



## Water Walker

*Ted Dekker*

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## **Water Walker** Ted Dekker

My name is Alice Ringwald, but the man who kidnapped me says that's a lie.

Thirteen-year old orphan Alice Ringwald has no memory beyond six months ago. The only life she knows is the new one she's creating one day at a time with the loving couple that recently adopted her and gave her new hope.

That hope, however, is shattered one night when she is abducted by a strange man. In a frantic FBI manhunt, he vanishes.

So begins Water Walker, a modern day parable that examines the staggering power of forgiveness, and reminds us that it's possible to live free of the hurt that keeps our souls in chains.

## **Water Walker Details**

Date : Published March 18th 2014 by Worthy Publishing (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781617952746

Author : Ted Dekker

Format : Paperback 310 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian, Thriller

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# From Reader Review Water Walker for online ebook

## Rayleigh says

The Synopsis:

“Thirteen-year-old orphan Alice Ringwald has no memory beyond six months ago. The only life she knows is the new one she’s creating one day at a time with the loving couple who recently adopted her and gave her new hope.

That hope, however, is shattered one night when a strange man comes to her door. Her real mother is alive, he says, and begs her to return home. When Alice won’t leave with him, the man forces his way into the house and abducts her.

In a frantic manhunt the FBI pursues, but the man slips through their fingers. He and Alice vanish without a trace.

So begins *Water Walker*, a modern-day parable that examines the staggering power of forgiveness and reminds us it’s possible to live free of the hurt that keeps our souls in chains.”

My Review:

Wow! This book was incredibly amazing! *Water Walker* is book 2 in the *Outlaw Chronicles* and I would suggest reading book 1 (*Eyes Wide Open*) first, it refers to *Eyes Wide Open* in more ways than 1.

*Water Walker* was not as suspenseful as *Eyes Wide Open*, but, for Christians, it has a way of causing your blood to boil, making you want to finish the book to see justice come to the “bad guy”!\* As the synopsis implies, forgiveness is proven to defeat even the vilest of men.

Ted Dekker did a fantastic job of making this book so realistic and his details were great. He also brought the power of forgiveness to its max, telling in detail the peace forgiveness gives as well as self control. I can’t tell you how much I loved this book and I encourage all of my friends to read it. I also look forward to read the rest of the series.

\*After, reading all the stuff about forgiveness, you probably have a pretty good idea that you will end up for forgiving the “bad guy”! LOL

“I received this book from Worthy Publishing for the purpose of this review. All comments and opinions are my own.”

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## Alexa says

This book is brilliant! I love it so much! It’s as thoroughly riveting as any of my favorites, but in a completely different way than most of the fantasy and sci-fi books I adore. It’s shocking and awesome and amazing and beautiful, and I can’t even say I completely understand it, but I can say that I was utterly blown away. The ending completely changed the way I saw the story, maybe even the way I see life. If any book

can totally transform someone -- other than the Bible -- it's Water Walker. It's a phenomenal story about the power of God's love and what forgiveness truly means. And trust me, it's probably not what you think it is. If you'd like to hear more of what I think about this book, you can find the full review at [Verbosity Book Reviews](#).

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### **Christie Hagerman says**

I have two reactions to Ted Dekker--I devour his pages like watermelon in July, or I wince from something violent that went past my mental limit and slam the book shut forever. This one was cool fruit with a few close calls on slinging it across the room. I have a really low tolerance for torture and suffering, something that seems to naturally show up for this author that so accurately portrays the broken human condition.

Water Walker is a thriller with some fantastical elements. As always, Dekker's characters are well-developed and produce the desired result--those we should pity or love, we really connect to, and those we should hate, we despise with a passion.

The young heroine Alice is engaging from the first page, her innocence and desperation begging for someone to rescue her. As her situation goes from bad to worse, that rescue comes from an unlikely source. This is one of those books you won't want to put down until you've finished and Alice finds peace, one way or another. Once again, Dekker paints a beautiful allegory of the struggle we all face if we expect to leave the negative parts of our past behind and change our future purposefully.

Thanks to netgalley for this advanced review copy.

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### **Richard says**

Ted Dekker has returned to his genius writing.

Water Walker is a sequel, of sorts, to Eyes Wide Open and Outlaw. I say of sorts because this is Ted Dekker we're talking about and he gets his thrills by twisting his readers into all sorts of knots and leaving them breathless for the next story.

In Water Walker meet an orphan named Alice living with her foster parents - moments before her birth mother kidnaps her. The FBI is on the case as well as the mysterious Stephen introduced in the final pages of Eyes Wide Open and Outlaw. Is Alice to be rescued or shouldn't she live with her real mother?

