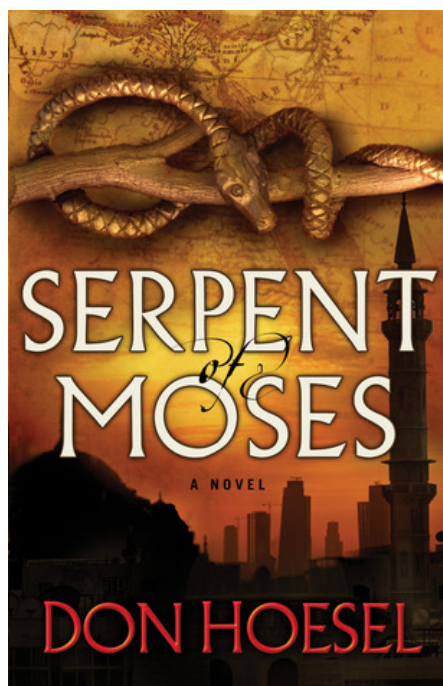




## Serpent of Moses

*Don Hoesel*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Serpent of Moses

*Don Hoesel*

## **Serpent of Moses** Don Hoesel

A Fast-Paced Follow-up to the Bestselling  
Suspense *Elisha's Bones*!

Just three years after the recovery of Elisha's bones, Dr. Jack Hawthorne has given up teaching and resumed the practice of archaeology, although his frequent absences have put a strain on his relationship with Esperanza. Things heat up when Esperanza receives a call from an antiquities dealer with troubling news about Jack, and her fears are confirmed. Jack has gone to Libya in search of another biblical artifact: the Nehushtan, the serpent staff of Moses.

After Jack arrives in Libya, he soon discovers he isn't the only one searching for the Nehushtan. Later, in attempting to steal it, he finds himself in the hands of a man who just might be his match. Jack and his friends must stay one step ahead of the Libyan government, an overambitious member of the Vatican hierarchy, and an Egyptian assassin--if they stand any chance of staying alive long enough to recover the staff.

## **Serpent of Moses Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2012 by Bethany House Publishers

ISBN : 9780764209253

Author : Don Hoesel

Format : Paperback 315 pages

Genre : Christian, Christian Fiction, Adventure, Fiction, Action, Suspense

 [Download Serpent of Moses ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Serpent of Moses ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Serpent of Moses Don Hoesel**

---

## From Reader Review Serpent of Moses for online ebook

### Amy Bradsher says

If you're an Indiana Jones fan, you won't want to miss this book. Like the famous trilogy, this story is about a famous archeologist who finds himself in over his head all too often but is able to use his incredible smarts to get himself out of tight spots. The story is action-packed and dramatic, and while this particular book (there is another book in this series) doesn't take place in the jungle, it does span beautiful Italian streets, London museums, and Libyan deserts. Also like the trilogy, Hawthorne seeks Biblical treasures of mythical proportions that possess power beyond human belief. This ups the ante throughout the story as more and more people head out in search of the Nehushtan, which also ups the danger level. I'm a big fan of mysteries and suspense, and Serpent of Moses has both in spades. There's also a bit of love-gone-wrong, which adds just the right amount of heart and mushiness to the strong male lead. I also prefer to read Christian books, and after that good clean books, and this hovers somewhere between the two. While Hawthorne has had mysterious encounters with God that he can't explain, and he has returned to faith, he's certainly not over the top, pushy, or preachy about any of it. While there is no racy or raunchy material in this book - nothing that would prevent, say, an advanced pre-teen boy from reading this story - the faith lessons are also applied softly. This is just an all around great read. This story enthralled me so much that I immediately went out and got the first one. While you can read them in any order, you might understand the characters' shared past better if you read them in the correct order. Whichever you decide to do, don't wait - you won't want to miss this book. I received a free copy of Serpent of Moses in exchange for an honest review.

