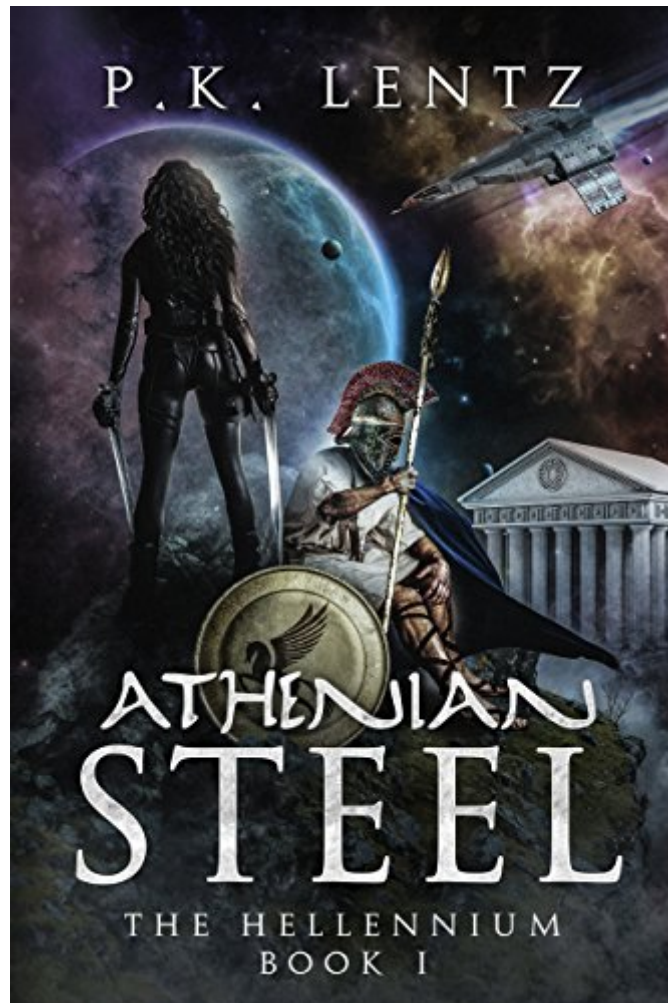


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Athenian Steel (The Hellenium Book 1)



Synopsis

Praise for Athenian Steel: "It is the best book I have read in the last 15 years and easily makes it in my top 10 of all time (most of which are Hugo or Nebula award winners)." "I've read many F & SF books over the past 50 years. This is right among the best." "...the characterization is flawless. The detail of the period, the actions and motivations are well captured... A grown up's book - and something to make a classicist think." Description A savage war is fated to drag on for a generation. One living weapon could change it all. But she is not easily wielded by any mortal man. Joined in tumultuous alliance, a Greek general and a renegade traveler in time seek to reshape an ancient world of blood and brutality. They will challenge each other, enemy armies, and Fate itself. Who or what will break first? In 425 BCE, the Athenian general Demosthenes comes into possession of a weapon from the stars. He fears to wield it against his city's bitter enemy Sparta, but he knows that he must, lest it be wielded by others. He knows, too, that it seeks to wield and possess him, for this weapon is human, or something like it, and as complex as the wider universe from which she fell. She is Thalassia. She is doom and madness. She has come for reasons all her own, and she did not come alone. ATHENIAN STEEL is bloody, twisted mayhem in the ancient world and Book I in a centuries-spanning epic that will appeal to readers of Gene Wolfe, David Gemmell, David Drake, Harry Turtledove, & other classic SF/Fantasy authors of the 1970s to 1990s. Fans of Bernard Cornwell, Giles Kristian, Simon Scarrow and similar will also find plenty to enjoy if they don't mind touches of cosmic SF, dark humor, and sex in their military historical fiction. Join Demosthenes and Thalassia as they blaze a trail of slaughter and ruin down the centuries in The Hellenium. CONTENT ADVISORY: This series depicts the ancient world in a frank and explicit manner, including graphic scenes of sexuality and violence. Foul language abounds. ***FOR A LIMITED TIME, get DEATH TO THE WITCH-QUEEN! free with purchase. Free download link is on the last page of this book.

