



The Worker Prince

Bryan Thomas Schmidt

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What if everything you thought you knew about yourself and the world turned out to be wrong?

For Davi Rhii, Prince of the Boralian people, that nightmare has become a reality. Freshly graduated from the prestigious Borali Military Academy, now he's discovered a secret that calls into question everything he knew about himself. His quest to rediscover himself brings him into conflict with his friends and family, his cultural values and assumptions, and puts in jeopardy all he's worked for his whole life. One thing's for sure: he's going to have to make decisions that will change his life forever...

“THE WORKER PRINCE breathes dynamic new life into the space opera genre. Rich characters, wild action, and devious plotlines collide in a thoroughly entertaining book!” –Jonathan Maberry, New York Times bestselling author of PREDATOR ONE and DEADLANDS: GHOSTWALKERS

“Retro-with-a-twist SF brimming with an infectious enthusiasm!” — Saladin Ahmed, author Throne Of the Crescent Moon

The Worker Prince Details

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From Reader Review The Worker Prince for online ebook

Michelle says

In *The Worker Prince*, emperor tyrant Xavilar orders all first-born male slaves killed. One boy gets away – Davi, who is adopted by none other than princess Miri, Xavilar's sister. When Davi finds out that he is the progeny of slaves, and witnesses the slaves' treatment first-hand, he confronts his uncle and lands himself in more trouble than he could have imagined.

The Worker Prince is a story of family, with Davi as an inverted prodigal son. Davi loves his adoptive mother and his uncle, the tyrant emperor, even as his definition of family expands to include his biological parents and cousins. Xavilar makes a great villain in part because he also cares for his family as part of his skewed moral code. The tyrant's soft spot for princess Miri allows her to raise Davi to think for himself, setting events in motion beyond the emperor's control. Part of Davi's journey is his realization that his own moral principals differ greatly from his uncle's, and to a lesser extent from Miri's. *The Worker Prince* offers the reader many heart-warming scenes that line up characters like dominoes for the action-packed end, which in turn leads into an exciting sequel (*The Returning*).

The *Saga of Davi Rhi* series is also a story of war – of a long-brewing conflict that comes to a head when Davi meets the rebels. While Davi's influence as a prince and as a fighter pilot is important, we also see how smart and capable the rebels are, as are the emperor's lackeys who hunt them down. A lot of the rebel's planning and infrastructure is already in the works when Davi shows up, which makes the rebels' ensuing battles feel realistic. Schmidt does an excellent job of weaving realism into *The Worker Prince* through carefully chosen details that mimic real life conflicts – from mass graves to Xavilar's gradual erosion of the emperor's powers. And where Davi is sometimes a naive, as befits his age, many of the supporting characters are not, and together they make big events possible. Davi's confrontation with the emperor and his interactions with the rebels force the hands of supporting characters like Miri. Of course, emperor Xavilar has a large military with trained officers and many ships at his disposal, so when the rebels launch their attack, soldiers die. But as with many rebellions, there is no turning back once the ship has launched – or in this case, the fighter pilots.

Bryan Thomas Schmidt's *Saga of Davi Rii* is an engaging space opera about standing up against abuse even if that means defying public opinion and the Emperor himself.

Benjamin Love says

A very well written book, and a story very well told. It's nice to read a book where the heroes are heroes and the villains are villains. I thoroughly enjoyed the combination of the Moses story with the Sci-Fi themes (although, the Moses story only involves the premise--it is by no means a mere retelling). The allusions to "Old Earth" gave the story a good grounding and a rich history. It's also nice to see a first-book-in-a-series that is able to work as a stand-alone novel. My only complaints: The names in the book along with some of the vehicles and robots were just a little too Sci-Fi-ey for me, and I would have liked to have seen the romance sub-plot stretched out just a little longer. Other than that, it's a great book to pick up. I would highly recommend it even if you are new to Sci-Fi.

Jaleta Clegg says

Davi begins life as a worker child, born to slaves and condemned to a life working where and when he's ordered. For the most part, the high tech society gives the workers a fairly good standard of living, but Lord Xalivar hates the workers and doesn't trust them to keep in their place. They want freedom for themselves and their children. Xalivar decrees all first-born sons of worker slaves will be sacrificed to his gods. Davi's parents steal a courier ship and outfit it for their infant son. They send him off by himself as the troops close in.