---

### Shaun says

Jack is back! No, not Jack Bauer. Jack Hawthorne. You know Jack Hawthorne, former Evanston University professor and archaeologist for hire who first came on the scene in Elisha's Bones (Bethany House, 2009). The last time we saw Jack, he and the lovely Esperanza were secretly reinterring the bones of the prophet Elisha, surely glad to be rid of them after the deadly ordeal that ensued during the search for them.

Fast forward several years and Jack is still wearing the hat of the itinerant archaeologist. His latest assignment has put him on the trail of another biblical artifact. This time it's not bones he's after, but a serpent. More specifically the Nehushtan, the bronze serpent on a pole that Moses had made in the wilderness as recorded in Numbers 21:4-9. 2 Kings 18:4 records that King Hezekiah had the Nehushtan destroyed because the Israelites were burning incense to it. What if it wasn't completely destroyed, but was merely broken or dismantled? Could it be found today?

While many would call this quest a fools errand, there are those who think the Nehushtan can be found. Jack is working in the employ of Milo Sturdivant, museum director for Apsley House in London. Unbeknownst to Jack, there is a second team on the trail of the Nehushtan. This second team is working in the employ of the Israeli government and they've been tasked with doing "whatever it takes" to acquire it.

The story unfolds as Jack and the second team led by archaeologist Martin Templeton are competing to find and then struggling with each other for possession of the Nehushtan. When things don't go as planned on either side, the Israeli government deploys Mossad agents to forcefully retrieve the sacred relic. Throw in the well-meaning Esperanza (Jack's girlfriend), Jim "Duckey" Duckett (Jack's former colleague at Evanston University and retired CIA agent), Romero (Esperanza's brother, antiques dealer) and agents from the Libyan intelligence community and you have one heck of an adventure on your hands.

Serpent of Moses is the third novel I've read by Don Hoesel. True to the style exhibited in his previous books, Hoesel once again weaves a broad web of intrigue that moves along at a rapid pace. Overall, I enjoyed the story very much, but was left wanting a bit more closure in three areas. First, I would have liked a bit more insight into what has transpired in Jack and Esperanza's relationship since the closing of Elisha's Bones. Second, I was left wondering why the Israeli government was interested in the Nehushtan. Was it because they felt it had some secret power or were they hoping to preserve it as an important symbol of their national identity and history? Third, what was the special power of the Nehustan? Since Elisha's Bones had the ability to heal, I expected something similar from the Nehushtan. Towards the end of the story, we see its power briefly on display. It seemed to suggest that the person holding it was healed from a fatal wound, but it wasn't really clear. Had these gaps I perceived in the story been filled, I would have given the book five stars as I did to Elisha's Bones. In all honesty, I felt rather frustrated at the close of the story, so my overall rating for Serpent of Moses is 4 stars.

**About the Author:** Don Hoesel is a Web site designer for a Medicare carrier in Nashville, TN. He has a BA in Mass Communication from Taylor University and has published short fiction in Relief Journal. He lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee, with his wife and two children.

**Disclaimer:** This book was provided by the publisher for review. The reviewer was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

---

## Katie says

First posted on my blog, Legacy of a Writer.

Serpent of Moses was my first read by Don Hoesel, though I own two of his previous books. And after such a good experience I will definitely be reading them in the near future! As I saw another reviewer compare, this book does put you in mind of an Indian Jones movie. What's not to like, right?!!

Jack Hawthorne was a one-of-a-kind type of guy! While it was easy for me to grow to like him, I couldn't help but laugh at a few of his antics—such as the ability to sit back, relax (or even sleep) no matter the situation. Esperanza, Romero, and Duckey made awesome “sidekicks” for him and, really, with a guy like Jack, he needs them!

The people hunting for the staff against these characters were formidable. I loved how Hoesel gave us a peak into their operations by having several scenes from either Bouyfayed, Imolene, or Templeton's point of view. The plot, as a whole, was very well done. Things began at a rather suspenseful and climatic moment and—to my surprise and delight—Hoesel kept it steadily climbing till the end of Serpent of Moses.

