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The Throne Of Fire (The Kane Chronicles, Book 2)



Synopsis

In this exciting second installment of the three-book series, Carter and Sadie, offspring of the brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane, embark on a worldwide search for the Book of Ra, but the House of Life and the gods of chaos are determined to stop them.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

In *The Red Pyramid* (rev. 7/10), siblings Carter and Sadie Kane learned that as descendants of Egyptian pharaohs, they are magicians who can communicate with (and fight against) the Egyptian gods. Now with Apophis, Lord of Chaos, about to break his millennia-long imprisonment, Sadie and Carter must awaken Ra the Sun God to unite the gods and magicians against Apophis and save the world from destruction. Globetrotting action and irreverent commentary fly fast and furious as the pair battle gods, evil magicians, and mythical Egyptian monsters to retrieve the Book of Ra, then re-create the Sun God's nightly journey through the underworld to revive his spirit, meeting their dead parents and gambling for their own souls along the way. The author's formula works-the Egyptian myths offer a backdrop with plenty of depth, against which Riordan's wisecracking heroes can play out their high-stakes family, relationship, and personal dramas. And with Ra awakened but old and weak, the magicians in rebellion, personal peril and/or teenage heartbreak in store for the

Kanes, and Apophis still on the rise, the expected third book in the Kane Chronicles promises to be as lively, humorous, and welcome as the first two. Horn Book"Elaborating on the ominous revelation that caps *The Red Pyramid* (Hyperion, 2010), this planned trilogy's middle episode sends dual narrators Carter and Sadie Kane from their newly established school for sorcerers in Brooklyn to the underworld realm of the Duat, leaving massive trails of destruction on their way to a first face-off with Apophis, snake god of Chaos. Given just five days to find the retired god Ra god of order, or ma'at before Apophis escapes millennia of confinement and destroys the universe, the squabbling sibs also have their own growing magical abilities to explore; hostile factions of both human wizards and Egyptian gods to battle; monsters to face; temptations to overcome; infatuations to work through; rescues to make; and, of course, plenty of digs, wisecracks, fashion notes, and teen chatter to deliver. Fortunately they have some sturdy allies notably Bes, the god of little people and memorable for more than just his Speedo with "Dwarf Pride" written on the butt that is his battle costume. Despite helpful lists of Egyptian deities and terms at the back, readers unfamiliar with the opener may have trouble at the beginning keeping up with both the continuing plotlines and the teeming cast, but Riordan kickstarts the action, never lets up on the gas, balances laughs and losses with a sure hand, and expertly sets up the coming climactic struggle without (thankfully) ending on a cliff-hanger. It's a grand ride so far, showing nary a sign of slowing down. SLJ" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rick Riordan (www.rickriordan.com) is the author of the # 1 New York Times best-selling *The Heroes of Olympus, Book One: The Lost Hero*; *The Heroes of Olympus, Book Two: The Son of Neptune*; the #1 New York Times best-selling *The Kane Chronicles, Book One: The Red Pyramid*; *The Kane Chronicles, Book Two: The Throne of Fire*; as well as the five books in the #1 New York Times best-selling *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. His previous novels for adults include the hugely popular *Tres Navarre* series, winner of the top three awards in the mystery genre. He lives in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two sons.

If I can say nothing else about Rick Riordan (RR) I will say he is without a doubt an entertaining storyteller no matter what age you are. While his *Percy Jackson* series are still my favorites I enjoyed this book more than *The Red Pyramid*. The best thing about this book is that there are more kids. It just makes for a little more humor when you have kids interacting with other kids instead of adults. Now that Sadie and Carter are helping to train some new kids at Brooklyn house there is room for some new and interesting characters.-- Æ Felix believed that the answer to every

problem involved penguins; but it wasn't fair to birds, and I was getting tired of teleporting them back home. Somewhere in Antarctica, a whole flock of Magellanic penguins were undergoing psychotherapy.

•Carter and Sadie need to find a way to awaken Ra if they are going to beat Apophis (god of Chaos) but he has been missing for quite awhile and they will need to find some ancient artifacts to help them.

RR adds his own spin on Egyptian mythology and The Gods™ that is entertaining, informative and interesting. I always feel like I'm learning about the culture as well as being entertained by the story. There were all kinds of new gods and obstacles to deal with along the way and Sadie and Carter have to prove even to the gods that want Ra to return they are strong enough to complete the task. I love the sibling relationship between Carter and Sadie. They antagonize and provoke each other but they are also the first to stand up and fight for their sibling if they are ever in danger. Sadie's PoV chapters were my favorites but that is probably because she is so snarky and gets to have most of the funny lines.

- Our camels plodded along. Katrina tried to kiss, or possibly spit on Hindenburg, and Hindenburg farted in response. I found this a depressing commentary on boy-girl relationships.

