



## Circle Series 4-in-1

*Ted Dekker*

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## Circle Series 4-in-1 Ted Dekker

More than a million readers have experienced the Circle series. Now, for the first time ever - and only for a limited time - they can dive deeper with a limited edition boxed set.

Included in this special collector's set is:

- \* Dekker's highly anticipated new novel *Green*
- \* New hardcover editions of *Black*, *Red*, and *White* - originally published in 2004 but long gone from shelves.
- \* Specially commissioned collector's box to display this limited edition set

## Circle Series 4-in-1 Details

Date : Published May 9th 2011 by Thomas Nelson (first published September 1st 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Ted Dekker

Format : Kindle Edition 1602 pages

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## From Reader Review Circle Series 4-in-1 for online ebook

### **Christina says**

Love this series. One of my favorites by Ted Dekker. I would definitely recommend, especially to someone who hasn't read anything by him yet. This is a good place to start.

Dive Deep.

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### **Brendan Drayazmore says**

I have actually only read Black and I thought it was a very entertaining story. Any story about a man who can go to sleep in one world and wake up in another is always gonna be an interesting story, but dieing in both world's and not knowing which world is real makes it very interesting! Black is definitely a book that keeps you on the edge of you seat.

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### **Jeffrey Hendricks says**

Very good realization and imagery, bringing spiritual struggles into stark physical reality. Extremely creative and colorful writing. The books were written in a cyclical path, this particular collection starts with Black, but contains an alternate ending to Green if you wanted to start there. Overall, the series started off slowly, but the intensity ramps up continually until the ending/beginning. Overall, a great read, and a great twist on a timeless tale of redemption.

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### **JoAnn Jordan says**

Finished reading the first of the novels in this volume: Black. The story alternates between two realities with a great deal of action in each. Ted Dekker is a very skilled writer who captures and holds interest throughout. I am so glad I have all four books to read at once because waiting for them would be torture.

Finished reading the second of the novels in this volume: Red. The heroes in the story fight staggering odds to save both realities. Nothing is certain and there are many trials. I am anxious to continue reading.

Finished reading the third of the novels in this volume: White. This is a fantastic story. There is so much action, so much sacrifice, and so much love. I read this very quickly and am looking forward to the next volume.

Finished reading the final novel in this volume: Green. The story continued to a marvelous climax. There was much tragedy, but much beauty.

I found this book an amazing read. The battle of good and evil told in its pages is entrancing. I highly recommend this book to everyone. It is one to be treasured.

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### **Rachel says**

This series is Awesome... I highly recommend starting either with green, its tells more of the beginning I think. Or black works just as well, in all these books go into a circle, so wherever you start it will end in a circle. Pretty cool huh? I thought so...

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### **Anna Tan says**

SO. I finally got through this 1.6K-page tome that weighs a tonne. And it only took me 4 months! In terms of actual reading time, I read Black over the course of April/May (I think, or whenever I posted the update) and then I read Red, White, and half of Green in the span of 2 days, while travelling from Malaysia to America. And then I was at a conference, and then I finished up the last half of Green over an afternoon or two, in between vacationing. So it's not really 4 months... but I probably did it an injustice by spreading out my reading over such a long time frame. Details get lost, and all that.

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Honestly, if I had just bought Black: The Birth of Evil on its own, I probably wouldn't have continued to read the rest of the series. Maybe it had been overhyped a little (ha, apparently my friends are Dekker fans) but Black was seriously only an *okay* read.

Thomas Hunter is chased by some unknown men. He falls asleep and wakes up in an alternate reality--a forest--with no idea how he got there, where it is, or even who exactly he's supposed to be. Which world is real? And which is the dream? All he knows is that whatever he's dreaming of in his original world has already happened in this dream/future world.