The main reason I didn't give Serpent of Moses 5 stars would be because of the writing. It was different then I was used to and there were a few scenes where I became confused because of the way things were written. I had to reread it for clarity. But, really, that might just be me—and it wasn't to such a severe degree that it inhibited my experience in this book.

This newest release of Hoesel's was a very easy read—the suspense and action pushing me effortlessly from one scene to the next. The cast of characters were easy to get to know and become endeared to. And the whole "hunt for the serpent" was intriguing! So to sum it all up, a very engaging and enjoyable read!!

---

## Shalini Ayre says

Jack Hawthorn, an experienced archaeologist finds himself recovering an ancient artifact - the Nehushtan. It's a sacred and revered object that was thought to have been lost. However, having discovered the 'hiding' place he meets Englishman Martin Templeton - a man who Jack can't trust.

The quest finds him travelling to Libya - but the Mossad agents are not going to let the priceless antique leave the country so easily. His friends - on/off girlfriend and linguist Espy, her brother Romero and one time secret agent Jim 'Duckey' Duckett soon become involved in his struggles once they start to search for Jack after he goes missing - for a longer period than usual.

And so ensues an epic struggle to leave the troubled Libya and neighboring countries and unlock the mystery surrounding 'snake of brass upon a pole'. Why does Templeton seem to have another reason to pursue Jack and is there more to the sacred staff?

From the explosive beginning, Hoesel's novel weaves a story that akin to 'Indiana Jones'. The plot thickens quickly and the momentum is for the most part maintained. The author is articulate and there is a nice fluidity to the chapters. The characters are well defined all with likable traits. Jack is almost nonchalant in his manner whereas Espy is hot headed; her brother and 'Duckey' - cool, calm and collected - yet they all complement each other.

Generally, I liked the premise of this story. However, I didn't gel with it entirely. I'm not sure if it was the plot, the characters or the seemingly lack of information regarding the artifact itself - it just wasn't that in depth. Hoesel is certainly eloquent; I like his style of writing and use of words. And, whilst action packed and engaging, I felt it needed a little more mystery. Recommended for those who like a biblical mystery.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers. The opinions expressed are my own and I am not expected to give a positive review of this book.

---

## Leona says

From the Back Cover

Moses built and lifted up the brass serpent,  
healing the afflicted Israelites of snakebites.

King Hezekiah called the serpent Nehushtan. Long thought destroyed, it's been buried for millennia, secreted under the region's shifting sands.

Now the Israeli government wants it back and they will stop at nothing to get their hands on it. Yet they're not the only ones who covet the Nehushtan.

Archaeologist Jack Hawthorne travels to Libya intent on recovering the sacred object, but one does not cross the Mossad and expect to walk away without a fight. Jack and his friends must find the priceless "snake of brass upon a pole" before those who are also hunting it find them...and silence them forever.

About the Author

Don Hoesel, the acclaimed author of Elisha's Bones, Hunter's Moon, and The Alarmists, lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee, with his wife and two children. Don holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from

Taylor University. When not writing novels, he spends his days working in the communications department of a large company.

My review:

This was a really good read . Some have suggested this book is like an Indiana Jones type of adventure. Jack Hawthorne is the main character in Serpent of Moses. The book starts with Jack in a cave in Libya being chased by men who want the staff Jack has. The book continues with mystery, chasing and searching for Jack who is missing.

It is an interesting book about archaeology, the Bible, the Middle East, Milan, history, friendship, mystery, God, death, suspense danger and the brass staff called the Nehushtan. The Nehushtan is a sacred object in the form of a snake of brass upon a pole. Moses made it to heal people of snake bites from a plague of snakes God sent them. It is said to have been broken into pieces by King Hezekiah. The Israelis has hired Imolene to get the staff back and return it to them.