Those questions are only skin deep right? The real purpose of this story breathed new life into my relationship with God. It's a theme that Dekker has been exploring since his final co-authored book with Tosca Lee, Sovereign. And what is that theme? Ah, for that you need to read this book.

I promise you, you will not be able to get the ideas out of your head. You will contemplate the implications long after the last page is turned. You will want to break free just as some of the characters desire.

This is the book true Dekker fans will flock to and will loudly cheer the return of the mind-bending, soul-twisting author genius of Mr. Ted Dekker. You will be refreshed, friends. You will be challenged and your

spirit will leap for light!

I cannot wait for the next one in the Outlaw series.

This book was provided for review, at no cost, by Worthy Publishing.

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### **Donald Hahn says**

Keeps in the book. Pretty good overall.

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### **Brenda says**

A story of a kidnapping, pride and forgiveness in an unbelievable way. Great book. In the beginning, the story takes off and slows down then it hits you. There is a part where people who believe in God take it to almost a cultish way. Prepare for that. Beyond that, the ending is a little deep.

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### **Angie H says**

It's Ted Dekker, how could I not give it 5 stars?

One of my favourite authors! I can't even begin to explain this book. Great from beginning to end! :)

Going to read #3 as soon as I can get my hands on it!!

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Ted Dekker in his new book, "Water Walker" Book Two in The Outlaw Chronicles published by Worthy Publishing takes us into the life of Alice Ringwald.

From the back cover: "My name is Alice Ringwald, but the man who kidnapped me says that's a lie. He calls me Eden and says he's taking me to be with my mother. But my mother, like everything else in my past, is dead. Or so I thought."

Thirteen-year old orphan Alice Ringwald has no memory beyond six months ago. The only life she knows is the new one she's creating one day at a time with the loving couple that recently adopted her and gave her new hope.

That hope, however, is shattered one night when a strange man comes to her door. Her real mother is alive, he says, and begs her to return home. When Alice won't leave with him, the man forces his way into the house and abducts her.

In a frantic manhunt the FBI pursues, but the man slips through their fingers. He and Alice vanish without a trace.

So begins *Water Walker*, a modern day parable that examines the staggering power of forgiveness, and reminds us that it's possible to live free of the hurt that keeps our souls in chains.

I am sorry to say that I didn't like this book as much as the first one. When there is a kidnapping and an FBI manhunt I expect great thrills and excitement. Instead I got a zealot compound where they are brainwashed. Not really my cup of tea. Ted Dekker does a wonderful job on the themes though. Truth and forgiveness are delved in with clarity and insight. If you want to know who you really are you need to get out of the boat and walk on water. And the only way to do that is walking with God.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Worthy Publishing for this review. 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."

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## **Joshua says**

I've read a lot of DeKker and can't say I've ever been disappointed from a book I've read by him. I may not like some of his novels as much as others, but no matter what the book is, DekKer puts a lot in his stories for you to like.

His characters are complex, the plots are intriguing, there are twists and turns aplenty to keep you turning the pages, and generally he has the ability to get me to read his books at a fast pace. On top of that his themes/message always cause me to think hard on them not only while reading but well after I've put the book down.

All of that was true about *Water Walker*. Is it the best book I've read by him? No, not by a long shot, but it was a worthwhile read.

It's always fun to see how DeKker's work interweaves among his novels. Not only is their interlocking characters in his *Outlaw* series but throughout his whole catalog of work.

One change I've noticed with his writing lately is DeKker has got a lot preachier within his novels in comparison to his past work. Earlier on in his work I felt like the themes were just as powerful but were more metaphorical through the story and you had to sort through what his message a little more. DeKker still leaves you a lot to think about but I feel he is a lot more direct with his message now. No matter how he presents his messages though, I love the way he continually presents interesting plots of good and evil; among others. He really allows you through these stories to understand a lot more about the human condition and make you think about how these truths impact your own life.

While some may disagree with me, I feel like we are past the height of DeKker's best work. Don't get me wrong I think his work is still great, but in the last few years I haven't found any of his novels to be as gripping as *Thr3e*, *The Circle Trilogy*, and some of his earlier thrillers. Even with that said I still think Ted is an outstanding storyteller and I'm looking forward to "*Hacker*" later this year and what he has coming our way later down the road. I'd love to be proved wrong and see him top *Thr3e* and *The Circle Trilogy*, he definitely has the abilities to do so. Either way, as long as he writes them, I'll read them.