The flipping back and forth between the realities got a little tiring after a while, especially when nothing much seemed to be happening. I know all that back story and confusion and vagueness was necessary, but I've been becoming an impatient reader lately so I wasn't in the best of mindsets to slog through it. I'd probably have given it a 3-star, noted a "maybe I'll continue the rest of the series" and then forgotten about it. BUT since I had the entire series, AND Dekker was keynoting at a conference I was attending, *obviously* I had to read the whole thing, right?

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The meat of The Circle Series is really in the middle two books, Red and White. Which was why I finished them over the course of a 16-hour flight.

General Thomas of Hunter is now a renowned warrior, one of the leaders of the Forest People. They're the remnants who have remained clean, who still hold on to their belief in Elyon. Those who don't believe, the Horde, are infected with a skin disease and are followers of Teeleh and the Shataiki. In Bangkok, Thomas Hunter is still the unknown person who gains information from his dreams and is the only hope of saving the world from the Raison Strain.

It's here that Dekker's allegorical game becomes strong. It's the steadfast Christians against the rest of the world. It's the powers of darkness against the children of light. One of the major concepts of this world is that the hidden, spiritual battle in the 'past' world (i.e. our time) is now shown physically in this future world.

Dekker plays with easily recognisable symbols: baptism/drowning, the Gospels/the History Books, sin/Scabs, and then, of course, the Jesus figure (I can't give you the parallel without it being a spoiler, but yes, there is one).

If the theme of Red: The Heroic Rescue was the redemption and salvation of the future earth, then White: The Great Pursuit focuses on the salvation of the past earth even whilst Elyon pursues his people in the future earth.

Past earth is still in dire straits: the antidote has yet to be found and time is running out. Oh, and nuclear weapons have been launched. Future earth seems to have it better--Elyon has revealed himself to them again and started them on a new path. Their healing is now permanent, not a temporary measure. But there's dissent brewing in the camp.

It feels a little like a commentary about theological disputes between churches, especially what it means to be *in the world but not of the world*. Do you continue to live in your little church/Christian bubbles? Or is it safe--or wise--to live amongst those who seek to kill you? (Well obviously in the real world, they wouldn't actually *kill* you, but as per the theme of the books, things the metaphysical of our world is physical/lived out in theirs.

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And finally, you get to the controversial last book, Green: The Last Stand.

There's betrayal in this one, and desperate love. The believers, or *albinos* as they call themselves, are split.

Most of the story is concentrated on the future earth--the main story arch for past earth has been completed in White, leaving only a few loose ends to be tied up (vaguely spoilerish? You decide).

The tension seems to drop a little here, but that could also be because I had to stop reading halfway and then was only able to take it up again a few days later, in a rather disjointed manner. Theme-wise, it's a story of the end-times, with the great deception, the antichrist, the mark of the beast, and the battle of Armegeddon. BUT I will say this. Contrary to popular opinion (haha), the original ending for Green is probably the right one. It's not perfect. It's devastating, actually, *tragic*, but it's what really completes the circle. It what makes the beginning make sense.

It's like what I say about the end of The Hunger Games: I don't like what happened, but it is what it is. What it has to be.

(Well, the alternate ending is cool too, and you have closure, and feel happy. So there's that.)

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**Celeste says**

**Full review now posted!**

This series is incredibly special to me. I first read it when I was sixteen years old, and it radically changed the way I viewed my own faith. There are only a handful of books that have had so great an impact on my core beliefs, and this series was one of the first, if not the first, to do so.

I pushed it on my brother, my parents, my best friend, and the boy I was dating who turned out to be my future husband. Dekker's series dramatically impacted them as well, and changed the way we discussed our faith. My husband has the emblem tattooed on his forearm, and we just reread this together because of how dramatically it impacted us when we were dating. My best friend has a medallion of the emblem that she

wears all the time. And I have bought multiple copies of the series, lending them out to anyone I could convince to give Dekker a try, and giving them away to anyone who felt their impact as deeply as I.