Jack has disappeared and Espy and her brother go to the Middle East to and Europe search for him. His friend Duckey also joins in the search.

This my first read by Don Hoesel and the second book in the Jack Hawthorne series, but this book can be read without reading the first one. There is violence but no sex or bad language.

Some Characters:

Dr. Jack Hawthorne- an archaeologist in search of the Nehushtan.

Imolene -an Egyptian paid by the Israelis to get the staff..

Dr. Esperanza (Espy) Habilla-girlfriend of Jack, she is from Venezuela and a foreign language expert at the University of Venezuela.

Romero Habilla- brother of Esperanza; an antiques dealer.

Amadou Boufayed- a Libyan

Martin Templeton- an Englishman also after the staff and Jack.

Milo Sturdivant- a museum curator who hired Jack to bring him the staff.

Jim Duckett- a friend of Jack, a former CIA agent and a professor. Goes by the name of Duckey for his friends.

Stephanie- wife of Jim Duckett.

Marwen Saidani- a Tunisian.

Tom Fitzpatrick- CIA Unit Chief Agent and friend of Jim Duckett.

Places:

Milan

Libya

London

Caracas

Tripoli

Tunisia

Turkey

Al Bayda (Africa)

I received a complimentary copy of Serpent of Moses by Don Hoesel to read and review from Bethany House. The opinions are my own.

I will give it a 5 star because of the interest it had for me.

You can find the author at [www.donhoesel.com](http://www.donhoesel.com) and [www.goodreads.com/author/show/2113161...](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2113161...) and <http://www.shelfari.com/authors/a2404...> for some sites.

---

## Christian Fiction Addiction says

Let me start by saying that Don Hoesel's previous novels have won high recommendations from me for their non-stop action, excellent plots, and Hoesel's strong command of the English language. I therefore

approached "Serpent of Moses" with expectations that this book would live up to his previous works. In many ways it did, because the story features plenty of high-octane action scenes and interesting locales. However, for some reason I found much of the story to be somewhat plodding, and I finished the book not even quite clear on whether I liked Jack as a character. He definitely experiences growth during the story, coming to realize that his relationship with his partner is more important than the latest archaeological find or large financial reward. But his whole reason for going after the object in the first place is utterly without merit, and because of this the book lacked the sense of justice and rightness that would make me normally side with the main character and their mission. Jack simply didn't deserve to win anymore than anyone else in the story did. And despite the coolness factor of the artifact, its importance to Israel itself isn't fleshed out that strongly in my opinion.

The result is that I can only give this book a mild recommendation to readers who typically enjoy stories of action and suspense, and a rating of 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany House, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

---

## Addison says

Below is my review, which I first posted on my wife's blog - <http://faerytalesarereal.blogspot.com> .

Serpent of Moses is a good book and I had a fun time reading it. When I first read the description of the book, and its main character, the intrepid archaeologist Jack Hawthorne, I immediately thought of other famous adventurers like Indiana Jones and (for the video game savvy) Nathan Drake. While Jack Hawthorne's adventure through northern Africa in this book may not meet the bar set by those two adventurers, it did provide me with a joyful, fun, easy read.

I went into this book blind, not knowing that there is a preceding book which recounts an earlier adventure of Mr. Hawthorne's. Having done so, and now after finishing the book, I can say that Don Hoesel, the author, does an excellent job of allowing new-comers to jump right into the story. All the characters are well-developed within this single tale, and whenever something comes up that requires knowledge of Jack's previous escapades, the author fills you in with just enough details to clear up any confusion, and yet each reference to Jack's earlier adventure left me wanting to go back and read that story as well. It really is very well done.

The adventure itself is well thought out and has many moving parts. One of things I most enjoyed was how the narrative continually jumps between the many players in the story. Seeing the separate paths of all the characters involved and how all those paths wove in and out and eventually came together in the end was quite enjoyable.