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Customer Reviews

I liked this book. A lot. Reading Heinlein made me appreciate that you need good characters that you care about for a book to work. If you have that, the rest almost takes care of itself. Lentz does it, here. It's a fascinating take on alternate history and the out-of-time-and-place approach that I also enjoy from Weber and Ringo. Plus it's got some super-soldier stuff reminiscent of Zahn and Drake (and Weber and Ringo.) But Lentz has managed to put a unique spin on his stuff, especially with the complexity of his characters. I don't mind predictable, in fact I usually prefer it for light reading; in the right hands, it's a lot of fun. But this book surprised me a couple of times when I thought I knew where things were going, and I really enjoyed that. It's been a while since I picked up a book I didn't want to put down. I finished this and dived right into Spartan Beast, and ended up forcing myself to finally go to sleep at 2:20am. Gonna be sorry when this one is done.

Stunning is not an exaggeration. Impeccable historical research brings an era to life with originality. The time traveler's innovations for example, are explained as coming from foreign lands, diverting any superstitious stigma. The principal male characters are actual historical figures. The principal female character is as complex and fascinating as anyone from the far future might be. Highly recommended. Ordering the second book now.

I really enjoyed this book. I like action packed historical type novels and this is one. It is mixed with sci-fi and does have a lot of what if's throughout. But that, it seems to me, to be the purpose, of the writer. I prefer less sex in my novels but, it seems to me that it was not out of context for the time period involved. This is one of those that I could not determine the end until I got there. Great job of writing.

OK, so here we go...I've purchased and read so many books on that I've lost count, but I've never been moved to post a review before. I've always just lurked in the shadows and passively trusted the masses to get a feel for if I might like a book, or series of books by their reviews, and on the whole, it's been pretty accurate. Well, I feel that I have to take action to bring attention to P.K. and his talent. In my own small way, I hope you look at this review (from a reclusive reader,) and trust me when I say that his works are fantastic, original, and engrossing. I ran across P.K.'s works by accident, and after reading Athenian Steel I bought everything that was available for purchase by P.K. on , and additionally signed up for his newsletter, which by the way includes free e-books that are superior to most of the books I've paid for in a very long while. This is going to be long winded, but indulge me, you won't regret it. I'm at a point in my life where I've given up on the struggle of forcing myself to finish a book because I spent money on it. Life is too short, and if a book doesn't grab my attention, I abandon it. I require a few things in my reading; originality, cleverness, and substance. There are very few authors that can grab my attention (I'll list a few later) in my four decades of reading. I've learned to separate the wheat from the chaff. If you want to be entertained, and love original and fascinating worlds, read this man's work. If you do not, you are stupid, and you are dead to me. Here's the good stuff. I put P.K. solidly in the mix. Peter F. Hamilton Roger Zelazny Stephen R. Donaldson Steven Erikson Raymond E. Feist Frank Herbert C.S. Friedman Robin Hobb Jack Whyte Brandon Sanderson Glen Cook I'll be posting this review on all his works, because I've read them all and they apply equally. Also of note, if I don't get a Path of Ravens sequel, I'm going to be pissed.

I've always loved history and SF but found the ever growing new sub-genres an annoying plot to define me and improve algorithms that will determine what I'm told I'll like. Admit to avoiding many "recommendations" &...losing the opportunity of reading some great authors (surely churning out narrow class of book types to meet genres identified followers). In instant case I'm thrilled to have been introduced to Lentz who introduced me to great characters who like ANY story have to exist somewhere & time. The where when of ancient Greece was perfect for the creative story & the ST/F way different worlds and the unique characters interact through a well told tale-that also lends a what if? to historical classical adventures. I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to more Lentz in this series and any where when chosen for her exciting well spun atypical spins.

Very enjoyable on multiple levels. As a SciFi novel, it's a nice twist on the more typical; somehow an

earth-man gets marooned on a primitive planet and changes the course of history book with believable characters that you can actually care about. It's also an excellent way to get a better feeling for what life quite possibly was actually like in classic Athenian times. For someone like me, who is quite interested in the history of that time (but as a non professional), Mr. Lentz provides a fascinating mapping between the dry recitations of Thucydides and what reality actually might have been like similar to the Shaara's or Steven Pressfield. I already bought the follow on and am looking forward to the second adventure. Excellent book, well worth my time and money

As a history buff and classics minor I was VERY skeptical of this fanciful book. However, after test reasons a few sections I must admit to being pleasantly surprised.....and pleased !! The author has masked the alien content and wrapped it in some fairly accurate historic and archaeologically sound details and descriptions.....Well done.....I am now loving on to Book 2

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