•Carter still feels responsible for Zia and has been trying to find her ever since he found out she was hidden away for her safety. But he might just be a little obsessed, so much so that he is seeing clues everywhere.

- Carter, not to be unkind," I said, "but the last few months you've been seeing messages about Zia everywhere. Two weeks ago, you thought she was sending you a distress call in your mashed potatoes." "It was a Z! Carved right in the potatoes!"

•There is always something happening with all the mini quests before the big one and I will say that Ra really wasn't what I was expecting, which kinda made it all the better. Who said waking up a god would be easy never went looking for one with an evil Ice Cream vendor hot on their trail. Add in the hint of a blossoming romance between Sadie and Walt or Sadie and Anubis and this story has a little bit of everything. It is the cutest crush triangle I've read and I'm not sure which way I want it to go. All in all a fun and entertaining ride. Sure this is a MG book but it is just as fun for kids of all ages. If you haven't read the Percy Jackson series I'd say read that first (so much better than the movies). But if you have might as well expand your RR mythology and add a little Egyptian to it.

NOTE MY REVIEWS OFTEN CONTAIN SPOILERS

It's been months since the events of The Red Pyramid and Carter and Sadie have gathered a group of descendants of pharaohs who they are training in the path of the gods. But when Carter learns that Apophis will escape his prison in only days Carter and Sadie must hope that the training they have will be enough. Their only hope of

defeating Apophis is to return the Sun God Ra to his throne, but to find him they must first assemble a scroll broken into three parts and heavily guarded at different locations around the globe. Then they must travel through the duat and hope that the dangerous scroll will lead them to the missing parts of the sun god and that they can put him back together and return him to the world. If that task weren't hard enough now it is not just the House of Life but the Gods who also oppose them. Horus does not want to relinquish his throne and though he's not openly attacking the siblings and offers them help as they need it, he's also not volunteering or openly supporting them either. Without the gods to help them accomplish the task and with two equally frightening opponents do the Kane Children have any chance of finding and fixing Ra? And if they don't will the world survive the rise of Apophis when he escapes from his prison intending to swallow the sun and put the world into darkness and chaos forever?

The second novel in the Kane Chronicles series is good, but after having read the first I have to say that I didn't find it as good as the series opener. The length was a little better for middle grade readers but I think it will still be daunting to some and again I think the publisher should consider doing a second printing of a serialized version of each book in the series so that middle grade readers who are daunted by length won't be intimidated to pick up the story. While this book began with solid action more so than the last book and it did keep a fairly fast pace throughout the story, I just didn't find it as gripping as the first novel. Part of that reason is that Sadie and Carter split up a lot in this story which left us reading two simultaneous story lines during much of the book. The way it was written Sadie would tell a little bit of what happened with her and then at some critical scene pause and Carter would start telling what happened with him or vice versa. Each of the narratives would pause at a critical scene and they'd switch back and forth with doing this until they were back together again. The thing is you'd be so caught up in what was happening with the first character that even though the second character had an equally great narrative it seemed to drag because you're still stuck in the first narrative wanting to know what happened next. In the previous novel Carter and Sadie spent most of their time together so even when the story switched narrators you were usually in the same scene and therefore not left pondering over some kind of cliffhanger while reading something else. I spent a lot of my time reading this frustrated and stopping myself from flipping ahead to read what happened with the first character. The way it was written I have to believe I wasn't the only one that found this distracting flip-flopping between narratives and never getting to fully engage in either because if I did fully engage in one I couldn't concentrate through the other. Maybe if he'd finished one narrative then gone back to tell the other I might have felt more connected, but I can't say for sure since that wasn't the way the book was written. My second issue with this book was the romantic plot lines. In the first book Riordan put a

