



Gliders of Enlil

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Jon Bishop is a Private in the US Army assigned to an outpost in northern Iraq. When his outpost is overrun by insurgents, he's forced to accept the protection of a secret clan thousands of years old. Because of powers unleashed by the US Military bombings during "Shock and Awe", Jon will have to work with the clan behind enemy lines to stop ancient powers from being used against the US and its allies.

This non-political adventure-fantasy twists and turns from the recent war in Iraq to stories of battles and friendships buried for thousands of years. From civilization's first warlords to today's modern warfare, the stories and characters will pull you in and keep you on the edge of your seat!

Gliders of Enlil Details

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From Reader Review Gliders of Enlil for online ebook

Brent Scherer says

Well I won this book through this website so I felt obligated to get through it and post a review. Honestly, I could have tossed it about 50 pages in.

The premise is interesting involving a US soldier suddenly being swept up in a war between two ancient clans. The problem is the "hero" of the story is essentially useless right up and through the end of the book, always being led by the hand by more experienced people, whining about his situation, and leaving the reader confused why this ancient order needed him at all in the first place. I found myself getting annoyed with him more often than not.

On top of that, an extremely similar story is being told that takes place in the past and it keeps flipping back and forth. It's so similar that there's a typo near the end where the author interchanges the past evil guy's name with the present evil guy's name (OOPS!). They are only related by the "ancient power" the evil guys use. Usually if you have some ancient history you keep flashing back to, you have it somehow tie into the present events. Instead it's its own complete story. It's like the author didn't have enough story to write and so he copied and pasted it with a different setting to stretch it out.

The plot turns out to not be so great either. The ancient power really doesn't seem that strong (definitely not something the US military couldn't handle). The special portal dimension (and just about every location, actually) is poorly described so you don't really get a good feel of what the author is envisioning. The dialogue is sometimes painful, like watching bad acting in a movie that's trying to take itself seriously. There's a couple of light-hearted moments where the attempt at humor just made me groan. There's no character development that I could find. Nobody seems to change their stripes at all from the beginning to the end. The only development seems to be a switch from urban fantasy to full blown fantasy. The author suddenly changes the rules on magic, how much there is and who can use it in the last 20 or so pages of the book.

I was very interested in the premise of the book and was excited to win a free copy from this website. Unfortunately, the plot, style and execution fell far short of what I had hoped.

Steven Atwood says

Jeffrey Carl created a page turning epic fantasy tale during that simultaneously occurred during one of the longest wars in US history. Iraq (formally Babylon) is known for its mysticism as far back as when the Old Testament was written. He combined its supernatural past with present events in a realistic and believable way. This is a well written, enjoyable, and unique story.

Being in the US Army myself, I was unsure what to expect. His descriptions of Iraq FOBs, the terrain, and the local people was outstanding and realistic. I was exceptionally pleased how he brought the setting to life.

The adventure was non-stop and expertly interwoven the fantasy aspects of the story. The characters actions and reactions to the events he laid out was realistic. The dialogue was outstanding with a nicely developed voice for the protagonist.

Gliders of Enlil is a book I will be recommending to my friends.

If you like action or high powered fantasy, then this book is for you.

Scott Spotson says

The premise of this book is quite interesting. After the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq in 2003, the country is still an extraordinarily dangerous place. American troops still guard the critical strategic points of that country, and every day their lives are in danger. Meanwhile, within Iraq, civil war brews, and sometimes tribal leaders who are cruel to their own countrymen align with the Americans. Within this backdrop, there is a legend of three categories of crystal, each with their own powers: red, blue, and yellow (the three primary colours). One of the most prominent tribal leaders has waged civil war against large sections of the populace, by harnessing the powers of two of these categories of crystals: red and blue.

There are really two separate groups who strike back at this head honcho: Group One (my label) consisting primarily of Abdul, Hassan, and Jon, who himself is an American troop, and Group Two (my label) consisting primarily of Rafi, Asid, Ajit, and Tibi.

I love fantasy, and mind you, fantasy is used sparingly in this book, in explaining the magical powers of the crystals. Most of this book focuses on the insurgencies within post-Hussein Iraq as the two allied groups attempt to depose of this powerful warlord, Mukhtar, primarily without the use of magic or the crystals themselves. In this way, this novel reads largely as a guerilla warfare novel, and the author does show his experience with the U.S. military and of post-Hussein Iraq. He understands the power struggles within that country, and that, as we unfortunately know too well, the downfall of Hussein was not the end of the atrocities.

There are some questions that I would like answered in the next version of this book:

What powers does each colour of crystal have? It seems that red and blue together (which Mukhtar possesses) causes great destruction. But what powers does red have on its own, and what of blue? What powers does yellow have? There are now four more possible combinations (including a combination of all three colours), what new powers, if any, does each new pairing have? No need to explore all the possible combinations but some would be nice to explore.

