - of course the main hero of the story Satyrus and his role are inventions but they are inspired from the real story as the author describes in the afterword.

If you are familiar with the author's work you will recognize quite a few motives and pieces of action, both naval and on land - while #5 this works well as a standalone with the back story alluded to

As for negatives, it depends on what you want from this book - Satyrus who finally grows to be the the larger than life character that Kineas was, all the action that is somewhat more suited for sff than historical fiction...

polished version of the above on FBC:

<http://fantasybookcritic.blogspot.com...>

Clay Kallam says

I stumbled into this six-book series by way of one of my favorite recent fantasy series, the Traitor Son Cycle by Miles Cameron. I noticed that, for some unknown reason, Cameron also wrote under the name of Christian Cameron, and had a series set in the time of Alexander the Great.

As one who knows way too much about that Hellenistic time period, and one who loved Cameron's previous work, I was all in from the moment I started volume one, Tyrant. And as this is a connected series that really needs to be read in order to be appreciated, this review is of all six books considered as a whole, rather than a review of each book (though parenthetical notes will be appended for each).

The story covers about 30 years of ancient history, ending in 301 BCE at the Battle of Ipsos. Now if you already know who won the Battle of Ipsos, you will be a little too far ahead of the game, for much of the

suspense of the series (which includes other historical events) will be lost – and you will also be surprised by some revisions Cameron makes in order to tell the story the way he wants to.

But the basic premise is this: Cameron inserts fictional, high-ranking characters into the complicated weave of Hellenistic history, and has them participate in events both major and minor. For the most part, this works extremely well, as Cameron’s grasp of the minutiae of Hellenistic life and his gritty sense of the bloody, painful and horrific cost of ancient warfare is superb. He is also an excellent writer, so the story moves along at a brisk pace, flagging only momentarily in the later volumes.

There are issues, of course. Like Star Trek, Kineas and Satyrus, the two main protagonists, are in the front lines way too often to be believed, especially in the later books, and their interactions with the major historical figures seem unnecessary, as if the editors insisted that somehow Kineas and Alexander are in contact, and so are Satyrus and various Hellenistic leaders.

Cameron, though, is perfectly willing to kill off major characters, and in sudden and unexpected ways, which adds a tremendous amount of tension to battle scenes and assassination attempts (unlike Star Trek). There’s also some magical realism thrown in, but any attempt to explain the plot would require much more patience than any reader of this review is likely to have.

But in short, Kineas, Satyrus and his woefully underutilized twin sister Melitta (why wasn’t she more prominent in the narrative?), all represent what we now consider Southern Russia, at the north of what we call the Black Sea. In those times, it was the place where the steppe nomads and expanding population of farmers and colonizers crossed paths, and it became a crucial part of the Hellenistic game of thrones given its ability to produce grain that the Mediterranean cities desperately needed to feed their people.

So Cameron tosses these characters, their soldiers and their grain into the Hellenistic mix, and in the end, comes up with a wonderful series that I enjoyed from start to finish. Then again, I love excellent historical fiction, and this is my favorite period, so I’m hardly unbiased. But I will say this: If you have even a passing interest in the world of Alexander the Great after his death, the Tyrant series is for you. I just wish there were more than six volumes.

* * * * *

As the protagonists move closer to the center stage of history, those who have some grasp of Hellenistic times will begin to know what's going to happen. Granted, Cameron changes things up -- the months'-long struggle that takes up the second half of the book didn't really play out exactly as he describes it -- but the relationship between the relatively well known historical character Demetrios and the fictional Satyrus is overdone and takes over too much of the narrative in the last two books.
