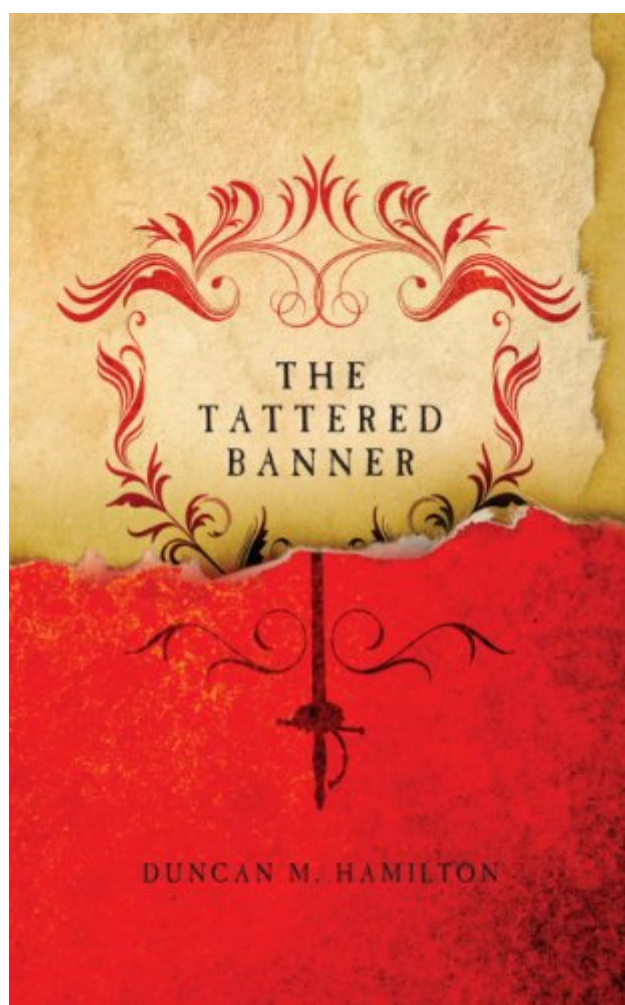


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The Tattered Banner (Society Of The Sword Book 1)



Synopsis

-Society of the Sword Trilogy Book 1--The Tattered Banner placed 8th on Buzzfeed's 12 Greatest Fantasy Books of 2013-Unique talent always attracts attention | In a world where magic is outlawed, ability with a sword is prized above all else. For Soren this means the chance to live out his dreams. Plucked from a life of privation, he is given a coveted place at Ostenheim's Academy of Swordsmanship, an opportunity beyond belief. Opportunity is not always what it seems however, and gifts rarely come without conditions. Soren becomes an unwitting pawn in a game of intrigue and treachery that could cost him not just his dreams, but also his life. The Tattered Banner is the first book of the swashbuckling fantasy trilogy 'Society of the Sword'.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Outstanding story, albeit one that has been done before. Prose certainly needs an editor, but the weakness is in the sometimes too "purple" writing rather than any fault in typos/grammar. Despite its small faults, I stayed up reading this book until 3 in the morning and finished it in a weekend. The story of young men training to be bad at something is a 'classic' in fantasy, and one I enjoy. This

book reminded me of Raven's Shadow, Ender's Game or The Name of the Wind, although not as good as any of them, it is well enough done that I would easily recommend it to friends who read fantasy. I won't rehash the plot, because if you like those books, you'll enjoy this one, regardless of who pokes whom with what magic sword. So you can judge whether your taste matches my own, my favorite books are: A Game of Thrones: A Storm of Swords (book 3), The Name of the Wind, The Heroes, The Lies of Locke Lamora,

The Tattered Banner is what used to be known as a "ripping yarn." Hamilton has created an interesting world, with just a hint of sorcery to go with its sword. The story is excellent, and provides an enjoyable take of the fish out of water/rags to riches tradition. The Tattered Banner is Mr. Hamilton's first book, however, and I'm sorry to say there are times at which it shows. His writing occasionally slips into a more amateurish style, and there are moments when the sentences either run-on or have to be reread to figure out his meaning. Despite those minor quibbles, however, The Tattered Banner is a thoroughly enjoyable work of fiction, that grips and entertains from its first page to its last. If the occasional awkward phrase or typo is not a deal-breaker for you, pick it up: you'll be glad you did (especially considering its extremely reasonable kindle price).

I LOVE this writer! The book has a great balance between medieval world building and fleshing characters slowly but thoroughly. Getting hints at intrigues from other scenes not near the main character keeps the reader supplied with a number of hints of vast intrigue that the main character has no experience. He takes some of the disillusionments of childhood very harshly but begins to grow at accelerated pace to stay alive. Surrounded with vivid descriptions of both city and international arenas, one can keep a fairly detailed map in one's head because of the character is observant and his stream of consciousness keeps the reader aware of what is going on in important places as well as a trip through the market without it being slow or methodical. There is plenty of fights, military campaigns, & rivalries to keep an action junkie entertained as well as those that want clear depictions of the places and so many intrigues-some short term and others taking years to ripen in the other books. Definitely a great read for all fantasy lovers.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. What I liked best was that the author, unlike many writing in this genre, didn't feel the need to make his main character, Soren, ceaselessly question his inner morality or the state of his soul if he took a life. Some depression or soul-searching is absolutely normal when dealing with this issue. But it often seems that if a fantasy author has their main

character take a life then the character is required to go through some inner spiritual ordeal that can at times take over half the book. You won't find that here. Soren isn't cold or heartless, but he did grow up a street urchin and he knows that sometimes a hot meal is more important than keeping your hands clean of blood. I also enjoyed that the author didn't feel the need to make the problems of the world....well world-sized in scope. The problems affecting Ostemhiem aren't the result of a thousand year old prophecy that will shake the entire world to its core. The problems in this book revolve mostly around the political machinations of nobles in an Italian city state type setting. It's refreshing. Also, the relative lack of magic was a nice touch. The only issue I had with the book was that there were some rough patches towards the beginning that could have been edited better, but this is really just nitpicking. Well done.

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