The gliding through the tunnels was described beautifully and sounded like fun. I would have liked a little more context. Was the gliding done underground? Were there actual tunnels under the ground or were the tunnels automatically made by the powers of the crystals, vanishing shortly after they were made? Or was the gliding done through the air? Or not through space - was the gliding done through portals only, but there is a lot of description of gliding through tunnels, so I think it is more than just portals.

That's it for now for the questions. I loved the ending, where the protagonists have to use mythical beasts to get to the desired temple. That was pure fantasy and very effective.

The story seemed a little disjointed with the back-and-forth stories of these two groups of protagonists. Personally, I liked Group Two better, and loved the excitement in the story when they attempted to tame wild horses. Perhaps it would be better to just use one group, and just put the best moments of Group One

into Group Two. That could streamline the story and allow us to feel more attached to the characters.

I've communicated with the author about suggestions to the writing itself and I have a good feeling about this book!

This is quite a unique book, for lovers of fantasy in guerilla warfare and combined with military tactics and strategy, in a very modern and real-life context.

Emma Jaye says

This book consists of two almost identical situations, running concurrently, one set in ancient Babylonia and the other in modern day Iraq. In both settings, a group of 'goodies' tries to remove than same two powerful crystals from a 'baddie'. Blending details of military occupation and portals created by magic crystals is a difficult proposition, but the author succeeds at his task.

The narration flips back and forth between the two time periods in alternate chapters, each being rather short. I wanted to love this book, the premise was an interesting mix of ancient history, fantasy and modern occupied Iraq, but I found myself looking at how many chapters I had left to go several times, which is never a good sign.

The present tense narration was the aspect that let it down for me. The style didn't let me get into the heads of the characters. I wanted to know how the characters felt about what was happening, not merely guessing from what they said, or an expression. I felt very much on the outside watching rather than being inside the story and as such didn't feel very much at all when characters got injured or died. Saying that, I don't think I was the target audience for this book, as I prefer my reading matter to be about the people and their emotions, rather than the action, and this was the opposite. So for anyone that gets fed up with 'slushy stuff' that abounds in most fantasy novels this book would hit the mark.

There were a few typos, but not enough to distract significantly. Plus, and this is very much a personal pet hate, there were more than a smattering of exclamation marks. Enough for the odd grimace, but not teeth grinding.

Overall, a good first novel. With the steep learning curve indie publishing produces, I'll be looking out for further works from this author. His imagination is extraordinary.

Penny Ross says

I found this novel interesting and it was a fast read once you got used to the style. There are 2 stories going on at the same time. I enjoyed the ancient history story more than the present tense story. I related more to the characters in the ancient history tale and looked forward to how the powerful crystals would be restored to their rightful place by the good people as they tried to foil the evildoers.

I would have enjoyed the 2 stories more if the chapters hadn't been so short. I suggest the author have at least two chapters in a row if he's going to flip back and forth between 2 stories or time periods in his next book. There were also a number of grammatical errors and typos that took getting used to. I found the writing choppy at times as the author flipped back and forth between time periods.

Overall Gliders of Enlil was a good novel. I haven't read any books about Iraq since the fall of Saddam

Hussein so it was a compelling concept to include. I love fantasy and epic novels and would enjoy hearing more about the power of the crystals and how they were used throughout the ages. I look forward to reading the next book by this author, as he is imaginative and delivered a unique storyline.

Thomas Jr. says

This book was definitely one of the more interesting reads I have come across in my life. A mix of fantasy and post-war reality, the author blends several story lines and character groups both across time and space.

The beginning was a bit of challenge to get through, as several grammatical errors and the unique writing of the book takes a while to get through, but after 10 or so short chapters I was able to relax and start flipping through the pages.

Within the book exists two storylines – the first entails several individuals living in a post-Hussein world, and a second with the characters living thousands of years prior. These parties become involved in attempting to defeat a powerful warlord, and resort to using a mix of military tactics, quick wits, and intelligence.

However, many things needed further explanation and I often found myself wondering why an event occurred as it did – i.e. there was little foreshadowing/character development to help connect the dots. And while I was eventually able to adjust to the writing style, the continued use of the present tense made it very difficult to understand a characters motives and emotions.

I hope the author continues to write as this was an enjoyable read, and if he can improve upon his writing style he will certainly have a book worth promoting!

Aderonke Moyinlorun says

Gliders of Enlil is an epic fantasy tale with a believable, original and compulsive plot. I must say this is my first time to read a book set in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein. I really like the character development and the story progression throughout the whole book. Characters are well thought of with each character being perfectly in place. The military terms and references are correct. Jeffrey Carl is a talented writer, his knowledge is obvious throughout the pages of this book. For those who want imaginative and excellent writing, original story plot, characters that come alive in the reader's imaginations, this is the book you are looking for.
