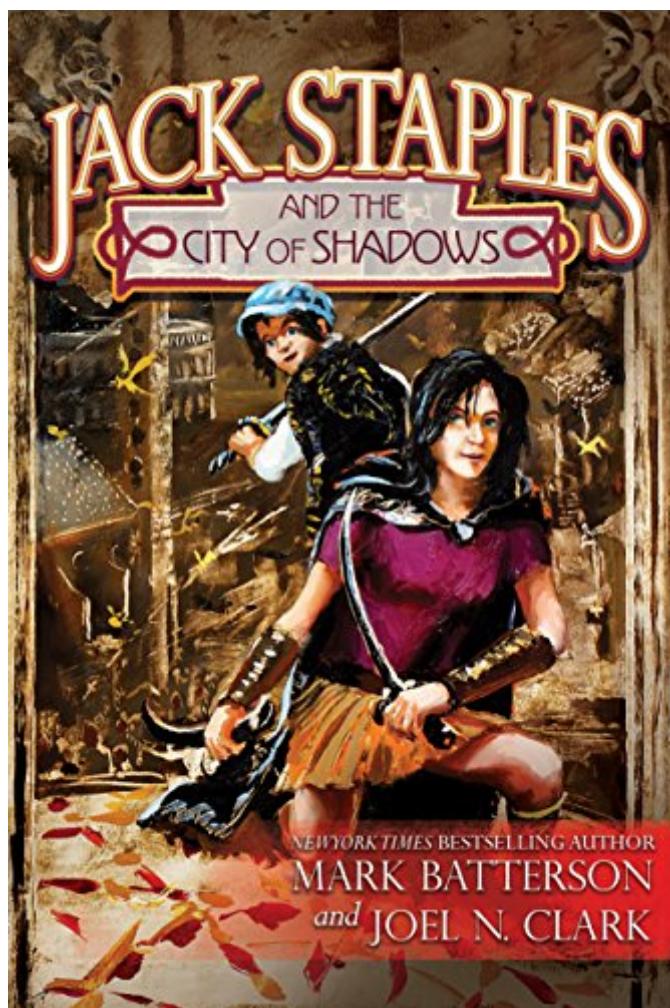


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Jack Staples And The City Of Shadows



Synopsis

The Accuser is closing in. Just as Jack and his friend Alexia discover what it means to be the Chosen Ones, they each face the test of a lifetime. For Jack it is a question of trust; for Alexia, of loyalty. Everything rests on their making the right choices, and on the completion of their missions. The Accuser is determined they will fail, and that they will either join him or be destroyed. It will take all the Author's forces, the special gifts they each have, and the help of their friends Arthur and Mrs. Dumphrey to overcome. But when the enemy makes a key move, and an important quest proves difficult, the prophecy that they will both destroy and save the world seems further from coming true than ever before.

Mark Batterson is lead pastor of National Community Church in Washington, DC, one of the most innovative and influential churches in America. He is a national speaker and New York Times bestselling author of *The Circle Maker*, *All In*, and *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day*.

Joel N. Clark is the author of *Awake* - the book you can watch, and co-founder of Atlas District Pictures and Switchvert, a production house located in Johannesburg, South Africa. Clark has written and directed multiple documentaries, commercials, and short films. He and his wife, Megan, and their daughter, Juno, reside in Washington, DC.

Book Information

File Size: 3154 KB

Print Length: 258 pages

Publisher: David C. Cook (January 1, 2015)

Publication Date: January 1, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00Q5UNQ00

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #283,844 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #24

in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Friendship

#128 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Values

Customer Reviews

Jack Staples, Alexia Dreager, Arthur Greaves, and the rest of the awakened are back for an action-packed exhilarating sequel to the first book, Jack Staples And The Ring of Time. In the beginning of the story, Jack, Alexia, and Arthur are training with Mrs. Dumphry when Arthur discovers his own power- lightning! Also, Alexia is captured by the dark servants and brought to the assassin; and it is then that she realizes that maybe the assassin is different than she was told... along with this, Jack meets with time after a quest for the forbidden garden- and returns to the past five thousand years ago! There, he recognizes Mrs. Dumphry as the evil queen who destroying the poet herself. And, in an ironic twist, Alexia finds her gang of rogues from years ago- and hopes to convince them to follow the assassin to save their own lives. Will Alexia's friends how to the assassin? Will she herself accept the role as high princess of Thaltrose? And also, what does Jack find in the past? Will Arthur accept his destiny? And most important of all, who will win the last battle? Find out in the second book in this series.

