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The Tournament At Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice: The Early Years)



Synopsis

From John Flanagan, author of the worldwide bestselling *Ranger's Apprentice*—the first in a new prequel series featuring— one of our favorite Rangers, Halt!— When Halt and Crowley discover that the ambitious Morgarath has been infiltrating the Rangers in order to corrupt the Corps, the young Rangers travel north to find Prince Duncan, seeking a royal warrant to stop Morgarath before it is too late. By weakening the Rangers, the most powerful force in support of the King, Morgarath plans to steal the throne. Yet when Halt and Crowley arrive in Gorlan, they discover just how close Morgarath's scheme is to success. Morgarath has a plan to discredit the Prince and alienate him from his father. At the same time, the Baron of Gorlan has been conspiring to win the trust and admiration of the Council of Barons to further his plan. If the young Rangers are to prevent the coup from succeeding, they will have to tread a dangerous path, which leads them to a thrilling climax at the annual tournament at Gorlan, where a series of bitter duels must be fought and won. This origin story brings readers to a time before Will was an apprentice, and lays the groundwork for the epic battles that will culminate with *The Ruins of Gorlan* and *The Burning Bridge*— Books 1 and 2 of the *Ranger's Apprentice* series. Praise for the New York Times bestselling *Tournament at Gorlan*: "Action and intrigue, great characters, and a properly scary villain make this book an absolute necessity for any library. With appeal for both boys and girls, libraries can anticipate a waiting list for this title and great anticipation for the sequel."— *School Library Connection*, starred review "Flanagan's familiar mix of action, humor, and cliff-hanger endings will have fans and newbies hooked."— *School Library Journal*

Book Information

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Series: *Ranger's Apprentice: The Early Years* (Book 1)

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Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

In "The Tournament at Gorlan" John Flanagan sets the stage in the Kingdom of Araluen where Morgarath an influential and power-hungry baron has set a plan in motion to discredit Prince Duncan, hold his father King Oswald hostage, disband the Ranger Corps and to take the throne. When Crowley and Halt discover his nefarious scheme they enlist the aid of eleven displaced Rangers and set out to release Prince Duncan imprisoned in Wildriver Castle, and to catch Tiller who's impersonating the Prince and with his gang of bandits raiding the Scotti across the border in Picta. In this plot John Flanagan brings together familiar faces like Halt the Hibernian trained by former commander Pritchard and Crowley who's determined to revive the Ranger Corps being eroded by Morgarath's lackeys. For the first time Halt meets Abelard a rugged and faithful Ranger horse, his stalwart companion for much of the Ranger Apprentice series, and learns to take nothing for granted. Even his passionate desire to get to know the beautiful senior courier Pauline Delacey is ignited in a bumbling and awkward introduction. Yet as the violence builds, and tension and suspense escalates the author continually dilutes it with Crowley's humorous pranks and his witty sparring with Halt. The first book in an exciting prequel series is fast-paced and action-packed as Crowley and Halt join forces with Baron Arald and the Prince to expose Morgarath's treachery to the Council of Barons at the annual tournament at Gorlan. But this proves to be dangerous because a deceptive Morgarath has already earned the trust and respect of the Council who will determine his fate.

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