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## **Beyond the Pages says**

The Review:

Where do I begin?

There is so much I want to say about this book, *Water Walker* by Ted Dekker. The author's language and wording, his primary themes, his intermingling of light and dark, the characters and their voices, the bondage and freedom aspects - these things stood out in a very big way. The role of each person in the story and how they played their part in the conclusive end, or rather in a more precise beginning was haunting. I was literally stunned speechless with how it all played out.

This book was no easy read, in my opinion. It was well-paced, of course, but the movement was...complicated. Not complicated in a hard way. No, not at all. I guess I could say that it was like an organized and complex chaos. There were so many messages and lessons weaved into the storyline. Scripture references were constant and served to steer me toward a greater understanding. That helped to open my mind to where Dekker was obviously (and yet not) trying to take me.

I think anytime anyone reads this book they will walk away with something different every time. Perhaps, they will focus on forgiveness, love, grace, or mercy. Maybe they will focus on choices, consequences, spiritual warfare, or new life pursuits. All I know is that they will walk away changed.

Rating: 4.25/5

Recommend: Yes

Tone: Mixed

Cliffhanger: Yes

Stand Alone Read: Yes (Note: Suggest readers consider reading book #1 of *The Outlaw Chronicles*)

Themes: Love, Forgiveness, Faith

Bookshelf Worthy: Yes

A complimentary copy of this title was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. The words I have expressed are my own. No form of compensation was given to me. I was not required to write a positive review. I have shared my thoughts for your consideration.

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## **Melanie says**

*Water Walker* was a typical Ted Dekker read. Super fun to read, a bit creepy, and just very entertaining. I liked it a lot :)

\*I received a complimentary e-copy of this book via netgalley for my honest review. As always, all thoughts and opinions are my own.\*

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## **Elissa Anne says**

RADICAL!!!!

I give Ted Dekker's novel "Water Walker" 10 out of 10.  
Ted has challenged Western Christianity to its very core.  
\*spoiler alert\*

The main character, Alice, is kidnapped by her birth mother and step-father. She goes to live with them and their son Bobby on a property surrounded by swamps, under the control of a man called Zeke. Alice then suffers 5 years of religious abuse. She is given an exorbitant list of rules and rituals to follow and is expected to be the perfect, spotless lamb. She is baptised every Sunday to cleanse the whole family of sin. If she suffers from any temptation to be rebellious she is expected to confess and repent for hours in her prayer closet, not to mention suffer other consequences to keep herself pure.

But she is growing into an adult and she is attracted to Zeke's son Paul. It seems she is forbidden to ever marry, and yet she wants to know what it would be like to be married to Paul. She feels guilty for even imagining these things until Paul tells her that he loves her. They see each other in secret, but Zeke mysteriously (or supernaturally) finds out. Zeke's response is to take his wrath out on Paul and beat his own son in the face!

This is a poignant description of how most of Western Christendom views God-the-Father. God is so angry at our sin, our lust, our imperfection; that he beats his son to teach us a lesson. Zeke, who represents God-the-Father, sets all the rules. He wants people to be perfect. And when they fail, someone must be punished.

Next, Alice tries to run away, but she is caught by Zeke. Then Zeke tells Alice's mother, Kathryn, to break Alice's leg. From my perspective, Kathryn represents the church. She is the enforcer God-the-Father's rules and punishments. She is convinced that if she doesn't break her daughter's leg, their fate will be even worse and their punishment eternal. She wants to be like Abraham who didn't hesitate to offer up his son Isaac on an altar. But she feels torn because she loves her daughter. So she twists her daughter's ankle instead.

When Alice tries to escape again, Zeke comes and breaks her leg himself. If the church won't punish the disciple, then God-the-Father will do it himself. What a sick and twisted view of God we have! But Ted Dekker doesn't stop there.

Alice has visions of a man named Stephen who represents Jesus. Stephen is coaxing Alice to walk on the water of her troubles. The only way to overcome trouble is take no offence to the trouble and stop perceiving it as trouble. Trouble only exists in the mind. The true power of a Christian is in forgiveness. The true representation of Father-God is that he is always forgiving, never offended by our sin, and does not require punishment or appeasement for sin!

Ted has contrasted the widely accepted gospel, with a higher truth that Christianity has so often overlooked! God is unconditionally loving and forgiving. As soon as Alice embraced this truth, it changed her relationship with her mother by spilling love over into Kathryn's life. Then Kathryn was able to free her daughter and they both truly repented (changed their minds) about who God is.

