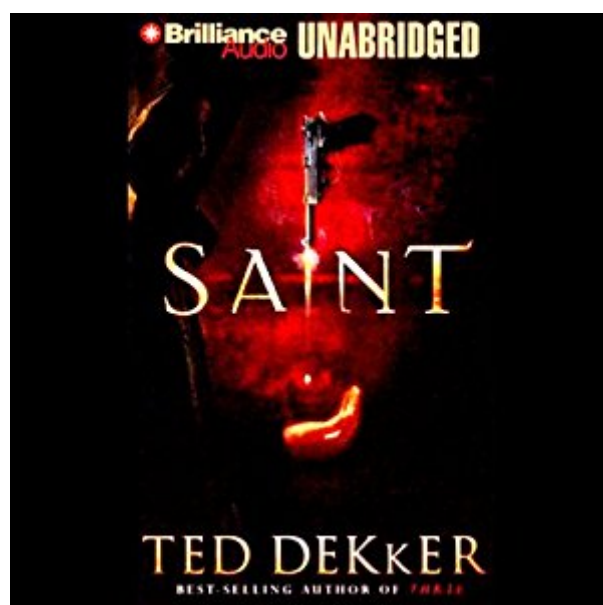


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# Saint



## Synopsis

“We call you Saint.” The name ignited a light in Carl’s mind. Saint. He’d been covertly recruited for Black Ops and given his life to the most brutal kind of training any man or woman could endure. He was here because he belonged here. To the X Group. An assassin. The most effective killer in the world. And yet . . . Carl Strople struggles to retain fleeting memories that betray an even more ominous reality. He’s been told part of the truth - but not all of it. Invasive techniques have stripped him of his identity and made him someone new - for this he is grateful. But there are some things they can’t take from him. The love of a woman, unbroken loyalties to his past, the need for survival. From the deep woods of Hungary to the streets of New York, Saint takes you on a journey of betrayal in a world of government cover-ups, political intrigue, and one man’s search for the truth. In the end, that truth will be his undoing. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 7 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: July 11, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B001CMOOYS

Best Sellers Rank: #133 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Religious Fiction  
#133 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Short Stories #915 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

## Customer Reviews

Saint is the latest novel from Christian best-seller Ted Dekker. "Saint" is a code name for an assassin named Carl that is being trained at a top secret location in Hungary. The training methods are intense and painful, and Carl has turned into one of the best snipers in history. Now ready for his mission, he is sent to the United States to assassinate a world leader. Carl’s training has stripped him of his identity. He starts having memories of a wife named Kelly and a son named Matthew. Then he begins having doubts about the mission he swore he would complete. The premise for Saint is very intriguing, and the first half of the book is great. The last half of the book is

a severe letdown. It starts when the plot slowly moves from this world to the supernatural world. Then there is the constant referring to Project Showdown. I know that Showdown written by Dekker and released before Saint. Nowhere on Saint does it indicate this book is a sequel or part of a series, yet it is very necessary that Showdown be read before you read Saint. In some series books, you can read out of order because the author covers the previous events enough for you to not have had to read the first book. Dekker does not do that and thus I was confused and lost and the second half of the book was filled with characters and references from Showdown. Whatever chance there was that I enjoyed this book was lost when I didn't read Showdown first. I blame that on the marketers of the book and Dekker too, perhaps. On his website, it doesn't indicate these books are linked and it doesn't on the book either. If you are going to read Saint, you must read Showdown (and House, because it is referenced too).

Based on the blurb about the novel on the back cover, I was very excited to read this book. It was very entertaining and I flew through the first 250 pages or so. But then it took a weird turn in the plot and started introducing a lot of X-Men type powers. I like X-Men type stuff, but was not expecting it in this book based on the blurb on the back. I made myself read the last 100 pages just so I could finish the book, but I regretted it afterwards. I wish I would have known about the Sci-Fi aspect before I started reading the book. It also seems not as well thought out of an ending. Parts of it did not make sense.

With the overexposure of "24" and "Alias" type books, movies and TV shows, I thought that Saint would be a poorly done pseudo-Christianized attempt. I was wrong...well sort of. In a WELL represented genre, Saint's premise was actually unique and quite engaging. For a lack of a better term, it was awesome. But then, the plot got oh-so gradually unstable to the point where the ending was simply awful. The characters never got to flesh out their personalities. The villain, who had the potential to be incredibly complex and insidious just became redundant. And the main character, who had extreme personality issues, could have been slowly formed into a well-loved protagonist. He too, became redundant, if not annoying. The ending, without going into any spoilers, felt way too rushed; as if Dekker was desperately trying to make a deadline. I guess there is another book written after Saint where the story should pick up. But Saint's ending wasn't written with a solid end to a plot nor a cliffhanger. Suffice to say, I won't be reading it.

As with Showdown, unrealistic situations and unbelievable dialog and interaction made this book

difficult to enjoy. It may work for simple minded reading that will not make you think, but it felt like he was trying to create something bigger than simple and it disappointed. Too many questions for inexplicable situations, far too much thrown in for the sake of keeping things interesting. The ending capitalized on all the problems on the book to deliver an unsatisfying finish to an unsatisfying book. As a fan of Dekker and the Circle series, this was a disappointing addition the Book of Histories saga.

I think the first few chapters were really good to be honest. But, after that the story goes in a different direction and in my opinion down hill. There were a couple worthy scenes that kept my interest, and there was enough for me to finish the book. But, even when I finished I was disappointed. I loved Obsession and appreciated one of the Martyrs Song series and was hoping for the same. Dekker refers to some other of his books in this story, and I found out later this book actually is read better as a sequel to another book. I won't ruin it in case it's meant to be a surprise, but do some research on line before you read this book to make sure you've read the correct previous book. It's not vital, but might lead you to be less disappointed than I was. Overall, the story felt like a B movie with a good message. I'd skip this one.

I'm a huge fan of Ted Dekkar, but lately I've noticed that his books have been lacking. Showdown was a wonderful read, and I was completely engrossed in it, thinking I would feel the same about SAINT I bought it. I think the most dissapointing about this book was that it was actually a sequel to Showdown, yet you don't know it till halfway through. I found this completely ridiculous, and even though the story was somewhat interesting at times, it never really seemed to go anywhere...and never really ended either. There is never any true complete ending, and it leaves you feeling like you read a whole bunch of words instead of an actual story.

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