What makes this series so special? Imagine if you will living simultaneously in two world; whenever you slept in one world, you awakened in the other. And now imagine that this other world you're experiencing is different in one drastic way: anything that is spiritual in our world is physically manifested there. God (Elyon) manifests Himself in a lake, and you can literally dive into His presence. Sin is a disease that can be seen on your skin and in your eyes and in your aversion to the Elyon's waters. The cure for this disease? Literally drowning in the lake, breathing in Elyon and accepting the new life he gives.

Seeing my faith physically manifested in such a way rocked me to my core as a teenager. At the time, my favorite Bible verse (and the way I signed my letters to anyone) was Romans 12:2, which says "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but rather by transformed by the renewing of your mind in Christ Jesus, our Lord." That signature soon became Dive Deep with that verse tacked onto it, because that little two word phrase now held such a depth of meaning for me, and I yearned for people to ask me what it meant so that I could share my faith with them.

Going back and rereading this series after so many years was eye-opening for me. I have honestly become lazy in my faith; I no longer go out of my way to share that faith with others because I don't wish to offend anyone. I feared that my passion had cooled, but rereading this series proved otherwise. If my faith has cooled, it is only because I have not fed it as consistently as I used to, but Dekker's work reminded me of that necessity. I will definitely be rereading more of his novels, and soon, because I deeply desire to reclaim the closeness with God that I used to take for granted.

However, my eyes weren't only opened to my need to work on my faith. I have read so many books in the past twelve years since discovering Dekker, so many by fantasy authors who were new to me, that I have to reevaluate my proclamation of Dekker's talent. I've already mentioned how spiritually impactful his work has been for me; I own a copy of every single book he has ever released, which is something I can claim for very few authors. That's 46 Ted Dekker books that live on my shelves. But I have to admit that, having now read so many other authors in similar genres, Dekker is not the best of writers technically speaking. His dialogue can be clunky and his metaphors can be heavy-handed. The writing itself just honestly isn't that great.

While not a prose-smith, Dekker is a masterful storyteller. If you can look past the writing itself, the stories he tells are deep and brimming with truth presented in radical ways. They're stories that stick with a reader so strongly that getting a tattoo of an emblem from his book covers ten years after having read them makes complete sense. My family still uses his books in our conversations about faith.

Something else that I really appreciate about Dekker's writing is the interconnectedness of so many of his books. This interconnectedness is why I have remained such a Dekker fan for years, and is actually the reason I started reading Stephen King, because I had heard his work provided something similar. While the Circle series can absolutely stand alone, I would strongly recommend reading his Paradise trilogy (Showdown, Saint, and Sinner) and possibly Immanuel's Veins before reading Green, Dekker's final installment in the Circle. Green is one of the most unique reading experiences I've ever had, as it's neither book 1 nor book 4; it's book Zero. This is the book that makes the Circle series a literal circle in itself, ending at the beginning or beginning at the end. I was so conflicted over this book when I read it the first time, because while the idea was intellectually incredibly unique, I felt cheated out of an ending. However, in this 4-in-1 bind-up, Dekker gave us an alternate ending that was actually an ending, which gave me closure I didn't realize I needed twelve years later.

Do I recommend this series? Absolutely yes. If you have any interest in the Christian faith, this is allegorically one of the best representations of it I've ever come across, and it's emotionally power-packed. This is a story brimming with struggle and philosophy and war and rage and, maybe more than anything else, Romance. That R is totally capitalized for a reason. But be aware that the writing might not be as polished as one might expect. My rating of this book is purely based in the impact the story has had on my life, not on Dekker's prosaic craftsmanship. But, read with an open heart, this is a story that can radically change your view of the world, your faith, and even your life.

Dive Deep, my friends.

*For more of my reviews, as well as my own fiction and thoughts on life, check out my blog, [Celestial Musings](#).*

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### **Kris Hunter says**

This book was major fantasy which I don't read. It reminded me of the Matrix movie. I loved how the author had a great grasp on the love of God. The "Great Romance" is what I have been studying and this was a confirmation for me. It was a nice distraction. Some may not like how the evil is portrayed but to me this is how the supernatural realm and the enemy really work.

