

JOHN NEELEMAN



LOGOS

A NOVEL OF CHRISTIANITY'S ORIGIN

"Logos is a brilliant evocation of the tumultuous first century and the birth of Christianity. Neeleman's vivid reconstruction of the period of the Jewish Wars and ultimately the promulgation of the first Gospel is a feat of both art and scholarship."
— Beverly Swerling, author of *Brink House* and *the City of Dreams*

“Through rebellious uprising, wilderness wandering and a final sea journey, Jacob is eventually involved with every single Jewish or Roman person of historical importance...Sexual interludes describe prurient details and bloody battles spare little when it comes to gore. Yet this novel’s core is a set of ideas more than a chain of events.... Those interested in how facts and myth synthesize to form a religion will be pleased by plausible extrapolation from reasonable assumptions.” —*Publisher Weekly*

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Logos is a bildungsroman about the anonymous author of the original Gospel, set amid the kaleidoscopic mingling of ancient cultures. In A.D. 66, Jacob is one of Jerusalem's privileged Greco-Roman Jews. When Roman soldiers murder his parents and his beloved sister disappears in a pogrom led by the Roman procurator, he joins Israel's rebellion against Rome. The rebellion he helps to foment leads to more tragedy—personal and, ultimately, cosmic: Jacob's wife and son perish in Rome's siege of Jerusalem, and the Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Temple, and finally extinguish Israel at Masada. Jacob wanders, and in Rome, he joins other dissidents—plotting vengeance not by arms, but by the power of an idea. Paul of Tarsus, Josephus, the keepers of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the historical Jesus himself each play a role in Jacob's tumultuous fortunes, but the women who have loved him compel the transforming and subversive climax.

“The best historical novel tackles historical events from different perspectives, injects an intimate feel of bygone years, and deftly implants these facets into characters taken from historical fact and personalized so that they are real living, breathing people. *Logos* is such a beast, a serious historical approach set in an ancient world that captures not only the advent of Christianity and the rise of a religion, but the heart and soul of its times.” —*Midwest Book Review*

BOOK INFORMATION

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