Davi is found and raised by Xalivar's sister. He's a prince of the realm and Xalivar's heir-apparent. Until he and Xalivar learn the truth of his heritage. Davi runs away to join the growing worker rebellion. Xalivar's love for his adopted nephew turns to hate and bitterness as they face each other as opponents.

If the story sounds a lot like the story of Moses and the Israelites against Pharaoh and the Egyptians, it is. Schmidt has done a great job rewriting the historical tale into a science fiction adventure. He weaves a story of family ties, aggression, power, and love. Davi has everything - money, power, position - and he throws it away when he learns the truth of where he comes from and how his biological people are treated by his adopted family. If you're looking for characters with honor and integrity, who face tough choices with no clear answers, this is the book to read. I'm looking forward to book two and more of Davi's story.

Rachelle Sperling says

This book was a bit of Moses' story set in space minus the direct supernatural intervention of God. The Worker Prince was both creative and imaginative taking a Biblical story and reworking it into a similar but not identical plot. The author kept the idea of a people belonging to God, but took the spiritual aspects down a notch by placing his slave raised prince character at the center of the conflict, rather than making God the primary character.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. It wasn't a "keep me up at night can't put it down" novel, but it was good. As with many new authors I found that I never lost the narrative voice of the author so I never truly lived inside of the story. This left me feeling as if I was watching it unfold from the outside and it made me consider whether this book wouldn't have made a better movie than a novel. I personally think that visualization on screen would do much to help the sometimes flat and dictionary life descriptive explanations come alive.

I did think that the author did an excellent job of helping his readers understand the background and motivation of his characters. I also appreciated the fact that I never lost track of the plot line as the author kept it moving steadily forward.

As I mentioned above, the religious elements of the story were toned down so that if you weren't familiar with the story of Moses you might never guess that this story drew heavily from a Biblical narrative. I did find it disheartening that the author used a phrase that took God's name in vain twice, just pages from where he spent a couple of paragraphs contrasting the personal God of the workers to the gods that he grew up with. I know that it is a commonly occurring phrase in our culture and many people may not take notice of the exclamation, but I personally was still saddened to find it in this novel.

Star Rating:

Characters: 5

Plot and pace: 5

Descriptive Voice/Writing style: 3

Overall rating: 4 stars

I am certain that the author will continue to develop his writing style as he receives feedback from his audience and I look forward to seeing how he will grow as a novelist as he continues to gift us with further creative and imaginative tales like *The Worker Prince*.

I received a free digital copy of this novel in exchange for my honest opinion.

R. L. Copple says

If Moses had led his people out of bondage in the future rather than the past, it might look something like this story. While at several points the story touches upon elements of the classic Biblical story of Moses leading his people out of Egypt, it doesn't stick to that story, nor is that the only plot line running through this science fiction, space opera style tale. One of the problems when people depict, either literally or by analogy, a Bible story is the predictable ending. That's not a worry here. The second half of the book bares little resemblance to the story of Moses. More like Joshua going to war.

Three elements of this book make it worth reading. One is the world Mr. Schmidt has created. In this world, a group of planets is ruled by a limited king and legislative councils of the main races. Except one race is not represented because they are called "Workers." They mostly live on one planet which appears to be the only planet in the system with agricultural products of any significance, and the rulers treat them as slaves, exporting food to the rest of the system.

Mr. Schmidt doesn't succumb to the tendency to dump a lot of back-story about this world on the reader, but it is worked through the story naturally. The only glitch for me is the rationale for why the Workers existed left me with more questions than answers and was hard to envision its evolution based on how things are now. Some could even take offense, to what could come across as an artificially generated political division, as making a statement beyond the story about our current religious situation. I took it as simply the way history worked out in this world, but did leave me with more questions as to how that could have happened. I'd say more, but I don't want to give away too much.

The second reason I enjoyed this story was the plot itself. The king fears a prophecy that a worker will rise up to release his people from bondage. Like Moses, to avoid the king's decree that all worker's children under a certain age be killed, his parents arrange to ship him off to another world where he ends up being raised by the king's sister as the prince destined to rule the kingdom. The story proper picks up when Prince Davies takes his first assignment away from home, discovers his real birth, and the story unfolds from there.