While the subject of the book, the Nehushtan or Serpent of Moses, has biblical roots, the story itself only a few times touches on matters of faith. I was expecting and looking forward to Jack Hawthorne's spiritual growth being a central theme but was left wanting in that respect.

Overall Serpent of Moses was a fun, enjoyable and easy read. I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a quick globe-trotting adventure - it would be a great beach book!

This book is a clean read. Although there are a few occasional instances of descriptive violence (e.g. a man using a knife to "open the throat" of another man) none of it was gratuitous or overly graphic in my opinion.

## E.A. West says

Archaeologist Jack Hawthorne is on a quest to find the Nehushtan, the brass serpent staff of Moses. Unfortunately, he's not the only one who wants it. Mercenaries, the Mossad, simple villagers...everyone seems to want to lay claim to this biblical relic that has rested undisturbed in Libya for centuries. When it's brought to light, however, Jack finds himself in a world of danger and relying on friends scattered around the world.

Fraught with danger and adventure, *Serpent of Moses* is an action-packed novel with a hint of romance, a few lessons in biblical history, and plenty of intrigue. From London to Libya and beyond, the characters hop from one country to the next without a second thought, despite the danger the journey places them in. It's only after men with guns appear that anyone considers the risk to their lives, and by then it's too late to do anything but continue on and pray God wants them to live through the next step.

Although presented as a stand-alone novel, there are many references to Jack Hawthorne's past expeditions. In particular, one that took him and his girlfriend Esperanza Habilla to Australia and ended badly. Enough details are finally given in the book for the reader to realize that expedition must be the subject of a previous book by Don Hoesel. Without reading that book first, however, the reader is left wondering what they missed when the story is repeatedly referenced in *Serpent of Moses*. There's also the little matter of the characters frequently "intuiting" what others are thinking, as well as several instances of head-hopping (skipping from one character's thoughts to another's and back). These things were distracting, along with the feeling of being an outside observer rather than a participant in the story.

*Serpent of Moses* has an interesting plot and more twists and turns than strictly necessary for an exciting story, but the author managed to tie everything together well while connecting this book to a previous one. The few instances where the wrong location is mentioned in reference to an event in the story can be overlooked without too much trouble.

If you like suspenseful books with adventure, danger, and a bit of archaeology, *Serpent of Moses* could be the right book for you.

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book from the publisher. The manner in which I received this book has no bearing on this review. All opinions in this review are my own and based solely on the contents of the book and my experience reading it.

---

## Rosie says

This was a somewhat less enjoyable Jack Hawthorne adventure, when compared to the previous novel. But before I dive into the negatives of this book, let me present the positives. :-)

Hoesel begins *Serpent of Moses* in third person. This was different for me, seeing as the first book (*Elisha's Bones*) was written in first person. I freely admit I found the change confusing. Were we with Jack? Or is it Duckey? Espy? Thankfully, Hoesel revealed who it was within a paragraph, but it left a bad taste.

I found Esperanza's loyalty, when it counted, to be very, very admirable. Duckey's too. Especially after all that occurred in *Elisha's Bones*. In addition, I liked it when Jack had his realization that his relationship with



Espy is more important than gallivanting off after artifacts. Friendship plays a big part in Hoesel's novels and it's an element I enjoy.

Now, to briefly disclose my cons. I really didn't like the change to third person. I think I understand why Hoesel did it, but it still aggravated me when I got lost. Because of the change, I struggled to keep up even more so than I did in Elisha's Bones. I also did not like all the jumping around from person to person. It just added to my confusion. Finally, though the story was fast paced at some points, in others it felt like it was dragging.

I'll conclude with one final statement: If I hadn't read Elisha's Bones first, I think I might have liked Serpent of Moses more. I give this book three stars.

I received this book from Bethany House in return for an honest review of my opinions, which I have done.