Ted Dekker I cannot thank you enough for writing this book! I am so proud of you for contrasting these two gospels that are in complete opposition to each other. The first is truly a satanic version of the gospel, for only Satan requires that we be abused for our sins—he is the accuser who comes to steal, kill and destroy! The real Jesus is our forgiveness, love and peace. You are very brave. Traditional Christians will hate this story if they can see it for what it truly is.

In writing water walker, you have become a water walker. You have been my favourite author for many



years, but now you have become my hero and an even greater inspiration. I want to write books like this. I admire you. I praise God for you. I hope that I will meet you some day—if not in this life, then in the next.

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### **Abby says**

Cults are seriously awesome to read about in literature. Especially weird Jesus cults who believe they're doing all this bad stuff in the name of God. In this particular book, we have a thirteen-year-old who was kidnapped by her birth parents and raised for 5 years in this creepy cult. Of course this messed with her mind and she truly believed in what they were doing. I liked the Christian theme of forgiveness throughout the book and loved when Eden stood up to what she knew was wrong.

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### **D. Prokop says**

My name is Alice Ringwald but the man who kidnapped me says that's a lie..."

Water Walker by Ted Dekker is touted as a modern day parable highlighting the dual themes of forgiveness and freedom. Here's my thoughts...

Episode One was riveting, mysterious, and suspenseful. Characters were introduced with just enough revelation to perk the readers' interest and leave them wanting more. The plot laid a foundation, providing a place for secrets to dance. The author entices the reader to press on, promising amazing answers to the questions proffered at the onset of the story.

But the answers were unsatisfying or simply didn't come. The mystery devolved into stale activity. A lull settled in during Episode Two.

The characters were flat. The main character, Alice/ Eden is thirteen at the start, described as odd and highly intelligent, with references made to a conspiratorial and scientific experimental history that she has forgotten, for which there is never any explanation. Her voice is stagnant and even when the story skips ahead to an eighteen-year-old version of Alice/ Eden, her voice remains stuck in her thirteen-year-old self: childish, boring, and compliant. The character holds no interest. Being kidnapped and immersed into a cult lend nothing to her development. Alice/ Eden is a bland chess piece who does nothing to gain the sympathies, compassion, or even hatred of the reader.

Then there's The Outlaw, the obvious God figure in this modern day parable. There is no back story given to introduce this character, though it is a forgivable omission considering this is one of a series named after the character. As is, this novel doesn't stand alone well. The lack of explanation of this pivotal, important person leaves a jagged hole. His appearance is disruptive and his authority shadows mere arrogance. The Outlaw holds all the secrets and annoyingly offers tidbits of information on a whim here and there, without showing any credentials or proof of reliability. As a symbol of God, the author is too obvious in his insistence the reader take everything he says by faith. This could be a successful endeavor, but in Water Walker, it felt forced, unacceptable, and choppy.

The plot twist/ epiphany was ridiculous. Forgiveness is a powerful and admirable state of being; but in this

story, the journey to forgiveness is rushed and results in an unsatisfactory denouement for the conflict resolution needed. It's more "forgive and forget," than resolution of conflict. The antagonists are killed with kindness. They are simply forgiven, without repentance, consequence, or work. While the power of forgiveness has the ability to cause this kind of miraculous occurrence, in this novel, it was too easy and lazy writing. The main character just changes her mind and everything is sunshine, daisies, and rainbows.

Ted Dekker is a prolific author who delves into genres lacking representation by Christian authors, namely horror, science fiction, and speculative fiction. While admirable, this is an extremely difficult mission field. Authors of faith receiving respect in these genres, such as Madeleine L'Engle, C.S. Lewis, and Anne Rice, are few. Frank Peretti, Jared Wilson, and Tim LaHaye have also ventured into this mission field with debatable success. The tendency to preach with evangelistic fervor instead of conveying a story and allowing the reader make their own conclusions disappoints both unbelievers and believers alike. Authors of faith sometimes fail to step aside and let God cut into the hearts and souls of people without a five point sermon and a sinner's prayer to clinch the deal.

Walking on water may be an easier task.

Decide for yourself...

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### **Aria Wolfe says**

Loved! True Ted Dekker style. Heart-pounding and tear-jerking all at once. This book isn't just entertainment, this book will change your life (if you let it.) And I don't say this lightly.

This book speaks of forgiveness and true love that keeps no record of wrongs. It shows the uncertainty of a young girl who finally discovers her true identity, not in the horrible circumstances she lives in, but in the heart of a man who has known her all along.

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