Like I said, while it touches at points on the story of Moses, it was different enough to keep my interest and avoided being a pure repeat of that story. I enjoyed the way Davies grows and develops into the leader, and his loyalty to the truth. And if a reader likes sci-fi battle action, there is plenty here especially through the second part of the book. Mr. Schmidt does a decent job of describing the action, though there was a time or two I didn't follow him too well.

The third is the characters are for the most part well drawn. One becomes attached to the main character, Davies, early on. Each character has a unique feel about them. And they are introduced slowly enough that the reader doesn't end up getting too lost on who is who, though that danger gets a little stronger toward the second half of the book. Still, I never struggled with that despite a rather large cast, and the characters came across as believable on the whole.

The only two instances his characterizations stretched it for me was Davies' secondary antagonist felt a bit too much of the stereotypical bully to me and the source of his antagonism to Davies was never clearly defined, though hinted at, but seemed stronger to me than merely family jealousy. And the girl Davies ends up in a relationship with seems to lose her initial antagonism toward him too easily. On rare occasion, the dialog felt unnatural. Despite that, I found the characters interesting and believable.

There are three things that could detract from the story, depending on the reader. One, the writing style, while good, does get a little telly at points. While not bad, there is room for improvement. However, this is much better than many I've read in that regard, and I doubt the lack here will throw too many out of the story.

Two, also related to writing skills, Mr. Schmidt has yet to get a solid grip on executing point of view flawlessly. There is a little head jumping in places. Occasionally he would mix one person's dialog with another person's actions, keeping you on your toes as to who is actually speaking. One scene break in particular, the shift in point of view wasn't established until I read about four or five paragraphs into it, so I had to backtrack to discover if I'd missed something. Most of the time I didn't have too much trouble tracking who talked and what point of view I was in, but occasionally it did become distracting.

Third, if a reader isn't a Christian, they may not realize until halfway into the book that this story contains some Christian themes. A non-Christian, getting to that point, may feel "tricked" if they are not aware of that up front. The Christian elements were natural to the story, and didn't feel forced. That said, it offered more of a complimentary plot line than anything essential to the main plot. Other than the stated reason for their existence, religion could be extracted from the story and the plot would still work. But truth be told, much science fiction is artificial in not portraying religion to be active and valid part of society into the future. While not getting too preachy about it, Mr. Schmidt does a decent job of integrating it into the storyline. That said, a non-Christian could feel tricked into reading a Christian novel if they aren't aware of that before they put down the money to buy the book. This review is written prior to seeing any official blurbs that will introduce the story to potential readers, which may make it clear it is a Christian story. Still, it seems many buyers miss that information, even when clearly stated.

I didn't feel those shortcomings reduced my enjoyment of the story or prevented me from finding Davies and the other characters interesting. Mr. Schmidt provides an engrossing story, believable characters, an interesting world, and decent writing. Because of that, I'm giving this a recommended read, holding onto a four out of five star score.

Kirsty (Amethyst Bookwyrn) says

This and my other reviews can be found at <http://amethystbookwyrn.blogspot.co.uk/>

Thanks to Netgalley and Diminished Media Group for giving me this to review

Davi has been raised as a prince, but unknown to him, he was born a worker. After Lord Xalivar decrees that all first born worker sons must be killed to stop one of them deposing him and taking over the throne, Davi is sent by his parents in an unmanned courier, and is found and adopted by Princess Miri, Lord Xalivar's sister. He is assigned to the planet of his birth, as an adult, and is appalled by the treatment of workers. Whilst on assignment he helps a young worker and discovers she is related to him.

The Worker Prince is a young adult Sci-Fi book. The storyline is very predictable and reads quite young and naïve. Everybody is either good or bad, and everyone is taken at face value. Davi is welcomed into the workers rebellion without anybody wondering if he is a spy. Most of the characters are two dimensional apart from Davi's uncle, who we see both the loving side to his nephew, and the harsh unfeeling side to the workers.

One plot hole in this story is how nobody noticed that Princess Miri was not pregnant one day, and had a bouncing baby boy the next.

I would recommend this book as a light introduction to sci-fi.

Paul Hancock says

A total snooze fest for me. I can feel the entire story unwinding from the first chapter and haven't found any interesting twists or diversions to suggest that there might be some interest for me to finish the book. 20% is my limit.

