

# **Swords of the Horseclans**

Robert Adams

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Taking place after a nuclear apocalypse, the swords of the horseclans is a continuation of the story of the High Lord Milo and his horseclans. He and his allies have to face an army coming from the south and face the evil Witchmen (20th century scientists) once again.

#### **Swords of the Horseclans Details**

Date : Published August 4th 1976 by Signet (first published August 1st 1976)

ISBN: 9780451099884 Author: Robert Adams

Format: Mass Market Paperback 180 pages

Genre: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Fiction, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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## From Reader Review Swords of the Horseclans for online ebook

## Jaq says

This really felt like a colour by numbers adventure. Nothing new was added, and the characters simply filled the pages. I was left feeling cheated, I wanted more, much more, and was left wanting at the end of it.

#### S.E. Lindberg says

Epic in scope. A little less gritty than the the first in the series (Coming of the Horseclans), which featured gore, rape, and torture. Instead, the comical plight of Demetrios offers some levity. The logistics of battle are articulated nicely. The dialogue style is unnatural, however; essentially the dialogue is just more narrative from the author rather than genuine conversation. The primary battle is largely anticlimactic since we are constantly made aware that the antagonist army is uninspired and ill-prepared.

I admit to being enthralled by Ken Kelly's cover art. Compared to the text, the cover art disproportionally brings to life the post-apocalyptic North America "Horseclan" world. I am compelled to read the next in the series, though I am expecting less than after reading the first book.

## **Nerine Dorman says**

This author seems to have a good pedigree in the industry, so I decided to give Robert Adams a shot. And, while I generally am able to give most authors a fair chance, I had to admit failure with this novel. Yes, I do read military SF and fantasy from time to time. And that's not the problem with this novel. It's the author's style, which is unnecessarily wordy, verging on purple.

Full review over at You Gotta Read Reviews: http://yougottaread.com/review-swords...

#### Fatbaldguy60 says

Good stuff.

## John McDermott says

My ratings based upon my memories of reading the first two Horseclan novels as a teenager. In other words, a very long time ago!

#### **Charles says**

See my review of the Horseclans series under Swords of the Horseclans, Horseclans #2.

#### Mohammad Ali Abedi says

(There are 18 books, and I read until Book 10, Bili the Axe)

I read a bunch of these books, and eventually I got bored of it, but man, what a ride. The story is set in a post-apocalypse world. Everything has gone wrong, from nuclear warfare to plagues, so nothing remains from our time. This new world is run by barbarians and swords. In the new world, there are a few changes. Some clans have the ability to mindspeak to a few select animals, such as big cats (which are more like panthers), and a select few have the power of immortality. Such as our main character, the Undying High Lord Milo!

Milo starts up as a small clan leader, and eventually his clan starts growing bigger as the novels progress.

The series is a manly fantasy story with none of the silly dancing elves stuff. Every few pages, someone gets either killed or raped, and the good guys usually are responsible for both. There isn't a really strong plot or characters to speak off, but if you have to want to pretend you are a man and raping some villagers and chopping off heads, then it can be fun.

#### Jim says

I've reread this a couple of times over the years. The first few books are pretty good. Nothing superb, but a fun, fast read if you like this kind of thing. It's more of a fantasy, but there is a Science Fiction basis - it's a post apocalyptic (nuclear war) world where a nomadic people are the good guys. Some super msart animals, a few immortals & such dropped in.

I think this is book 2. After about book 6 or 7, I got a little worn out with the series. I've been meaning to go back & read it again, since I didn't have the entire series all at once, but read it out of order, in scattered pieces across the years.

#### **David Nichols says**

This second novel about the Horseclans, a post-apocalyptic tribe of mounted nomads who worship Richard Harris (rim shot), can be read as a straightforward adventure story. The eponymous clans, under their semi-immortal leader Milo, take up arms against and defeat the decadent Greek war leader Zastros and his evil scientist allies, the Witchmen. Adams writes clearly and includes plenty of medieval period detail and action scenes, so this is a pretty quick read. I find it difficult to recommend, however, because despite his specific

promise not to advance an agenda, Adams spends much of the novel grinding his authorial axe. His treatment of homosexual characters would have been dated in the 1970s (when this novel was written) and is inexcusable today; one of those characters, Demetrios, Adams portrays as a mincing, bejeweled pedophile who pisses his trousers at the first sign of trouble. Women in the novel are "good" as long as they remain demure, sexually available, and attentive. One of the female characters, Mara, spends the last part of the book serving as the audience for Milo's giant lumps of exposition. The evil woman in the novel is a revenant 20th-century scientist who hates men and repeatedly reminds her colleagues about her four academic degrees, until Adams gives her what he considers her come-uppance. Readers of a more religious bent, meanwhile, will find Adams's treatment of the 27th-century Greek Orthodox Church offensive; even I found his anti-clerical cliches tiresome. This is not a post-collapse future in which the Church serves as a conservator of culture, as, for instance, in A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ. Nor is it one in which assertive women or non-normative men have much a place. Instead, hope for the future, such as it is, Adams vests in strong-willed, independent-minded leaders and the fighting men who like to take orders from them. I don't know if Robert Adams was a fan of Thomas Carlyle, but ideologically speaking, the two had much in common.

#### **Charles says**

Overall, the Horseclans books make a strong series of heroic fantasy. I really liked the settings for most of these, and Adams had great narrative drive and really knew how to tell a story. I did 'not' like the undying characters. To me, that really diminishes the heroic elements of the characters. Of course, not all the books had undying characters in them and those were generally the better books in the series.

#### **Timothy Boyd says**

The Horseclans series is probably the best blend of fantasy and SiFi I have ever read. Pretty much something for everyone in these books. Great characters, epic storyline, fantastic writings. My highest recommendation

#### ExtremeBibliophile says

A nostalgic re-read, from one of the old-school fantasy/science-fiction authors of yore. The Horseclans series is a great mix of future-world alternate reality, adventure, and straight-up speculative fiction. The spiritual heir to Jules Verne and George Stewart.

#### **Emily says**

There is some fairly fantastic worldbuilding in Adams' books, and I was impressed with some of the characterization.

However, what bothers me is Adams' propensity for equating pedophilia with homosexuality, and his very blatant homophobia. As I enjoy the general plots, I try to overlook this, but it's becoming difficult.

## SFReader says

While I would classify the first volume a being close to heroic fantasy, albeit in a future apocalyptic setting, this second volume in the series, Swords of the Horseclans, is more military fantasy. Book 1 ends with Milo completing his odyssey of leading the Horseclans from the high plains of the middle use to the eastern seaboard, where he establishes them in their new home and forms the Confederation.

Swords of the Horseclans takes place some 30 years after the end of book one. Milo and three other undying (Aldora, Mara and Demetrious) now rule the Confederation, it being a bit larger than in the first book with the addition of some additional territory over the years. With the exception of Demetrious, Milo and the undying rule the confederacy as a benevolent dictatorship, with each member state free to see to its own affairs as long as such affairs include treating the common people well. Demetrious come from a rather decadent ruling class, and has returned to his pederast ways after a brief stab at being a decent human being at the end of book one.

Swords of the Horseclans (Horseclans #2) review at SFReader.com

#### D. B. says

No-nonsense, ballsy, military fantasy. The antithesis of Tolkien's brotherly love.