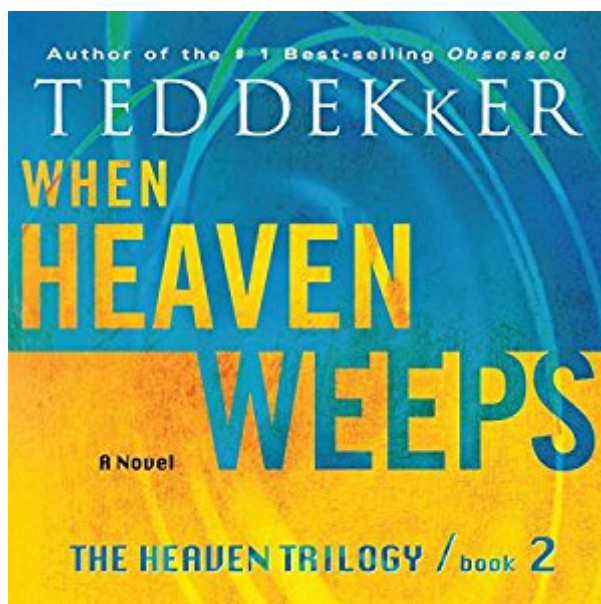


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When Heaven Weeps: The Heaven Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

A thriller unlike any you have ever heard. A love strong enough to bring a tremor to your bones. A sacrifice powerful enough to make heaven weep. At the close of World War II, a shell-shocked soldier, Jan Jovic, was forced to inflict a game of life and death on a peaceful Bosnian community. In a few short hours, this young man was confronted by more love - and hate - than most experience in a lifetime. Years later, Jan has become a world-renown writer with widespread influence in the United States. His past buried deep in his memory. Until at the most inopportune times, the game witnessed by Jan haunts him...and unwittingly leads him to a beautiful but broken women caught in an underworld of crime. He now must defeat an evil rarely seen. But there is a price. One that even this war-scarred soldier can't imagine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

WHEN HEAVEN WEEPS is one of the more powerful novels that I've read in the past few years. The second book of The Martyr's Song series, it is basically a 20th century re-telling of the Biblical story of Hosea. Jan Jovic was a Bosnian soldier in World War II. His troop happened upon a small village where the people were led by a godly man name Father Michael. A confrontation between Michael and Karadzic, Jan's commanding officer, escalated into a terrible tragedy where Michael and a small child named Nadia show Jan the true meaning of the love of Christ in the sacrifices that they make. Jan's eyes are opened and his life will never be the same. Flash forward to the sixties and Atlanta, Georgia. Jan has written a story retelling the story of Nadia and Father Michael entitled

THE DANCE OF THE DEAD. The book became a best seller and Jan has turned his life into a ministry, desiring to show the world what the love of Christ truly means. About to be engaged to his manager, Karen, his life is turned directly upside down one day when he happens upon a junkie named Helen, who is fleeing from her lover (who also happens to be a very dangerous underworld figure). What ensues basically follows the plot of Hosea. Jan unavoidably falls for Helen and Helen responds in kind but she continues to be drawn to her past, and thus becomes unfaithful to Jan multiple times over. In Hosea, God commanded Hosea to take a prostitute as his wife and to love her. The prostitute's unfaithfulness to Hosea was a graphic example of Israel's unfaithfulness to their lover, God. In WHEN HEAVEN WEEPS, the character of Helen represents each of us -- and therein lies the power of the story. WHEN HEAVEN WEEPS is remarkable in that it is quite graphic in its description of sin.

When Heaven Weeps, is a love story dually set in a Balkan village near the end of World War II and America in the late 60's. The story of ex-Serbian soldier Jan Jovic and his courage to learn why loving is dying. The story of Helen, a drug and sex addicted prisoner of her needs and the struggle to receive unconditional love. Finally, it is also the unforgettable story of Ivena, who as a young mother watched her child and most of her village die simply to fulfill a twisted soldier's game. This very game of death and love played expertly first by Ivena's daughter, then by Helen and Jan, knits this novel into a masterpiece of Christian fiction. I picked up this book to read because of three things. One was this sentence on the back, "dive into a romantic thriller like none you've ever read. Drink deeply of a love that will bring a tremor to your bones. Go ahead, it's your turn to play the game. But remember... There is a price. And no one could possibly prepare you for that price." I love books based on relationships and I am absolutely fascinated by thrillers. I had no idea what I had begun. This book not only fulfilled my thirst for a relationship based book with a thrill aspect but it delivered. It changed my thinking. It tightened my belief system. It left me asking months after I read this book "Do I believe and live what I say I believe." Secondly the author's note at the beginning of the book shared a very critical letter written by someone regarding this author's first book in the Martyr's Song series. The criticism was based on bringing an experience from the bible into present day perspective. I had not read the book but was intrigued by the idea of the author being satisfied with this criticism.

Although this story takes place in 1964, there is a "story within a story" in Book One that, to me, was the most emotional, heart-wrenching part of this whole novel. It hearkens back to World War II era

Bosnia where a troop of soldiers, led by the unspeakably evil commander Karadzic, descends upon a peaceful village, turning a child's birthday party into a cruel, degrading, bloody "game". The depth of love confronting evil nearly brought tears to my eyes, and nothing that came afterward in the book had quite the same impact, although parts of it came close. Jan, a soldier who defied Karadzic and spent five years in prison as punishment, comes to Christ and writes a bestselling book about the incident. Now living in America (Atlanta, to be precise), he is engaged to his beautiful and intelligent publicist, and is poised to make millions on a proposed motion picture based on his book. Then he "rescues" a drug-addicted young woman in the park, and his cozy world begins to get turned upside down. Foolishly and recklessly, he falls in love with her. This is a love he tries desperately to fight, but he cannot, because this love comes from God. Significantly, this is a love that scandalizes the evangelical establishment. Complicating matters is that Helen, the young woman, is torn between the unconditional love showered upon her by Jan and her love and craving for drugs, a craving that keeps her coming back to Villain #2, the evil and powerful Glenn Lutz. "When Heaven Weeps" is based on the book of Hosea and the Song of Solomon from the Old Testament. It is symbolic of God's extravagant, almost foolish love for His people.

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