Raymond Masters says

The complete review can be found at my blog: <http://raymondmasters.wordpress.com/2...>

This past week, or so, I've been reading Worker Prince by Bryan Thomas Schmidt to be prepared for the author's blog tour push. I first volunteered for a spot in the tour a couple of months back. At the time, I only did it because it sounded like a fun way to help out. I really only knew Bryan from Twitter and his weekly chat sessions there. I have really enjoyed the atmosphere on his #sffwrtchat author spotlights and chat sessions. And the guy did help me come up with the term Slushpimp. So, I had to help out, didn't I? The book blurb sounded solid, so I knew I wouldn't be disappointed at the very least.

What if everything you thought you knew about yourself and the world turned out to be wrong?

For Davi Rhii, Prince of the Boralian people, that nightmare has become a reality. Freshly graduated from the prestigious Borali Military Academy, now he's discovered he was secretly adopted and born a worker. Ancient enemies of the Boraliens, enslaved now for generations, the workers of Vertullis live lives harder than Davi had ever imagined. To make matters worse, Davi's discovered that the High Lord Councillor of the Alliance, his uncle Xalivar, is responsible for years of abuse and suppression against the workers Davi now knows as his own people.

His quest to rediscover himself brings him into conflict with Xalivar and his friends and family, calling into question his cultural values and assumptions, and putting in jeopardy all he's worked for his whole life.

Davi's never felt more confused and alone. Will he stand and watch the workers face continued mistreatment or turn his back on his loved ones and fight for what's right? Whatever he decides is sure to change his life forever.

See what I mean about not being disappointed?

Please, click here to read my full review of The Worker Prince.

For more on Bryan Thomas Schmidt, please check out his blog, here: <http://www.bryanthomasschmidt.net/>

You may also tweet with him, here: <http://twitter.com/#!/BryanThomasS>

And please, check out the next addition to the fun tour, right here: <http://laurakreitzer.com/>

Anthony says

Currently reading an ARC of this!

* * * * *

The Premise: Davi Rhii has it all: he's graduated from the military academy with top honors, he's handsome, he's got loyal friends and women throw themselves at him. And, oh yes, he's royalty: the son of the sister of the High Lord Councilor of the Borallian Alliance and next in line for what amounts to a kingship. He's also got a secret even he doesn't know about: he's adopted, the child of slave workers from the planet Vertullis who sent him off in a courier ship when the High Lord Councilor Xalivar ordered the execution of all first-born male children of the worker class. Davi also has enemies willing to exploit any potentiality to bring him down. When Davi's first military assignment as a Captain stationed on Vertullis, it doesn't take long for him to meet his real family and for his world to be turned upside down.

My Rating: 4 stars

My Thoughts: If the premise sounds familiar ... well, it should. Bryan Thomas Schmidt has taken the classic Moses story -- child of slaves adopted by royalty and raised in ignorance of his true heritage until adulthood brings the truth and a culture-shaking change -- and has given it revitalized life by setting it in our own future among the stars. He's also made the story his own. If you think you know exactly what's going to happen to Davi Rhii just because you know how it all turned out for Moses, Pharoah and the rest, you'll find yourself surprised. In this first of a trilogy, the early touchstones of Moses' life are recognizable in Davi's, but there are also surprises.

Many of those surprises come in the political machinations that move the characters and action. The Borallian Alliance is not Ancient Egypt, and while Lord High Chancellor Xalivar may resemble the Pharoahs in the Moses story, he is also very much his own character. Schmidt lays the groundwork of a very interesting set of world powers -- spread not over northern Africa and the middle eastern peninsula but rather across entire worlds.

Davi's emotional journey is believable, from protected (but not holier-than-thou) young royal to confused

rebel leader. Who is he? What does he really believe in? Which family, royal or worker, is his real family? Davi experiences a spiritual journey as well that is a bit rockier than Moses': the Borallian Alliance is a polyglot of Old Earth religions, pretty much polytheistic while not being especially spiritual, while the Workers are descended from the Evangelical Christians who settled Vertullis after a crash-landing and who maintain, and deeply believe in, the faith of their fathers. Davi struggles with understanding the worship of One God who plays a role in his believers' daily lives, and that struggle is not completely resolved by the end of Book One.