---

### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Serpent of Moses

Author: Don Hoesel

Pages: 320

Year: 2012

Publisher: Bethany House

Note: I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review. Follow my other reviews at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> and on twitter @lcjohnson1988

In the Old Testament, Numbers chapter 21, the Israelites were grumbling and doubting not only Moses, but God. The Israelites battled with and voiced their grumbings, so God acted. He sent snakes to bite them. To save them, Moses was to make a snake emblem, place it on a pole, lift up that pole, and anyone who looked at it would be saved. There are many Biblical artifacts that have never been located here on earth. The author takes a true historical event and creates a fictional story that is engrossing and enjoyable.

Jack is an archeologist who, for the most part, hasn't delved into Biblical archeology until recently. He acts very impulsively without any forethought to the repercussions to his friends or himself. Jack knows many people from his international travels, but not as many as his girlfriend's brother, who deals in the world of antiquities.

Jack is on journey that proves to be more about learning what is really of value to him compared to what others believe is of value. Jack's friend Ducky was a former CIA agent who retired, but when Jack once again disappears Ducky is compelled to go and locate his friend. Romero and his sister Espy, who is Jack's on again off again girlfriend, also join in the search for Jack. Where do they begin looking? Espy is ready to tell Jack that their relationship is off. She is a linguist expert who finds the disappearing behavior of Jack all too frustrating.

Jack's friends aren't the only ones looking for him either. There is a man who seeks to find Jack for answers to certain questions. What questions? As you read the story, you will be surprised at what he asks him. Several nations want what is now in Jack's possession and the price some pay to attain it may be very high. From the desert in Africa, to Libya, to other places, Jack is hounded by one Egyptian in particular who wants to kill him. Does he maybe have other orders to the contrary? Does he obey?

The artifact that Jack discovers by accident is more than what it originally appears to be. Is that why so many want to get their hands on it? Does Jack even know what happens when the artifact is finally revealed? Don Hoesel writes an action-packed story that will leave you wanting to read more of his work. This story combines Biblical archeology, suspense, and intrigue to make an excellent novel.

My rating is 5+ stars. I can't wait for the next story with these characters to come out, at least I hope there is another one!

## Megan says

Note: This review is by a guest reviewer... my husband, Addison! Please be kind; it's his first review! :)

Serpent of Moses is a good book and I had a fun time reading it. When I first read the description of the book, and its main character, the intrepid archaeologist Jack Hawthorne, I immediately thought of other famous adventurers like Indiana Jones and (for the video game savvy) Nathan Drake. While Jack Hawthorne's adventure through northern Africa in this book may not meet the bar set by those two adventurers, it did provide me with a joyful, fun, easy read.

I went into this book blind, not knowing that there is a preceding book which recounts an earlier adventure of Mr. Hawthorne's. Having done so, and now after finishing the book, I can say that Don Hoesel, the author, does an excellent job of allowing new-comers to jump right into the story. All the characters are well-developed within this single tale, and whenever something comes up that requires knowledge of Jack's previous escapades, the author fills you in with just enough details to clear up any confusion, and yet each reference to Jack's earlier adventure left me wanting to go back and read that story as well. It really is very well done.

The adventure itself is well thought out and has many moving parts. One of things I most enjoyed was how the narrative continually jumps between the many players in the story. Seeing the separate paths of all the characters involved and how all those paths wove in and out and eventually came together in the end was quite enjoyable.

While the subject of the book, the Nehushtan or Serpent of Moses, has biblical roots, the story itself only a few times touches on matters of faith. I was expecting and looking forward to Jack Hawthorne's spiritual growth being a central theme but was left wanting in that respect.

Overall Serpent of Moses was a fun, enjoyable and easy read. I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a quick globe-trotting adventure - it would be a great beach book!

This book is a clean read. Although there are a few occasional instances of descriptive violence (e.g. a man using a knife to "open the throat" of another man) none of it was gratuitous or overly graphic in my opinion.

