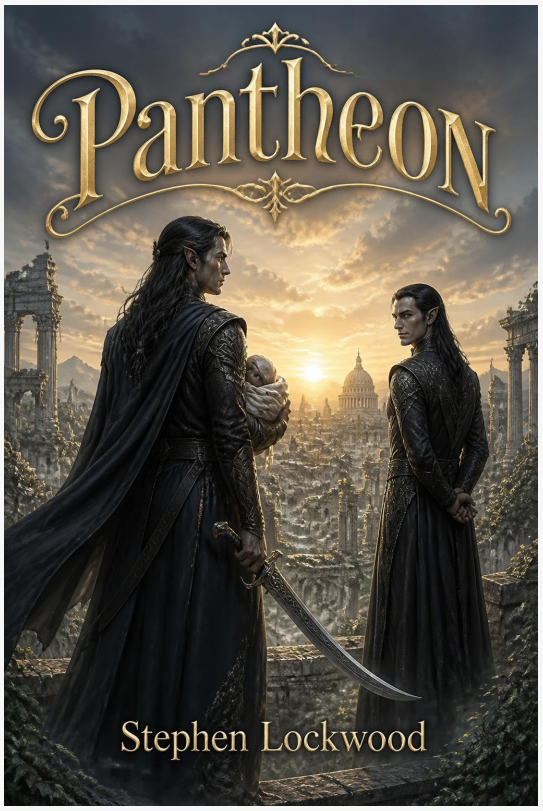
Pantheon Confronts Loyalty, Betrayal, and the Cost of Ancient Hatred in a Ruined Rome

Stephen Lockwood launches an epic speculative saga where an Elven commander must question everything he was taught about loyalty, humanity, and war.



Pantheon (The Pantheon Saga Book 1) by Stephen Lockwood

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Stephen Lockwood introduces a fractured world of conflict, propaganda, and divided loyalties in Pantheon (The Pantheon Saga Book 1), a post-apocalyptic speculative novel set amid the ruins of Rome. At its center is Commander Janus, a revered Elven warrior whose unwavering allegiance to a brutal regime begins to unravel after he makes an unexpected choice to spare a human infant. That single act challenges the foundations of his identity and places him on a dangerous path toward discovering how much of his loyalty has been built upon carefully maintained lies.

As tensions between Elves and humanity intensify, Pantheon follows Janus as his people prepare a devastating new weapon intended to eliminate what remains of the human population. Ordered to hunt the mysterious “Angel of Death,” a human protector who represents everything his society has conditioned him to oppose, Janus finds his mission upended when betrayal leaves him near death—and the person he was sent to destroy becomes his unlikely rescuer, exposing him to a hidden world that sharply contradicts the propaganda that has shaped his understanding of humanity.

Through Janus’s changing perspective, Lockwood explores the destructive power of inherited prejudice and the difficult process of questioning beliefs that once seemed unquestionable. Removed from the society that defined his status and recovering among those he previously regarded as enemies, Janus witnesses courage, resilience, and humanity where he had been taught to expect only contemptible weakness. His experience forces him to confront not only the corruption within his own civilization but also the personal consequences of serving a system whose ambitions demand increasingly devastating sacrifices.

The conflict in Pantheon reaches beyond a struggle for survival, examining identity, moral responsibility, vengeance, and the possibility of reconciliation between peoples shaped by generations of hostility. Janus occupies an increasingly precarious position as both a pariah among his own kind and an outsider among humans, and he must decide whether allegiance to the world he once served matters more than helping create a future in which both species might survive their shared cycle of violence.

Stephen Lockwood is the author of Pantheon (The Pantheon Saga Book 1), the opening installment of The Pantheon Saga. Through a post-apocalyptic Rome populated by warring humans and Elves, Lockwood combines large-scale speculative conflict with an intimate examination of conscience and transformation, asking whether one person who has lost certainty in his old world can help build something better before vengeance consumes both sides.

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The book is available at:
https://a.co/d/048HUFFf

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