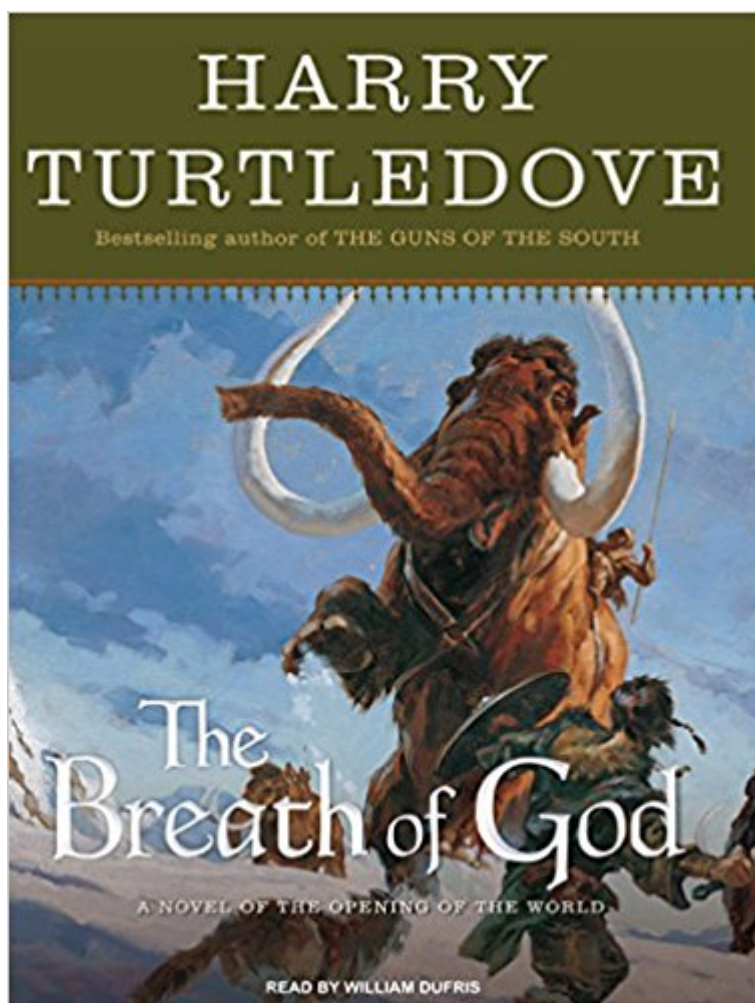


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The Breath Of God: A Novel Of The Opening Of The World



Synopsis

Once the great Glacier enclosed the Raumsdalian Empire. Now it has broken open, and Count Hamnet Thyssen faces a new world. With the wisecracking Ulric Skakki, the neighboring clan leader Trasmund (politely addressed as "Your Ferocity"), and his lover, the shaman Liv, Hamnet leads an exploration of the new territory in hopes of finding the legendary Golden Shrine. But dangers abound. A violent and implacable group known as the Rulers has already killed many, and now they attack again. Riding deer and woolly mammoths and using powerful magic, the Rulers triumph and force the Raumsdaliens to flee. In the spring, another battle ends even more badly for Hamnet's side, but the Glacier is also retreating, so they are able to escape. Meeting a tribe whose desperate living conditions have led them to overcome the Raumsdalian taboo against eating fallen foes, they find unexpected allies. Now, returning to the capital city and its intrigues, Hamnet prepares to lead an army against the merciless Rulers. The world, once so bounded and comprehensible, will never be the same.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The second Opening of the World fantasy novel (after 2007's *The Gap*) can easily be enjoyed on its own terms. The rise of the Rulers, a powerful group who ride mammoths to war and wield potent magic powers, poses a major threat to the Raumsdalian Empire. Count Hamnet Thyssen, a master warrior, rallies a ragtag mix of magicians, shamans and soldiers against the Rulers, who deal them

a crushing defeat. The survivors make a perilous escape over an enormous glacier, where they encounter a band of cannibals and acquire a new shaman, the lovely and skilled Marcovefa. Sparks fly between her and Hamnet as the Rulers threaten further battle. While the prolific Turtledove may be best known for his alternate history works, he demonstrates his versatility and considerable imagination in this fast-paced military fantasy. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

For centuries the Raumsdalian Empire was cut off from the north by great glaciers. Of the region's people, only the nomadic Bizagots were in the empire's ken. But melting has opened a gap. Count Hamnet Thyssen, scouting for the legendary Golden Shrine, has found a people calling themselves the Rulers, who regard all other peoples as herd animals. Unfortunately, they are skilled warriors who know magic that neither Bizagot shamans nor imperial wizards can counter. The Rulers have been breaking Bizagot tribes, leaving survivors scattered and hungry. Hamnet tries to get the survivors to work together, which proves nearly impossible, and to learn as much as he can about the Rulers' magic. He doesn't get much assistance from his own people, to whom everything beyond the glaciers is so much legendry. The tale's copious action includes some fascinating sorcerous battles, and Turtledove's development of Hamnet is captivating. The count, introduced in *Beyond the Gap* (2007), is a man facing myths become reality and trouble that for now he must deal with virtually alone. Terrific adventure. --Frieda Murray --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I will have to say that like many of the books by Turtledove it started slow. It took until chapter 5 and the scale up the cliff for the book to get interesting. Basically the book takes place in either Roman or the Stone age. It seems to be a mix of the two eras. It vaguely follows the Huns incursion into Rome but the evil army rides Mamoths. Most of the tribe of the north seem to be out of 10,000 BC. As usual Turtledove has a more subtle and interesting magic I find more appealing than most fantasy. The characters are interesting and some of the characters and cultures that are found are very disturbing but interesting. The book is rational and responds to their environment.

good story !

Less sexual problems and more direct story lines would have helped. Don't need to know how much

sex or not some character is getting. Explain more about the magic and it's machinations then the bemoaning of a characters lack of being a man.

I really like good historical fiction with real heroes and heroines and am particularly interested in ancient civilizations with powers that we no longer have. I felt that the author did a good job of presenting a believably authentic 10,000 BC civilization with interesting and sympathetic characters. The book had what I was looking for and I very much enjoyed and quickly finished it. My only complaint is that I didn't at first realize it was part of a series, and I felt it left me hanging a bit at the end.

Thanks to Harry for not reminding us every thousand words what he says on page 1. The Breath of God is a wind that flows from the great glacier that - up to now, divided the world. Now there is a crack, and the protagonists are going exploring to see what's there. Turtledove as usual paints a great picture of what might have been, and this one is very plausible. The book is good enough that I immediately bought and read the second book in the series. Now, please hurry up with book three.

Continues the story began with Beyond the Gap, more action and trials with our troop of adventurers. Plenty of sword, spear, bow and arrow raids and war. Sorcery galore, hard to put down, what's happening next, who's cozing up to who, where are the Rulers and what are they up to. A new ally aquired

it was a great book

I have been a Turtledove fanatic for years and thrive on his alternate (whys isn't it alternative?) history stories. This book and its predecessor, "Beyond the Gap," are more fantasy than alternate history, but great reading. What makes them so good is more due to the great characters; Hamnet, Ulric, and Gudina(sp?); but the stories are good. I am awaiting the sequel.

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