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The Mirror is Mightier than the Sword!

The War of Mirrors

by E.J. Stewart

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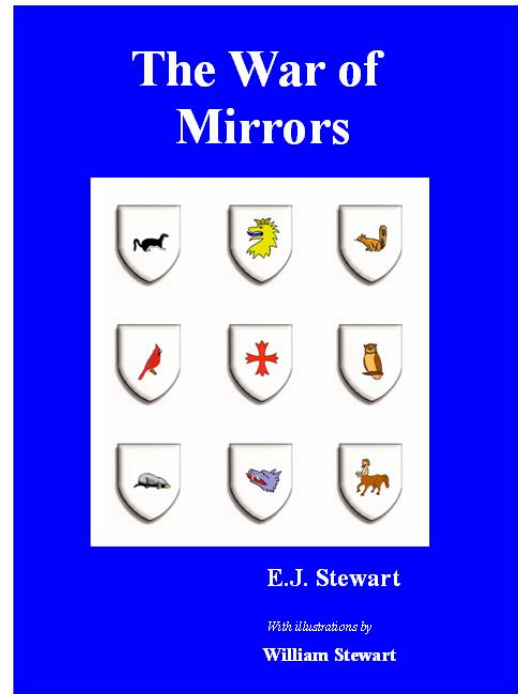
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The War of Mirrors is a must read for children of all ages (adults will also find it enjoyable). The story takes place in Larkwood, a fictional kingdom of talking animals ruled by a human king. Pride and envy nearly tear the kingdom apart. Then some of the creatures discover the destructive power of mirrors. Civil war breaks out. Different factions force one another to take sides or remain neutral. All are deeply affected by the horror of the war. Finally, the Prince of Acorns shames the creatures into concluding a peace.

E.J. Stewart is a native of California. With a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree from the Claremont Graduate School, his teaching experience ranges from early childhood education to teaching senior citizens. When asked what motivated him to write *The War of Mirrors*, Stewart recalls, "I teach at a girls' school. One day I was walking down the steps on my way home, and I saw a student sitting in the school bus putting on makeup. I wondered if she would still like what she saw if she could see herself as she really was. The idea of *The War of Mirrors* swept over me like a tidal wave."

The War of Mirrors is a dazzling tale of cunning and loyalty. The plot, the characters and the action fit together like the gears of a finely crafted timepiece. Students of political science, history, strategy, religion, all have a lesson or two to learn from *The War of Mirrors*. As readers, we cry with the underdogs, yet we understand the temptation to dress ourselves in fancy clothes and give ourselves fancy titles. We are filled with compassion for the homeless. We experience the sense of justice that has developed during the brief history of the kingdom. From time to time we even see things from the point of view of a foreigner, as the ambassador takes up residence in the castle.

The War of Mirrors depicts a kingdom not only of men and animals, but also of mythical creatures such as fairies, elves, centaurs, fauns, satyrs and maenads. E.J. Stewart explains that as



stewards of the present, we need to come to grips with our mythological past. “A well-developed mythology is the key to understanding reality,” he says. “It’s a continuum, really. The talking animals are just the beginning. From there, it’s an easy leap of imagination to understanding mythical creatures. Then, taking one more step, we find ourselves face to face with supernatural beings, and we believe in them.”

Stewart claims that the talking animals provide a perfect medium for depicting human nature. “Of course moles don’t recite limericks,” he says, “and squirrels don’t deliver impassioned speeches. If a human character did it, though, it just wouldn’t be as effective.” Indeed moles, beavers, hedgehogs, weasels and magpies flash their mirrors at one another dangerously, but *The War of Mirrors* carries a vital message for all of us: in the end it is we, the readers, who see ourselves as we really are.

The War of Mirrors can be ordered from JustBookz online bookstore at

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or by fax at 212-681-8002. The price is \$9.95 paperback, \$18.95 hardcover. For more details visit

<http://www.WarOfMirrors.com>.

About the Author: E.J. Stewart is professor of English and Multi-media Studies at Chikushi Women’s University in Dazaifu, Japan.

Book Statistics

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