If I have one complaint about the book (other than the fact that I need to wait for Schmidt to write the next one to see where the story goes), it is that the history of the Borallian Alliance and the Workers of Vertullis feels a little unclear. A conversation with the author clarified the issue for me, but while reading I was struggling with trying to figure out who from Old Earth colonized which planet and in what order. There are also races native to the system whose histories are not really explored but I assume will be in future books: how did these native races react to Human Colonization of nearby planets, what was first contact like, how were they assimilated into the Alliance, etc. It's background, but it's potentially fascinating background ... and background which could further enhance Davi Rhii's story by showing his effect on those native races.

In short, Bryan Thomas Schmidt has taken a classic story and made it feel fresh. Davi Rhii is a character worth watching grow, and I look forward to the remainder of the trilogy to see how he does so.

Keanan Brand says

Below is my eldest niece's review of *THE WORKER PRINCE* and its sequel, *THE RETURNING*. She's a teenager, and I'm encouraging her reading and writing habits by bribing her with food and drink for every review she turns in. (mwah-ha-ha) I've already posted a brief review on my blog, so here's what "Jamie" has to say:

"Lord Xalivar's decree had taken the planet by storm. All first-born worker sons would be slaughtered for the gods... Concerning the slaves, his word was law."

To Sol and Lura, this was a particularly cruel blow. They had waited years for a child, and had only recently been blessed with a baby boy. Not willing to let him die for the false gods of a cruel dictator, they sent the infant away, in hopes that he'd be found and given a better life than theirs.

Twenty years later, Prince Xander Rhii, Davi to his friends, is sent to Vertullis, the slave planet, to oversee the workers. He's been raised by Princess Miri, Xalivar's sister, and is therefore the heir to the throne. But after witnessing the cruel treatment the workers are forced to endure, Davi begins to question everything he's been taught. Then he discovers his true heritage, and becomes a fugitive overnight.

Based on the story of Moses, the Davi Rhii Saga puts an interesting twist on Christian fiction. It's an exciting science fiction adventure, with exotic foods, multicolored aliens, political intrigue, and -- of course -- space battles. Yet the parallels to Moses are clearly present, and God is not ignored or downplayed.

While the first book could most definitely have used a better proofreader than it had, and the two novels might not be everyone's cup of tea, Bryan Thomas Schmidt's Davi Rhii books are excellent reading. I, for one, am eagerly awaiting book three: *THE EXODUS*.

David Brown says

It's not that often that a science fiction story bordering on space opera comes along that everyone will enjoy reading. That's what Schmidt accomplishes with the *Worker Prince*. Revolving around a recent graduate prince who leaves home for his first assignment only to discover his slave-class origins, the story mirrors that of the Biblical Moses in many aspects.

While the main protagonist, Davi Rhii, does not spend 40 years in the desert, he does wrestle with identity issues and the status quo of an empire built on the back of slave labor. The conflict that ensues is the classic story of one against the many. The result is watching an individual discover his unique place, and this is something most of us long for in our own lives.

Schmidt finds a nice balance between moralizing and adventure in his tale that I thought suited anyone between the ages of 13 and dead.

That being said, it didn't hit the sweet spot for me. I prefer a little more grime and grit in my space opera. Rhii is a champion and hero more along the lines of Luke Skywalker (without all the whining) and less like Han Solo. But the prose is elegant and well-paced.

If you enjoy young adult literature, coming of age tales, and/or science fiction adventure then you'll enjoy *The Worker Prince*. Read it! Review it! Share it!

Helen says

The Worker Prince is a cozy adventure. Being a retelling of the Moses story, the first part of the book leaves you looking back, tilting your head, as if you heard a familiar tune but can't quite place it. While simultaneously walking into the new world of the Boralis Alliance. The prologue, what it takes to launch this young child, provides a neat entry into the world. After that we catch up with the adult Davi, Prince of the Boralis Alliance, and recent graduate, but an all around good guy. It's easy to slip into and follow Davi, the reader is given some basic scaffolding of understanding and goodness, with a pinch of good fighter pilot, which leaves a lot of room to impress our own quirks and values.

