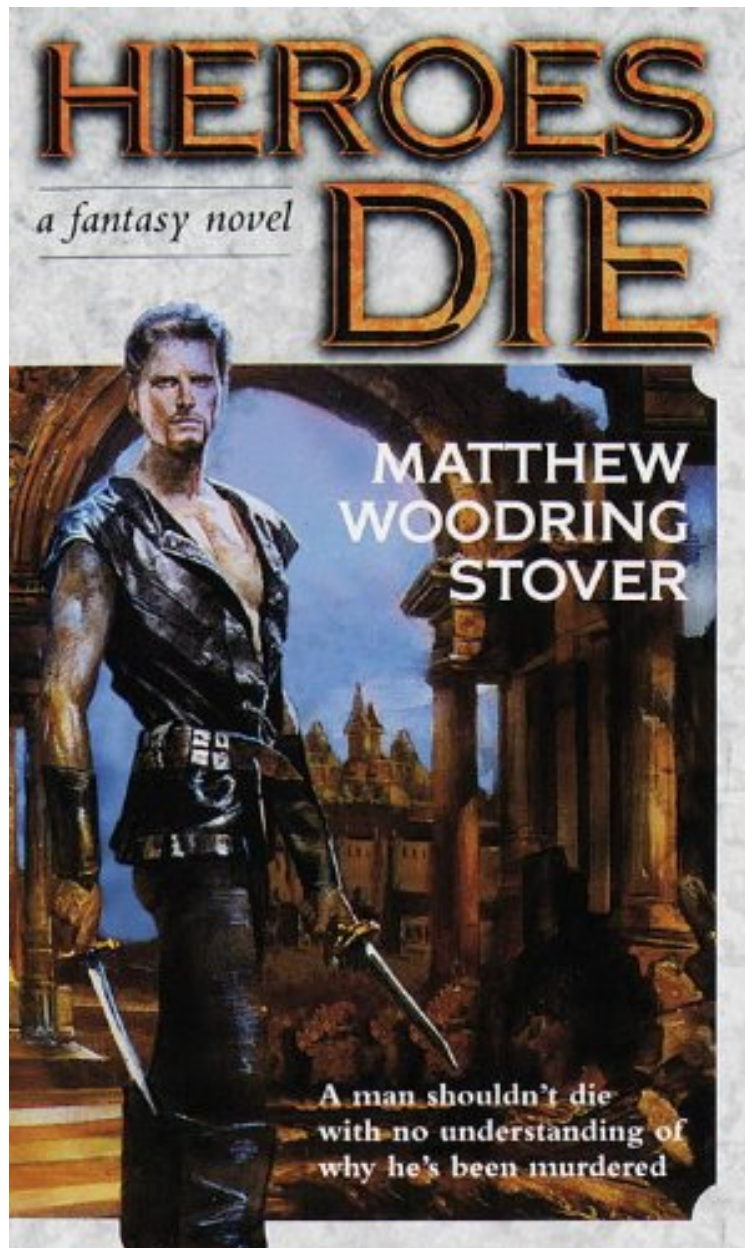


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## Heroes Die (Acts of Caine)

Von Matthew Woodring Stover

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**Von Matthew Woodring Stover : Heroes Die (Acts of Caine)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heroes Die (Acts of Caine):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Fantasy's best kept secret Von Meier Christian "Heroes Die" is the best sci-fi/fantasy novel no one knows. It's astonishing that this book isn't mentioned more often when it comes to discussing Top 10 fantasy novels. Yes, it's THAT good. And what's worse, its follow-up "Blade of Tyshalle" isn't even in print anymore. Talk about underappreciated. What makes this book so great? It isn't its setting; as already mentioned by other reviewers, there's several books out there that use virtually the same sci-fi/fantasy background. It's not really the characters, either; Stover's a bit too much in love with both his protagonist and his antagonist for my liking, and while most characters are mostly believable, almost none of them is really fleshed-out and three-dimensional. Most can be summarized using a handful of adjectives. And while the story is solid, it's nothing to write home about either. It sometimes feels like a retelling of a pen and paper roleplaying session, a background I strongly suspect Stover coming from. So what is it? It's Stover's incredible writing style that really propels this book forward. Stover was Abercrombie before Abercrombie. His prose has amazing momentum while staying plausible and polished at the same time. "Heroes Die" is one of the very few fantasy books I know that are utterly convincing. Everything happens for a reason and not just because it's convenient for the book's plot. Funny how I first thought of Stover as this martial arts guy who also happens to be a hired writer for Star Wars and other franchises. Shows that you should never judge a book by its cover (pun intended ... just look at "Heroes Die"'s cover. I mean, come on). While "Heroes Die" may not be great literature or epic fantasy, it may very well be the best pulp sci-fi/fantasy book ever written. Stover's style is nothing short of irresistible. Highly recommended. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Surprisingly real, gritty, and entertaining. Von Corbie@deadguys.com This book is so unlike Stover's other stuff. The plot while fantastic is made believable by the convincing characters. Caine would make a great series subject. His cynical, bloody, and sometimes fatalistic outlook makes the reader root for him even when he's gone blood simple and just wants to kill somebody. Read this book, it's great! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A page-turning epic with something for all audiences Von Ein Kunde WOW!!! I just finished reading an advance copy of this book (thanks to Coosin Al- a definite Hero). The setting of the book flips between a fantasy setting, and a harsh look at the future of humans on Earth. Both settings were blandly generic though a few original twists and ideas have been thrown in. The compelling points of the book did not involve the setting. However the characters have been carefully formed and well rounded, and more importantly- realistic. Even the supporting characters have a surprising depth to them, with their own beliefs, desires and plots. "Heroes Die" (listed here in as "Caine") is a masterfully built book. A story within a story, independent plots and intrigues are woven together for a believable resolution. Romance, grim humor, blood and death thread themselves through the story, creating a complex pattern that will delight and enthrall the Reader. Matthew Woodring Stover has brought us a book with something for everyone. The story is compelling, and the characters will hook themselves into your heart as you find yourself fighting with the main character against all odds. If you want to read an epic adventure that leaves you wanting more, give this masterpiece by Stover a try. This is the first novel I have read by Stover, and I am now planning on going back and reading his prior novels, "Iron Dawn" and "Jericho Moon."

Kurzbeschreibung 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. From Kirkus sDubious 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 witheven for this subgenrea high expletive count. Stover does, however, work hard to develop his characters. (Author tour) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.Pressestimmen"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 WeeklyFrom the Paperback edition.