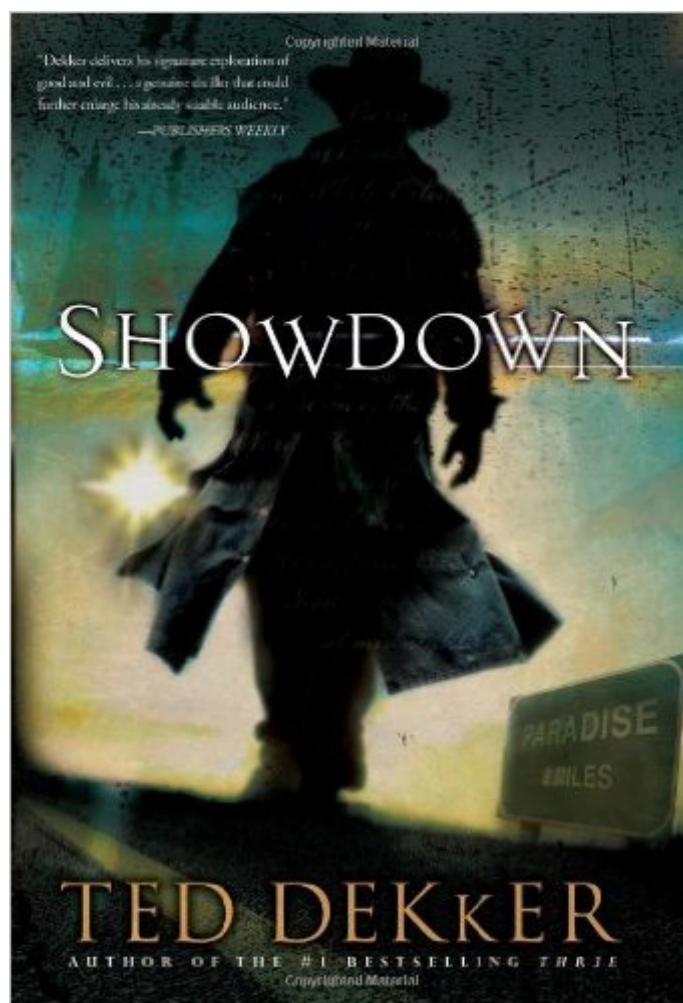


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Showdown (Paradise Series, Book 1) (The Books Of History Chronicles)



Synopsis

Welcome to Paradise. Epic battles of good and evil are happening all around us. Today that battle comes to town with the sound of lone footsteps clacking down the blacktop on a hot, lazy summer afternoon. The black-cloaked man arrives in the sleepy town of Paradise and manages to become the talk of the town within the hour. Bearing the power to grant any unfulfilled dream, he is irresistible. Seems like bliss . . . but is it? Or is hell about to break loose in Paradise?

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (January 3, 2006)

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 6.4 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (148 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,112,685 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #253 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Western](#) #943 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Mystery](#) #33112 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Suspense](#)

Customer Reviews

Ted Dekker is a total "hit or miss" with me. I began my foray into his work with *Thr3e* and literally could not finish the book. But, assured by a friend I trusted, I gave him another shot and picked up *Black*. I was not disappointed. The day I finished *Black*, I got *Red* and the day I finished *Red*, I began *White*. I absolutely loved *The Circle Trilogy*, so you can imagine my eagerness when I discovered *Showdown*, which is roughly a continuation of the *Trilogy*, centering around the mysterious *Books of History* which bring written words into real life. *Showdown* begins with promise, builds weakly, and putters to a pathetic end. Is there any action in *Showdown*? Plenty, I suppose. Actually, *Showdown* is a fairly gory and violent story. I would not recommend it to anyone under the age of maybe 15. If it were to be made into a movie as written, it would be rated "R", "PG-13" at the least. The story is about a tiny, isolated town in Colorado. It literally has one grocery store, one church, one beauty shop, and once had a movie theater. The town of Paradise (such an awfully cliché name, all things considered) has a population of about 400, but we only really get the feeling

that it's populated by about twenty. The remaining population are only briefly referenced a few times, which skews the feel of the story, in my opinion. The opening scene is pretty good, actually. Johnny Drake, a boy of about fourteen, is sitting with his old (very old) friend Cecil as a stranger decked out in what can only be described as a gunslinger's getup from a Clint Eastwood spaghetti western, strides into town on foot. Marsuvees Black is an outlaw prophet come to Paradise to bring the sleeping residents a message of "grace and hope" and to shake things up a little.

Having read several of Dekker's novels, I can honestly say that this complete train-wreck of a story is hands-down the worst of his that I have read so far. It boggles my mind that anyone, even the most slobbering Dekker fanatic, could enjoy this incomprehensible mess. Still, there are a lot of five-star reviews out there, so if you're thinking about buying "Showdown", take the following quiz. 1) A mysterious preacher has just come to your town claiming to be a man of God. He has been implicated in the death of an elderly resident, and has admitted putting an hallucinogenic drug into the town's water system. Since his arrival, the town has been blasted for days by a freak sand storm, and now you're having nightmares in which the preacher urges you to impale your spouse with a wooden stake. Do you conclude: A) This guy is the spawn of Satan! B) I don't know who he is, but he's causing trouble; better call the state police. C) I kinda dig the name "Marsuvees". Sounds like a man of God to me! 2) You have just found a set of ancient objects with the power to grant your every wish. Do you use it to: A) Solve world hunger and cure cancer. B) Fulfill all your selfish desires. C) Lock a bunch of orphans in a monastery and use them as guinea pigs in a bizarre socio-spiritual experiment in the name of "love". 3) While exploring a mysterious cavern, you encounter a passage crawling with giant worms. The worms are excreting a mucous-like substance that smells like dirty socks. What is your reaction? A) You turn pale and become physically sick. B) You flee in shrieking terror. C) You decide to scoop up some of their excrement and eat it.

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