I give this book 3 out of 5 stars.

I want to thank Don Hoesel, Bethany House Publishers, and the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for the complimentary copy of this book for review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I express in this review are my own. This is in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's CFR 16, Part 255.

---

## Yiya says

This book is a quest to find the legendary brass snake that Moses set on a pole - the same snake that the Israelites could look up on in order to get healed from snake bites. Serpent of Moses assumes that the relic was not destroyed by Moses, making it one of the most profitable finds in the archaeology world. Esperanza,

his long time girlfriend, ever waiting for Hawthorne to get serious, Romero, Esperanza's brother and art dealer, and Jim Duckett, an ex-CIA agent and former colleague, will team up when Hawthorne has not shown up to an important business meeting after a few weeks. He is not the most punctual person in the world, but even he knows the limits regarding a crucial art deal. The truth is, Hawthorne has found the location of the once thought lost relic, but he is not alone in his search and is taken prisoner. Esperanza, Romero and Duckett will start a search of their own with the hope of finding Hawthorne alive; none of them could have ever imagined that they would be risking their lives.

Yes, this book is full of suspense, and as I mentioned in my previous reviews of Hoesel's books, it should come with popcorn. He is certainly skilled at building up suspense and twisting the story right at the point where everything seemed solved. This makes it a gripping, interesting read, hard to put down. As usual, the ending comes a bit too fast, but it also leaves the reader with a curiosity to see what will happen next in the character's lives. This adds to the positive aspects of this book, but I do have to say that there were moments where I felt I was reading a copy of other successes - namely Indiana Jones and Dan Brown's books. Both of these have been successful, which I guess would be a plus for Mr. Hoesel, but there is really nothing new under the sun. During the story, the team needs the assistance of people with whom Hawthorne has worked before, but it is not initially clear whether they like or dislike him; I could even picture Hawthorne with Harrison Ford's look of uncertainty more than once, or even Robert Langdon's excitement when deciphering clues when Esperanza and Romero try to find the secret location of the serpent. Do not let this deter you from reading this book; if you are looking for clean entertainment during a rainy day, this would be a good choice. As I mentioned before, Hoesel is a skilled writer, but I would have preferred to not be reminded of other stories and get involved in this one on its own.

Also, there are numerous references to Hawthorne's previous adventure in Australia; I presume that would be "Elisha's Bones," which I have not read (and which I do not feel like reading after this book). At times, it was a bit distracting, because Hawthorne's reputation is relevant in the outcome of this plot. The dots are connected in the last part of the book, so if you share my situation and are not familiar with Hawthorne's past, just wait to get to the final chapters. It comes together, and Hoesel, once more, uses his resources wisely and manages to keep the reader on their toes to the last minute, right to the lousy ending. I personally have the sensation that this book could be much, much better, but it lacks authenticity, and the way the end is presented is a bad aftertaste that dilutes all the suspense.

Regarding Christian principles, God is mentioned here and there, but none of the characters actually practice a Christian life, a constant in Hoesel's books. However, language is clean, making this book a good read for teenagers.

In short, *Serpent of Moses* is an archaeology adventure in search of a relic precious to different peoples who will not stop at anything to have it - just that.

Bethany Publishers provided a free copy of this book in exchange of an honest review. The opinion and thoughts in this review are my own and have not been biased by the latter.

---

## **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

Thinking back to my younger days and sensing what types of movies and book really appealed to me, I'd have to say action-adventure with a twist of romance. Now I was fortunate enough to find myself with the opportunity to review Don Hoesel's latest novel, *Serpent of Moses* which will leave you a bit breathless.

The book opens with a murder of a German, a Dr. Felix Hoffstatter while members of the Mossad try to prevent it from happening in the dead of night. The mystery will begin to deepen as archaeologist Dr. Jack Hawthorne finds himself fleeing from armed men in a cavern in the mountainous part of northeaster Libya attempting to locate a historical biblical artifact. However once he finds himself cornered and no where to run or hide anymore, he is taken back into the main part of the cavern to find the item.