twist in the relationship between Carter and Zia by making her a shabati, however that shabati was sending memories to the real Zia so while I thought there would be some awkwardness when Carter finally found her, I figured they'd iron it out and connect in this novel. However that's not what happened and when Carter and Zia finally meet in person it's like the events of *The Red Pyramid* never happened and she doesn't even try to connect with him. So I found that really disheartening. Then there's Sadie who's just turned thirteen in the beginning of this novel. He's put this girl at the center of a love triangle with two equally doomed prospects. Sadie is still interested in the god Anubis who seems to share the attraction except he's a funeral god with no human host and she's pretty much confined to meeting him in cemeteries or not seeing him at all. Not to mention despite the fact the god looks sixteen, he's thousands of years old and if you take that into consideration it's a little creepy that he's interested in a thirteen year old. Our second prospect for Sadie is Walt, a human teenager who's a descendent of King Tut and suffers from a curse that will kill him before he reaches his twenties. While he seems like he'd be the better prospect the fact that he doesn't have that long to live really doesn't make him much of one and beside that fact as an adult the idea of a thirteen year old in a love triangle is just a little disturbing to me. I'm sure that won't be the case for middle grade readers in the target audience, but I'm not a middle grade reader so it bothered me. Honestly my thoughts here are if he's going to give these characters love interests at least give them prospects they have a chance of a happily ever after with. Right now the romantic subplots are just disheartening. Another issue I had was in *The Red Pyramid* you finished the book feeling like even though things weren't perfect they'd accomplished something. At the end of *The Throne of Fire* it doesn't really feel like that. Things have changed and they sort of meet their goals, but nothing turns out quite as it's supposed to so you don't finish the novel feeling happy or excited, more you feel a little depressed. I personally feel like this is the wrong genre for books that leave you with less than a happy ending and a feeling of accomplishment. Maybe that's just me, but I left the book feeling disappointed. My final issue is that with the first novel Riordan brought us in slowly so that we understood the lives of the characters and the difference between their lives before these events and during. In this story he's skipped months ahead in their lives but he sort of just throws us into their new life with all these trainees learning the path of the gods. It was a little abrupt for me and I would have preferred some back story at the beginning of the novel which established all the changes in their lives between *The Red Pyramid* and *The Throne of Fire*. I didn't want to just accept all these new characters, I want to be introduced to them and understand how they came to be part of Sadie and Carter's lives. Yes I complained about the length of *The Red Pyramid* because it's daunting to younger readers, but I do thing the gradual way he worked us into the situation in *The*

Red Pyramid was the right way to tell the tale, it's just that I think a second serialized edition would open the book to more readers. In this novel it kind of felt like hey here's a ton of new characters, accept them and move on they're background, not really important. Despite all that Riordan does present an excellent story. That narrative follows the same format as the last novel in the series with two first person narratives separated by chapter with the narrator identified at the beginning of each chapter. The narratives are sandwiched between two author's notes to the reader that frame the story and set the feel for the narrative to follow. Again the author's notes are clearly as fictional as the narrative within but they do give the books a nice feel and I think even though they're short that they do really add to the book by setting the tone of the novel and giving it a sense of realism though it's an utterly fantastic story. The pacing of this novel is extremely fast and the characters don't have a lot of downtime. Riordan raises the stakes and the opposition in this story as well to add an edge and feeling of excitement that raise the bar from the first novel. If the action weren't enough he gives his narrators new and more intense emotional turmoil to deal with as they face the challenges around them. The danger and excitement are enhanced with scenes of humor which helps break the darker tone of this second work in the series. Though I still feel the first novel was better than the second Riordan has still produced a novel with a strong plot that is a page turner from beginning to end. Riordan does well with characterization in this novel, but not as well as he did in the first. In this novel he presents some background character that we really didn't have in the first novel. He builds the important characters but others kind of blend together. For example there's 20 trainees now at Brooklyn House, one is well developed and that's Sadie's love interest Walt. A second is semi-well developed - the healer in a coma Jaz, though what I consider to be critical parts of her are left a mystery still to reader and a third is distinctive because he's got a penguin fetish and keeps conjuring penguins to solve every problem. The other seventeen, well I believe he names them all, but they seriously blend together in the group of trainees. Riordan also presents a group of bad magicians in which telling them apart is near to impossible. Some reoccurring characters in the series like Carter and Sadie's parents and Bast rely on previous characterization to really establish them instead of offering new build or development. Though others like Desjardins, the new Chief Lector of the House of Life and Zia gain new development and their characters change and in Desjardins case grow in this novel. Carter and Sadie continue to be well developed and to grow as characters though I have to say in my opinion Sadie kind of dominated the novel and Carter at points seemed almost like a secondary character. New introductions outside of the large groupings were a mix of well developed and distinctive characters. So the characterization was good, but it's just not as good as the last novel where every character was at minimum distinctive. Overall I

definitely would recommend this book to readers who enjoy fantasy and mythology based novels. It is a great story; it's just not as good as the series opener.

This book is history masquerading as a fun, fast-paced story. My kids loved this book because the story was fun and exciting, but the author mixed in so much Egyptian history and mythology that my kids really learned something. It's certainly not a textbook, but it made the topic fun and has inspired my kids to learn more about Ancient Egypt.

I really like Rick Riordan's books, starting with Percy Jackson series. I like that he uses mythology and humour in his books. I have always loved mythology and this is a great series to get my sons reading. In fact, it was my oldest son and my sister who got me into Riordan's books. This is the second book of the Kane's Series/Egyptian Mythology. This is written in first person from each sibling's point of view (POV). Each chapter is a different POV. Some writers have a hard time writing different voices for their characters and when they try this the characters sound the same. However, Riordan does a good job of keeping Sadie and Carter's voice distinct. I bought this one to replace the one that disappeared. It has been awhile since I read the Kane Series.

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