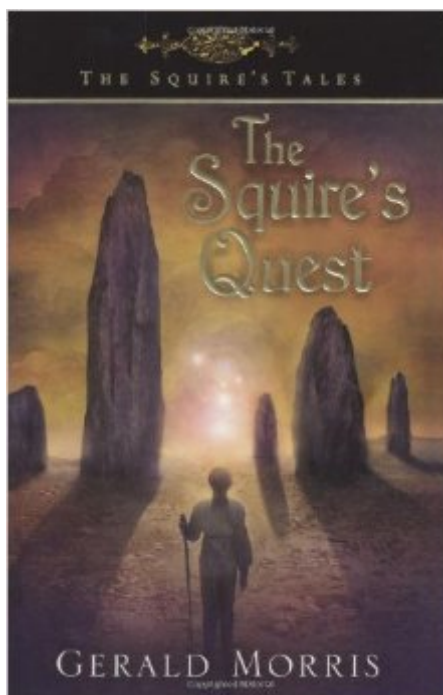


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The Squire's Quest (The Squire's Tales)



Synopsis

Why is it, Terence wondered, that the things you know most surely are always the things you can't demonstrate to any one else? And why is it, after all of these years, that Terence is still just a squire, offering advice on how best to scrub the rust spots from armor? But Squire Terence has more to worry about than his place on the social scale. For all the peace and prosperity that has made England famous across Europe, Terence is uneasy. After nearly six months without contact with the World of the Faeries – not even from his old friend, the mischievous sprite Robin – Terence is sure something is rotten in King Arthur's court.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Series: The Squire's Tales (Book 9)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 28, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547144245

ISBN-13: 978-0547144245

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #356,802 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #112 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #855 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Rather than being the tale of Arthur or Arthur's knights, here is the tale of one of Arthur's knight's squires, a man by the name of Terence. He's anything but an ordinary squire, being part faery and secretly married to a woman of higher bearing. Cautious and observant, Terence is alarmed by the arrival of a mystery man. Arthurian legend purists would likely find fault with this story. However, the essence of most characters remains the same. For example, Sir Kay (Kai here) is wrought with negativity as usual; King Arthur is kind and just. What happens to Sir Bedivere, however, threw me

for a loop. That being said, there is a problem in that the general reader's knowledge of the characters makes certain aspects less of a surprise, especially all of the facts surrounding a young man who shows up in King Arthur's court by the name of Mordred. Because Arthurian legend is so well known, the reader knows Mordred's true identity and cannot help but know things that the characters in the book do not. For example, I already knew who Mordred's parents are and suspected him of any crime committed. Mordred lies about so much in the course of the book that it perhaps would have helped the suspense level if he had also lied about his name. _The Squire's Quest_ is divided into two tales, connected mostly by Terence being present in both. The tales are about courtly love. In the first and most lighthearted half, Arthur's cousin Lady Sarah is a "victim" of its absurdity. She's an especially fun character, quick on her feet and ready with a tart response to almost any comment. The visiting Alexander of Constantinople falls for her immediately, and begins to attempt to "woo" her through the courtly method he has heard about in song.

The latest in the series of Arthurian legends based on little-known French tales. They are not meant to be historically accurate and Arthurian purists should understand they are written for children and in a humorous, easy-to-read manner. It's ten years after Terence first comes to Camelot and he's still a squire. He's served Arthur faithfully and will continue to stay in Camelot as long as Arthur remains king. As the book begins, Terence feels uneasy because he hasn't had any contact with the Other World for a long time and fears that a wicked enchantment may be preventing the connection and he distrusts Mordred, a young man with a secret past who has come to Camelot in hopes of becoming a knight. King Arthur admires Mordred's diplomatic ways but Terence can't help but feel something is not right. Alexander, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire comes to Camelot and makes a nuisance of himself by falling in love with Terence's friend Lady Sarah, but also proves himself to be a loyal and just friend. Alexander's brother, Clig  s claims his own subplot as the minstrels songs about courtly love influence the young man and his uncle's young bride to act the part of star-crossed lovers to the detriment of the Empire. Terence's adventures takes him all over the Empire and to the Greek underworld before he discovers the fate of his beloved Arthur and Camelot. This book is the ninth in the series and if you haven't read the others, you may not like this one very much. Though Morris has the characters explain past events, the current events are a bit confusing without knowing the characters and their backgrounds. Like the previous books in the series, this one is irreverent and there's lots of bawdy humor and crude jokes.

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