

warlock

by wilber smith · Language: EN

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Overview

Warlock by Wilbur Smith continues the epic saga of Taita, the brilliant eunuch slave, magician, and advisor to the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Set centuries after the events of "River God," the story finds Taita, now an ancient and legendary figure, living in self-imposed exile in the desolate wilderness. His peace is shattered when he receives a divine vision and a plea from beyond the grave from his beloved Queen Lostris, urging him to protect her lineage and the very soul of Egypt from a new, terrifying threat: the Hyksos invaders. These brutal warrior-kings, led by the formidable Pharaoh Apepi and his sinister sorcerer, the Serpent, have conquered much of Egypt, enslaving its people and desecrating its gods.

Taita, despite his advanced age and the weight of centuries, embarks on a perilous quest to find and train the rightful heir to the Egyptian throne, a young boy named Nefer. This journey takes him across vast deserts, into the heart of enemy territory, and through encounters with mythical beasts and treacherous humans. He must use all his accumulated wisdom, magical prowess, and strategic genius to rally the scattered remnants of Egyptian resistance, unite warring tribes, and ultimately confront the Hyksos and their dark magic. The novel is a grand tale of revenge, destiny, and the enduring power of good against overwhelming evil, showcasing Taita's unwavering devotion to Egypt and his relentless pursuit of justice for those he loves.

Key Takeaways

- Even the most ancient and powerful figures can be called upon to defend what they hold dear when their world is threatened.
- True leadership requires not just strength and courage, but also profound wisdom, compassion, and strategic foresight.
- The bonds of loyalty and love can transcend time and motivate extraordinary acts of perseverance and sacrifice.
- Confronting overwhelming evil often demands embracing one's unique abilities, including those considered supernatural or magical.
- The struggle for freedom and justice is a continuous battle that requires unwavering determination and the ability to unite disparate forces.
- Ancient prophecies and divine guidance can play a crucial role in shaping the destiny of nations and individuals.

- Revenge, when driven by a deep sense of justice, can be a powerful motivator for epic undertakings.

Chapter Summaries

The Hermit of the Mountains

Taita, now an ancient and legendary figure, lives in self-imposed exile in the desolate mountains, having witnessed centuries of Egyptian history. His solitude is broken by a divine vision and a spiritual plea from his beloved Queen Lostris, revealing the dire state of Egypt under the brutal Hyksos invaders and urging him to intervene to save her lineage and the kingdom.

The Search for the Heir

Guided by his vision, Taita descends from his mountain refuge and embarks on a perilous journey across war-torn Egypt. He seeks the rightful heir to the throne, a young boy named Nefer, who is hidden among the remnants of the Egyptian people. This quest brings him face-to-face with the Hyksos' cruelty and the suffering of his beloved land.

Training the Prince

Upon finding Nefer, Taita dedicates himself to the boy's rigorous education. He trains Nefer not only in the arts of war, strategy, and survival in the harsh desert but also in the subtle ways of magic, leadership, and the ancient traditions of Egypt. Taita molds Nefer into the king Egypt desperately needs, instilling courage and wisdom.

Gathering the Tribes

Taita and Nefer travel extensively, using Taita's legendary reputation and Nefer's royal lineage to unite the scattered and demoralized Egyptian tribes. They forge alliances with desert nomads and hidden communities, building a nascent army capable of challenging the Hyksos' dominance, despite internal rivalries and external threats.

War Against the Serpent

The conflict escalates as Taita and Nefer lead their growing forces against the Hyksos. Taita finds himself in a direct magical and strategic confrontation with the Hyksos king Apepi's sinister sorcerer, known as the Serpent. This rivalry is a battle of ancient magic, wit, and will, with the fate of Egypt hanging in the balance.

The Reclamation of Egypt

In a series of climactic battles and cunning maneuvers, Taita orchestrates the downfall of the Hyksos empire. He confronts and defeats the Serpent, breaking his dark magic, and guides Nefer to lead the final assault. Egypt is liberated from its oppressors, and Nefer is restored to the throne, beginning a new era under Taita's watchful guidance.

Themes

- Revenge and Justice
- Destiny and Prophecy
- Magic and Sorcery
- Leadership and Kingship
- Good vs. Evil
- Loyalty and Devotion

Notable Quotes

- "The desert is a cruel mistress, but she teaches lessons that the soft lands never can." — Taita reflecting on the harsh environment that forged his resilience and wisdom.
- "Vengeance is a dish best served cold, and I have waited many lifetimes for this feast." — Taita's internal monologue, expressing his deep-seated desire for retribution against Egypt's enemies.
- "A true king does not merely wear the crown; he earns it with every breath and every deed." — Taita instructing young Nefer on the heavy responsibilities and duties of a pharaoh.
- "Magic is but a tool, boy. It is the will behind it that gives it power." — Taita explaining the nature of sorcery and its reliance on inner strength to Nefer.
- "There is no greater love than that which binds a man to his land and his people." — Taita's enduring sentiment, reflecting his lifelong devotion to Egypt and its inhabitants.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is warlock about?

Warlock is about the ancient Egyptian sorcerer Taita, who emerges from centuries of exile to save Egypt from the brutal Hyksos invaders. Guided by a divine vision, he seeks and trains the young rightful heir, Nefer, to reclaim the throne and defeat the Hyksos king Apepi and his dark sorcerer, the Serpent.

Is warlock worth reading?

Yes, Warlock is highly recommended for readers who enjoy epic historical adventures, especially those set in ancient Egypt. It features a compelling protagonist, intricate plot, elements of magic, and grand-scale warfare, characteristic of Wilbur Smith's best work.

How does warlock end?

Spoiler: Taita successfully orchestrates the defeat of the Hyksos and their sorcerer, the Serpent, through a combination of strategic genius and powerful magic. He guides Nefer to victory,

restoring him to the throne of a unified and liberated Egypt, ensuring the continuation of the pharaonic lineage.

Who should read warlock?

Warlock is ideal for fans of historical fiction, particularly those interested in ancient Egypt, epic sagas, and adventure stories with elements of magic and strong, enduring protagonists. Readers who enjoyed 'River God' will find this a satisfying continuation of Taita's journey.

How long does it take to read warlock?

On average, it takes approximately 13 hours to read 'Warlock' by Wilbur Smith. This estimate is based on an average reading speed of 250 words per minute for a book of its typical length.