The men who have kidnapped him are working for the Israeli government that want to ensure that any and all biblical relics that are discovered are turned over to them. However they aren't in the position to bargain for anything but the return of their discovered item which turns out to be a staff Moses created called the Nehushtan, to heal those inflicted by the snake bites that Moses called forth during the plagues of Egypt.

The Israeli's have hired an Egyptian giant, who goes by the name of Imolene working alongside an Englishman named Martin Templeton who have vowed to acquire the staff and leave no witnesses remaining. Now Jack has to work at finding a way to escape along with the staff before he is killed and no one knows where he is at. His only luck is his connection with Milo Sturdivant, a museum curator, who has hired Jack to locate the staff and bring it to him.

When Jack doesn't show up for his appointment, his long time friends, ex-CIA agent Jim Duckett, Dr. Esperanza Habilla and her brother, Romero, will have to use all their skills to find Jack before it's too late.

I received Serpent of Moses by Don Hoesel compliments of Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for my honest review and was immediately drawn in from the first page. As a reader, I compared this one to those Indiana Jones movies I was captivated by, with our hero looking for a hidden biblical artifact that can only be found using a series of clues, meanwhile being hunted by others who want the fortune and glory all for themselves. This one is amazing and well worth a 5 out of 5 star rating. It delivers action, adventure, suspense and a touch of romance in this Christian novel. This is the second novel from Don Hoesel that I've had the opportunity to review and I know it will not be my last. This is the sequel to Elisha's Bones which I have on my Kindle and will be reading next.

---

## Victor Gentile says

I had the privilege of interviewing Don Hoesel, on our radio show "Kingdom Highlights", for his new book, "Serpent of Moses" Book Two in the Jack Hawthorne series published by Bethany House Publishers. From the Back Cover: Moses built and lifted up the brass serpent, healing the afflicted Israelites of snakebites.

King Hezekiah called the serpent Nehushtan. Long thought destroyed, it's been buried for millennia, secreted under the region's shifting sands.

Now the Israeli government wants it back and they will stop at nothing to get their hands on it. Yet they're not the only ones who covet the Nehushtan.

Archaeologist Jack Hawthorne travels to Libya intent on recovering the sacred object, but one does not cross the Mossad and expect to walk away without a fight. Jack and his friends must find the priceless "snake of brass upon a pole" before those who are also hunting it find them...and silence them forever.

Archaeologist Jack Hawthorne is back in a new thrilling adventure. The events in "Serpent of Moses" take place three years after the events of "Elisha's Bones". This time his travels have taken him to Libya tracking the Biblical bronze serpent of Moses. Just as he is about to escape with the staff he is captured and taken away with the opposing team of Archeologists. Now Espy, the woman he loves, travels to Milan to find out where he went to find him while Duckey, his best friend travels to Libya for the same reason. With his friends searching to help and the bad guys searching to kill him it is just a matter of time before someone finds him, hopefully it will be his friends. "Serpent of Moses" is a page-turner, heart-racing, action, suspense thriller. Jack Hawthorne's life is in deadly danger as he is taken captive and his abductors have orders to kill him. Don't start this book late at night because it will be very difficult to put it down or stop thinking about

it. I recommend this book highly and am greatly looking forward to Don Hoesel's next adrenaline rush.

If you missed the interview for "Serpent of Moses" and would like to listen to it and/or would like to hear the previous interviews where we discussed "Elisha's Bones" or "The Alarmists" and/or would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Bethany House Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

---

## **Ellen White says**

Jack has given up teaching and back to archeology. As well as his girlfriend Esperanza who gets exasperated with him being late all the time. He is on a quest of an item that hasn't been handle in a thousand years, the serpent staff of Moses As is the Israeli government after it, using whatever means they have to.

---