The story reads a bit like a narrative, with a melody and a rhythm, something that is being recounted and told, not necessarily following our character(s) in real time. Davi is our hero, but the story dips into the perspective of the large cast, wherever and whenever something is happening to advance the plot. The downside of this we only get to understand these characters surface deep. Some devolve into caricatures, with key traits repeated and reinforced by the cast surrounding them. I spent much of the story waiting the reveal for why Xavilar hated the workers so much, and what was the past no one else seemed to remember. But maybe this is a lesson to us, and as fiction mimics life, some people are bigoted and hate the world.

There is not a great deal of mystery around the events of the story. Suspense is primarily created through the multiple view points. A good deal of information or understanding is revealed right in the moment it becomes relevant or necessary. The nice thing about this pacing is it makes the story extremely accessible. I can see audiences of several ages being able to pick up, follow, and enjoy this space adventure.

Note: given this has a basis in the Moses story there are themes around religion, belief, and faith throughout the story.

Sarah says

Original Not A Review:

I'm not going to rate this book because I couldn'tt finish it...

Though I didn't finish *The Worker Prince*, I do recognize that it is an exciting, fast paced story with quality writing that will serve to quickly absorb many readers in the tale being told. *The Worker Prince* is the first book in a trilogy and, I'm sure that fans will be hooked and anxious to read next book in the series. While I felt that the book lacked emotion, had some out-of-place technology and was over-the-top with Christianity, I do feel that it will be a hit with readers who are into Christian literature. It didn't work for me, but it definitely has its niche and readers interested in this kind of thing, or willing to overlook the problems I saw with it should certainly check it out.

Re-Review:

3.5/5 stars

The Worker Prince is one of those science fiction books that will probably make tried-and-true SF readers wax nostalgic about all the things that made them fall in love with science fiction in the first place. Schmidt fills this book with a bit of everything, some understated romance, action, adventure, prophecies, space travel and much more. Yes, there are Christian themes here, but Schmidt does a good job at handling them delicately and the underlying messages will appeal to most readers. While I did have problems with some of the characterization and technical terms, *The Worker Prince* is an overall success, and reminded me why speculative fiction is such an incredible, fun, and surprisingly deep genre.

Read my full review here:

<http://www.bookwormblues.net/2012/09/...>

Wendy S. Delmater says

It's a rare treat to find a book I'd unabashedly recommend to any parent, elementary school library or middle school librarian. This book has everything a young person could want in the way of great male and female characters they can identify with of various races, plus, action, adventure, intrigue, mystery, and even a little romance. Space ships and battles and great world building? Check. It has a great plot, too, and does not insult a young person's intelligence with childish concepts. And wonder of wonders, it does not stray over the line and contain potentially objectionable topics. The writing is a very little on-the-nose at times, but that's part and parcel with aiming for this demographic

It seems the inspiration for *The Worker Prince* was to write a sort of space opera version of the story of a young biblical Moses. Schmidt came up with a tale that stands apart, on its own two feet. I predict fan art of

the space-capable fighters and the battles. I can even see a movie made of this, and tie-in action figures. Yes, it's that good...

Caprice Hokstad says

I was given a review copy of this book in return for my honest opinion.

I give this book a 3.75 out of 5.

The first third of the book is a close parallel to the story of Moses. I couldn't help but cast the hero, Davi Rhii, as a young Charlton Heston in my mind. However, the antagonist, Xalivar, didn't seem to fit the Yul Brenner mold. I stopped trying to draw comparisons after that and let them develop as new characters in their own setting.

The last two-thirds of the story are solidly space opera, complete with training in a forest (that felt quite similar to Endor, minus the Ewoks) and space fighter battles with lasers and all the cool trappings of science fiction. I had a little trouble picturing some of these battles as I read them, but I could follow whose fighters were hit and who didn't make it. I think anyone who reads military sci-fi would probably do just fine.

The characters are well drawn and memorable. The protagonists are likable and realistic. The villain is strong, sly, and not easily defeated.

I was especially impressed by the climax because it was more of an intellectual battle of the wits than the now-cliché "blow up the Death Star" military victory I had expected. Bravo for that.

There are religious overtones/discussions throughout, but fewer than appeared in *The Ten Commandments* (do they still show that on TV anymore?). Faith is important to the characters, but the plot is not dependent on a divine miracle or any kind of *deus ex machina*. Good clean fun for space opera fans.