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### **Rani Simpson says**

This series changed my life!! Ted Dekker is a poet, he writes with such conviction that you can't help but take every word to heart! This is and will forever be my favorite series! The characters are phenomenal! I love that story takes the creation of mankind and intermingles it with the end of times! The way he weaves the two realities together is flawless!! I also love that this series plays a part in so many of his other books! Like The Lost Books, The Paradise novels, House, Immanuel's Veins, and now The Mortal Series. It all has to do with the blood! He makes the villains so vile and evil, they scare the socks off you! He is master of his Craft!! Read a Dekker book and you will be a fan no doubt!!!

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### **Chris Clements says**

This series of books is a fight between good and evil. While C.S. Lewis had his Chronicles of Narnia, Dekker has the Circle series. There are similarities of man's fight between his thirst for God and the lures of evil. Truly a great read from beginning to end.

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### **Dustin says**

Rare is the story that takes readers out of this world and into another.

Rarer still the story that captures heart, soul, and mind...leaving the reader forever transformed.

This is that story.

Dive deep and enter the Circle.

The Circle is an epic story of evil and rescue, betrayal and love, and terrorist threat unlike anything the human race has ever known.

It begins when a man named Thomas hunter finds himself being chased down an alley after working the late shift at a coffee house. When a bullet grazes his head, he awakens in an entirely different reality. Now every time he falls asleep, he wakes up in the other reality--and every choice he makes impacts the fate of two worlds.

At long last, all four novels in this groundbreaking series have been brought together in one adrenaline-laced volume.

Four novels. Two Worlds. One Story.

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I'd give the series 20 solid stars, if I could!!

### **Mark Dakin says**

When an author strives to awaken our minds to ideas and passions that we already know, we find that many fall short. Not that they don't write good literature, but that one needs to walk away and say that their actually life's have been changed because of it. I have read these books a few times and find that with each reading, I am challenged to go back to my own beliefs and see if there is passion.

What I see as sometimes bleak and sad, is that I have allowed something so personally passionate to become routine and boring. In this trilogy of sorts, we are taken from not having a clue to understanding that in the end all that matters is love. Maybe I am just a romantic, but this group of books made me realize that I pale in comparison to the one who invented the great romance.

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Very much worth the time and energy.

### **Sally says**

I give the first three books of the circle series, "Black", "Red", and "White" 5 stars. I have not read 3 novels quite as hungrily...."Green" was so much more gory, and even though these 4 books are truly a circle series, I would highly recommend beginning with "Black." I was SO GLAD that I ended with "Green" even though the Kindle version started with it.

Overall, well written young-adult, Christian fiction. It is somewhere along the lines of Narnia meets the Lord of the Rings....a fantasy thriller with the salvation story interwoven. I look forward to the other two series, "The Lost Books" and "The Paradise" novels.

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### **Yen-Yen says**

I really wanted to like this series, and for the most part I did. I got through one book but partway through the second in the series I had to quit. I haven't any other series by Ted Dekker and checkout all four books in this series at once anticipating my enjoyment. This series relies heavily on previous books and on the reader's knowledge of those previous books, events and people. For someone new coming in to this series, I constantly felt lost, left out or this overwhelming feeling of missing out on something that I needed to catch-up on. These feelings really prevented me from enjoying the books and series in the way they were probably intended to. I'm guessing that if I had read other series with some of the same characters or connected characters by Dekker that I would have thoroughly enjoyed this series. It is eventful in action and character development. I liked the idea of crossing into far past and current history with characters that bleed into both and affect both, but the assumption of great background knowledge prevented me from finishing this series.

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### **Evelyn says**

All four books were excellent! This is a series that is fast paced, takes you to another world, and leaves you with a lot to think about. I thoroughly enjoyed every bit and will definitely be reading it again.

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