

Odyssey of the Chosen

H. S. Theodore

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Odyssey of the Chosen is an engaging, multilayered, and wildly creative family saga that takes on the battle between good and evil.

H. S. Theodore's imaginative adventure *Odyssey of the Chosen* follows an unsuspecting family into the heart of an epic battle between good and evil.

For thousands of years in another realm, a controversial war has been waged to determine who is the rightful king: the evil Ayin-Ra or the wholesomely good Taldegon Re. A family in our own time and place who are unaware of this battle find their lives changed completely when they discover that they are written into a prophecy about the war, and that they are destined to play a crucial role. Theirs is an engaging, multilayered-yet-cohesive, wildly creative tale to follow.

At the beginning of the book, Sam and Abigail lead a normal, domestic, small-town life with their children, Jayden and Rachel. During a sailboat outing, though, they are suddenly drawn into a thrilling and dangerous world of mermaids, talking warships, written prophecies, kings and evil rulers, superpowers and mythical creatures. They quickly adapt to this previously unknown realm, especially the younger child, Jayden.

The world of *Odyssey* toes familiar fantasy lines, but it does so in a creative way. Unknown languages, unfamiliar weaponry, and new creatures are fascinating to engage with. Sam, Jayden, and the rest of the family are described in deep, innovative ways; rooting for the good guys is ensured thanks to their intricate personalities.

The war itself is a complex affair involving complex historical battles, family rivalries, and grudges. Each layer is explored in detail, and the significance of the conflict comes through. Clashes are not only physical, but are also psychological, as those on the good side work toward meditative states to triumph over Ayin-Ra and his followers. The line between good and evil is finely drawn but definitive. Each side tests the moral and mental capabilities and limits of their own people and their enemies.

Brutal battle scenes are described in extreme detail, down to the armor, animals, weapons, and scenery involved. Bloodshed is soberly conveyed, as is the immensity of the fight. Devotion and faith are the book's main themes, and trust and love are freely given between main characters.

Odyssey of the Chosen is an epic fantasy that roots for those who are good, hopes for the destruction of all that is evil, and fundamentally celebrates love and family.

KATIE ASHER (March 26, 2018)

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