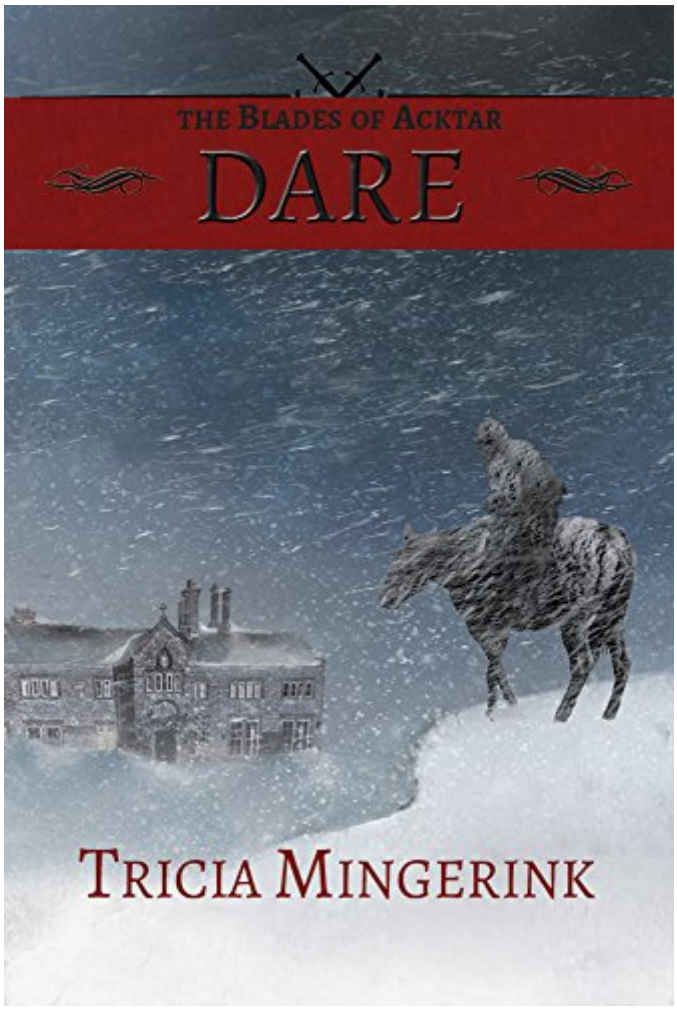
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Dare (The Blades Of Acktar Book 1)



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Synopsis

Courage could cost him everything. Third Blade Leith Torren never questions his orders or his loyalty to King Respen until an arrow wound and a prairie blizzard drive him to the doorstep of the girls whose family he once destroyed.Their forbidden faith and ties to the Resistance could devastate their family a second time. Survival depends on obedience, but freedom beckons. How far does he dare go to resist the king and his Blades?No matter what Leith chooses, one thing is certain.Someone will die.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is about a young man who is caught up in a violent subculture but is treated with kindness by Christians and later becomes a Christian himself. The basic plot is very similar toÃ Â The Curly WolfÃ Â andÃ Â Tahn (Book #1): A NovelÃ Â but the details are quite different. I really enjoyed this book, it kept my interest, in fact, I couldn’t put it down. It is suitable for older teens or adults. It doesn’t have cursing. It doesn’t have explicit sex or a focus on a physical relationship. The romance in it is like high school sweethearts as the main characters are 17 and 18. It does have a lot of

violence including murder but it isn’t overly graphic. It has characters who are supposed to be Christians lying to protect other people. It has no magic or occult references. The theology of salvation in this book is extremely Calvinistic. I read the first two books in the series. Neither one is a stand alone book. Hopefully the next book in the series will wrap things up well.Update: I read the third book. The conclusion was really good. I would highly recommend this series.