With the city of Agartha destroyed at the end of the first book (Jack Staples and the Ring of Time) this book takes up one month later at the School for the Awakened in London. Mrs. Dumphrey is with Jack Staples, Alexia Dreager and Arthur Greaves awaiting words from Elion that it is safe to move on. We meet Mrs. Dumphrey again standing on the edge of a cliff instructing them all to jump. Arthur can't swim so is petrified. Only when he faces his fear does he realize one of his gifts - lightning! Each gift is called a Soulprint. Jack discovered in first book that he could walk through time and Alexia has amazing balance and agility. These are just the first ones they have discovered. I love this quote: "A rabbit with the heart of a lion is more powerful than a wolf that believes itself a mouse!" The group are soon on the run again along with Aias and Wild, as they hear the bewitching song of the Assassin. They have to get to the World Portal located in Buckingham Palace. Although in disguise, it soon becomes apparent that one of their team has betrayed them! Who is it? The battle is on in the palace. Jack and Alexia are both provided with Aetherial Cloaks which give them a certain amount of invisibility. Sadly Jack drops his and so has to fight "alone". (Arthur does pick it up and is able to make good use of it though.) They are fighting Drogule, Shadule and Oriax. When Jack meets King Edward will he be friend or foe? What is so special about the old pen? Alexia supposedly meets her father again in this book. (In the first book we read of how her parents died

when she was five.) Is Lord Korah really who he says he is? There is quite a bit of time travel and going back in time in this book. We read how Alexia got involved with some kids in Belfast and then went off to join the circus. When she first lands on Thalrose, the stench of the Assassin/Belial is overwhelming but the longer she stays (she is now Princess Thalrose) the weaker the stench until eventually the smell disappears. As she believes the lies she is told, she does not understand why some of her other friends from the past will not bow down before the Assassin. Is she lost forever? Can Jack and his friends do anything to help her? Jack, in the meantime is having his own adventures parallel to Alexia's. Elion takes him close to the Forbidden Garden. Will Jack (and you) be able to solve the riddle in time? Who is Time? What about the Poet? Belial shows Alexia the poet being killed by Mrs. Dumphrey. What does Jack see when he goes back to the same time period? Jack is also learning how to use his sword, Ashandar, effectively. Jack and Alexia discover something very important in this book. What is it? The Last Battle is on! This book has a great ending, promising some excitement in the last book. Our son has marked his calendar for when the third and final book in this trilogy is released on June 1st! Please note that this book has a lot more violence in it than the first. Due to the nature of this story (demons etc), this book may not be suitable for all children. We read it aloud to our kids (11, 8 & 5) so that we could answer any questions they might have. I don't think I would have let them read it by themselves first without checking it out. Of course for teenagers etc that is different but they still may have questions. There is a lot of allegorical material in here and if your child is not fully aware of that there may be some confusion. All said, an EXCELLENT read and we are eager for June 1st to be here so we can read the last one. I highly recommend you reading the first book in the series before reading this one.

We got the 3 book set for my 11 year old's birthday. He's an avid reader who loves CS Lewis & Tolkien, as well as Diary of a Wimpy Kid, so he runs the gamut. He absolutely loved these books, couldn't stop reading them, remembered details and connected some key spiritual dots, talked about them all the time, and was saddened that he finished them so quickly. He read all 3 in 3 weeks. As a dad, I highly recommend them to parents for their kids. Great stuff - Batterson should write more!

My 15 year old daughter cannot get enough of this series. She is hoping Mark will write 27 more! LOL I guess she thinks a series of 30 would be complete. Honestly-she said it is the best ever!

Great book in the Jack Staples trilogy. This series is an allegorical fantasy, and my boys loved all

three books. I hope Mark Batterson continues writing books geared toward tween boys. (Though girls who love fantasy will enjoy this as well. One of the main characters is a girl.)

Exciting, page turner. Read this to my boys, 9 & 10. Teens, boy 13 and girl 14, loved reading it for themselves.

Bought this for my 9 yr old grandson. He is an avid reader and prefers series. He absolutely loved it. I bought him the first 2 in the series and am on the list for the third edition.

A phenomenal read that keeps you engaged and wondering.

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