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# Golden Age (The Shifting Tides Book 1)



## Synopsis

The first book in an epic fantasy series by James Maxwell, author of the bestselling Evermen Saga. The discovery of a strange and superior warship sends Dion, youngest son of the king of Xanthos, and Chloe, a Phalesian princess, on a journey across the sea, where they are confronted by a kingdom far more powerful than they could ever have imagined. But they also find a place in turmoil, for the ruthless sun king, Solon, is dying. In order to gain entrance to heaven, Solon is building a tomb "a pyramid clad in gold" and has scoured his own empire for gold until there's no more to be found. Now Solon's gaze turns to Chloe's homeland, Phalesia, and its famous sacred ark, made of solid gold. The legends say it must never be opened, but Solon has no fear of foreigners' legends or even their armies. And he isn't afraid of the Eldren, an ancient race of shape-shifters, long ago driven into the Wilds. For when he gets the gold, Solon knows he will live forever.

## Book Information

File Size: 4379 KB

Print Length: 466 pages

Publisher: 47North (May 1, 2016)

Publication Date: May 1, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B015GWEGGA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,080 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends #22 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Sea Adventures #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

## Customer Reviews

MY 30-SECOND SUMMARY OR, THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY  
The Good: ☺ This is a novel with no profanities; making this a story written in language suitable for all audiences. ☺ This is a

fantasy that stimulates one's imagination to dare to dream of doing the impossible. Golden Age is the first in a series; no need to worry about reading another book first. Best thing; this story is a nice break from a presidential election process that is quickly devolving into a Black Comedy that makes one fearful for the future. Golden Age will soon be released as an audio book and will be a good book for the road. The Bad: Although it does not end on a cliffhanger, it certainly does end with a teaser of things to come. Some won't like this, while others will love knowing another great adventure awaits them. Just as are many readers, I am not a patient man. I love the story but wish I wouldn't have to wait so long for the next installment. Length: Print, 466 pages; Audible, 12 hours 22 minutes. Although I have already read this novel, I pre-ordered it using my Audible account so I can listen to it during our Summer drive to the Coast. Target Audience/Genre: Golden Age: Shifting Tides Book 1 is a Fantasy-Adventure Young Adult. Q - What was the Rank on the date this review was published? A - 7,958. Q - How was this book obtained? A - I purchased this as my Prime Kindle First Selection, giving me a head start on reading it. Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A - Yes. Q - If this is a recurring character or a series, does it have a cliffhanger ending?

This story has a definite Greek Mythology feel to it. It has gods and goddesses, oracles, monsters, war, conquest, a quest, epic journeys, and personal growth. It has all the right elements, but I almost gave up after a few chapters. For me the story started out slow and I wasn't really drawn into the tale. The grammar and sentence structure in the first few chapters also kept pulling me out of the tale. The sentences were long, complex and packed with commas. Several times I had to stop and re-read sentences to figure out how the clauses went together, but after a while the exuberant use of comma seemed to settle down. The use of two separate and distinct story lines also slowed down the pace. One story arc followed Chloe, the daughter of Phalesian's President, and the other arc followed Dion, the youngest son of the king of Xanthos. The journeys of the two main characters were independent so the chapters ping-ponged back and forth between the two. About halfway through the book the two main characters finally got back together, and that is when things really started to happen. At that point I couldn't put the book down. There was non-stop action, drama, and danger. And gore, lot of gore and torture. I was actually a little surprised how the level of violence went from zero to cringe-worthy in just a few pages. The beginning of the book seemed scrubbed of all violence. There were lots of opportunities to show viciousness, but it was just glossed over or ignored. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, body parts were being severed. And once the action started, it never let up. The ending of the story was

fast-paced, emotional, and dramatic. It was also both satisfying and tantalizing.

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