Reader thoughts: This is a great book for Bible-believers. I think non-believers may be skeptical of some of the coincidences in the book and think some characters were convinced too easily. It depends on whether the reader enjoys characters who pray and base decisions on what God would approve of.The characters had good inner turmoil ("Am I a coward?" or "Am I worthless?") layered with outside danger (assassins!) and also mixed with relationship issues ("Does she like him?" or "Can he be the father I never had?"). I was actually worried about them, particularly Brandi, who kept naming all the animals. Plus, the layers complemented each other well. The secrets and action and danger and trusting enemies and Bible stories made an ebb and flow of tension that kept the pace from dragging.Daniel! Not a story I would have thought to use, but it worked very well.This is a book that really shows Romans 2:4, that "God’s kindness leads you toward repentance." C’mon, people, kindness and love can do so much more than scorn and judgment! The Faythe family showed that.The ending wasn’t too predictable, although it was a tad convenient. (view spoiler) If this were the end of the story, that would be too easy. However, I know this mess will cause major problems in the next book, which I am looking forward to reading (er, listening to).Writer thoughts: I had some issues with age and credibility. As a writer, I wonder at the reasons behind Mingerink’s choices.The characters all could have been 2 years older, even 4. With Renna at 17 and Leith at 18, nothing would have been lost placing them older. Brandi’s age (13, since her parents died 4 years ago at age 9) is just fine.However, Leith had been an assassin for five years. I find it enormously difficult to believe that 13 and 14-year-old boys can be King’s Blades, no matter how well trained. This issue came up again and again, and it threw me out of the story every time. Leith was 14 when Renna’s parents were murdered. Why in the world was he part of that attack in the first place? Even 18-year-olds don’t always have fully developed bodies, yet! He can stab knives into a wall at age 9 and climb a tower? I just spent a week with a bunch of 9-year-olds. This seems rather unlikely.I do see the benefits, though. Perhaps the king’s brainwashing of his blades wouldn’t work if they were older. Still, they could stay in training a couple years longer. Also, this way the reader (and Renna) can more easily forgive Leith’s actions since he was only 14 when Renna’s parents died. Maybe this age thing can be Leith’s ally.(Then I think and realize my own MC has to

fight and kill at age 13/14, and so I shouldn't be so skeptical.)

Have you ever felt paralyzed by fear? Have you ever watched events unfold and know you could stop them or change them if only you had enough courage? Have you ever hated yourself for your lack of bravery? If the answer to any of these questions is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Yes!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• then you share something in common with the two main characters of Tricia MingerinkÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s debut novel, Dare.Third Blade Leith Torren, one of King RespenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s most trusted assassins, is wounded on one of his missions for the king and finds himself at the mercy of two girls whose parentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢; deaths he was responsible for four years ago. Renna uses her skills as a healer to save his life though she fears for her own and that of her sisterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s should he learn of their forbidden faith. If she was brave she would not hide it from this wounded stranger. If she were brave she could forgive him for his part in her parentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ deaths. But Renna is not brave. As Leith is slowly nursed back to health he dreads the day he will be well enough to return to the king. If he was brave he would have stayed out in the cold and bled to death, rather than bring trouble on this family. If he was brave he would lie to the king about what he has seen and heard. But Leith is not brave. And the day is getting closer when he will need to make a decision.I felt as if this book were written for me. Like Renna, I am a very introverted person, especially when placed in uncertain situations. I have felt that same fear and uncertainty that she experiences (though, in my case, I have never feared for my life), that holds her back. I have experienced that same temptation to hide behind my fear and tell myself I am not one of those ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“brave peopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• who take risks. I felt for Leith as he struggled with his own fear, for his life, and for his soul. I sympathized with the supporting characters as they tried to share their faith with those they cared about, watching them struggle to believe in a God that loves them.From the very first line, the plot and the characters snatched me into their story. I felt as if I was living the events with them. There are characters everyone can relate to and admire, from the tortured Leith Torren to the fearful Renna Faythe, and her fearless sister, Brandi. The character development in this book was phenomenal. If you secretly love books that make it impossible for you to do anything ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“productiveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, this is a book for you. I anxiously await the sequel!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â

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