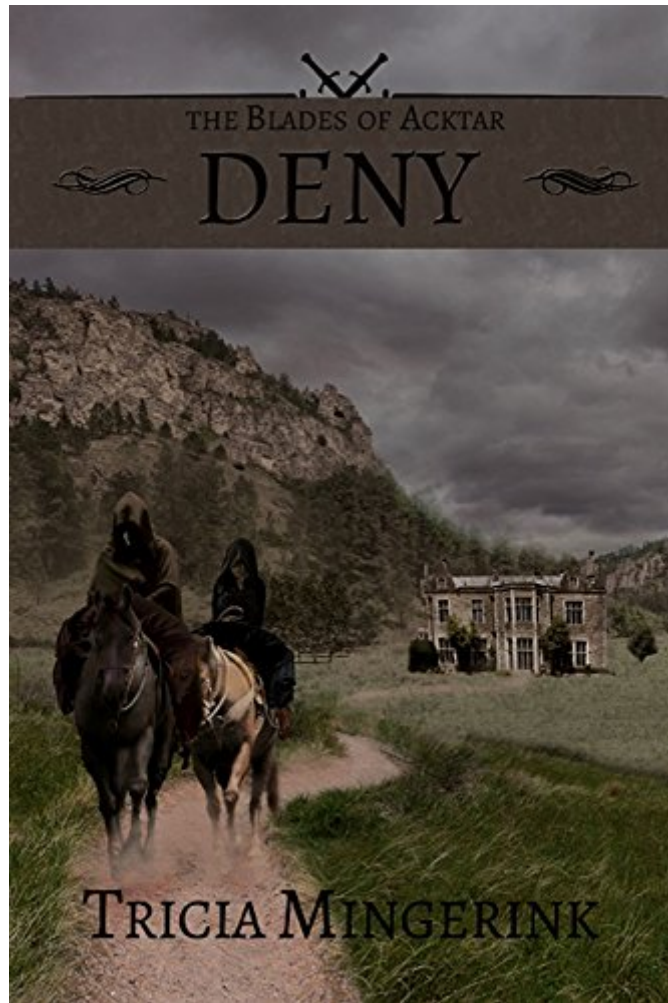


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# Deny (The Blades Of Acktar Book 2)



## Synopsis

All lies have consequences. Promoted to the top rank among King Respen's assassins, First Blade Leith Torren hides his involvement with the Resistance. How many lies will it take to protect his secret? Renna Faythe has done nothing but survive for the past four years, but now Leith's courage inspires her to try to be something more. If only she could figure out what that duty might be. When the unthinkable happens, faith wavers. Friendships tear. What else will they be forced to deny? But this time, Leith faces his greatest fear. He can't save everyone.

## Book Information

File Size: 1162 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Sword & Cross Publishing (November 30, 2015)

Publication Date: November 30, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B017KRIVVU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #162,006 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #69

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Fantasy #148 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Fantasy #151 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Religious

## Customer Reviews

Just finished Deny about 5 seconds ago and will have to give it five stars because that is ONE GREAT sequel!!! Leith is a GENIUS, Renna is my HERO and Brandi is the GREATEST :) The ending wasn't great, but it wasn't horrifying either. The end of Deny left me feeling HOPE and EAGER to read Defy, the conclusion to this AMAZING series....LOVE, LOVE, LOOOOVE Mingerink's storytelling and the journey she has these characters going through. Leith has to work

extra hard at fooling Respen and the other Blades in this sequel, but he isn't alone and he does an excellent job all the while wondering how much longer will he have to keep this ruse going before he can be at peace. He also vows to protect the ones he loves no matter what happens to him. More people die in this book and there's one heartbreaking scene that Renna and Brandi witness, but it's written with such courage and such heart that despite the sadness, I was deeply touched by it instead. The faith, the friendship, and the good guys in this story make up for any tense moments or injustice the characters have to endure. The ending is crazy, but so well written it makes the reader EAGER for Book 3, which might not be here until summer, but SO WORTH it!! And yes, the words in all caps are necessary because this is one of the BEST series I've ever read :) You don't want to miss this book if you loved Dare and I will be ready for Defy with total interest and both eyes open (I had to read this book at one point with one eye open and one eye closed because of the suspense....but could NOT put it down), two thumbs way up!!

We need more books just like this series from Tricia Mingerink. I've pre-read all the books for my three teens, and this is most certainly a series I enjoyed and I know my teens will as well. Forgiveness, challenges, trust in God are at the central theme of this book. Standing up to those against Faith in God also challenges us to be stronger in the Lord than we tend to be, in our world. I found this book encouraging, bold, exciting, and I couldn't put it down. I read each book in one day. Much laundry did not get finished because of this series - and I'm okay with that! My three teens will love this book. A good book, is a good book - no matter the age for whom its written. I love children's books and adult books. This series was well crafted and well thought through, and I can only hope and pray the author has more books coming. I think I just found my new favorite author. Thank you Tricia Mingerink (please keep your books coming...). Leslie - Parent Of Three Great Homeschooled Kids :-)

I actually sat myself down and had a long conversation with myself about this book. I had just finished Dare and was trying to decide if I should wait until closer to the release of book 3 before I dove into Deny. Take a wild guess at what happened. Plot/Storyline: 5/5 Even better than Dare, if you can believe that. Tricia Mingerink is so creative. Characters: 5/5 There weren't many new characters in this book - just returns of the old ones. No complaints here. I loved all the characters. Writing: 5/5 Again, absolutely fantastic. Dialogue: 5/5 Amazing, just as book 1. Want-to-read-ability: 5/5 Ahem. Well, I read this book even faster than Dare. And I think I read Dare in two days. Need I say anything more?

This book was even more exciting and complex than its predecessor, Dare. No middle-of-series-lag going on here! It was so much fun to watch how many of our characters relationships and faith grew and deepened, and so painful to see how others suffered in the wake of so much lies and manipulation. And poor Leith certainly had a lot of that to juggle! I do really hope that Martin will eventually see the light, for I do like that character and don't want him to remain on Respen's side. I also really admired the characters for how well, and sometimes creatively, they handled the situations they were thrust into, even if the results would cost them dearly. I am so eager for the next book. Deny was a bit of a cliffhanger so i'm counting the days until I can get my hands on Defy!

Reader thoughts: One thing I like about these books is the setting. It's a healthy mix between colonial (harvest parties and other tidbits) and medieval (assassins, spies, kings, etc.) with its own flavor (underground house churches, almost like Roman times). These books aren't set anywhere real (Acktar is made up, as far as I know), and that makes it a story I can settle into. Renna faces her biggest struggles yet. It's not that she's in more danger (well, she is), but that her inner turmoil is taken to a max. Writer thoughts: Recently had several story discussions with a sibling about how many characters "repeat" character development in sequels. This did not happen in this book. Renna and Brandy and Leith all grew in book 1, but they still had room to grow in book 2, and they have room to grow more (in deeper and different ways) in book 3. It's clear Mingerink is growing them gradually on purpose. It feels sloppy when an author makes a character backtrack in order to have the character go through the same character development in book 2 that the character underwent in book 1 (or side characters).

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