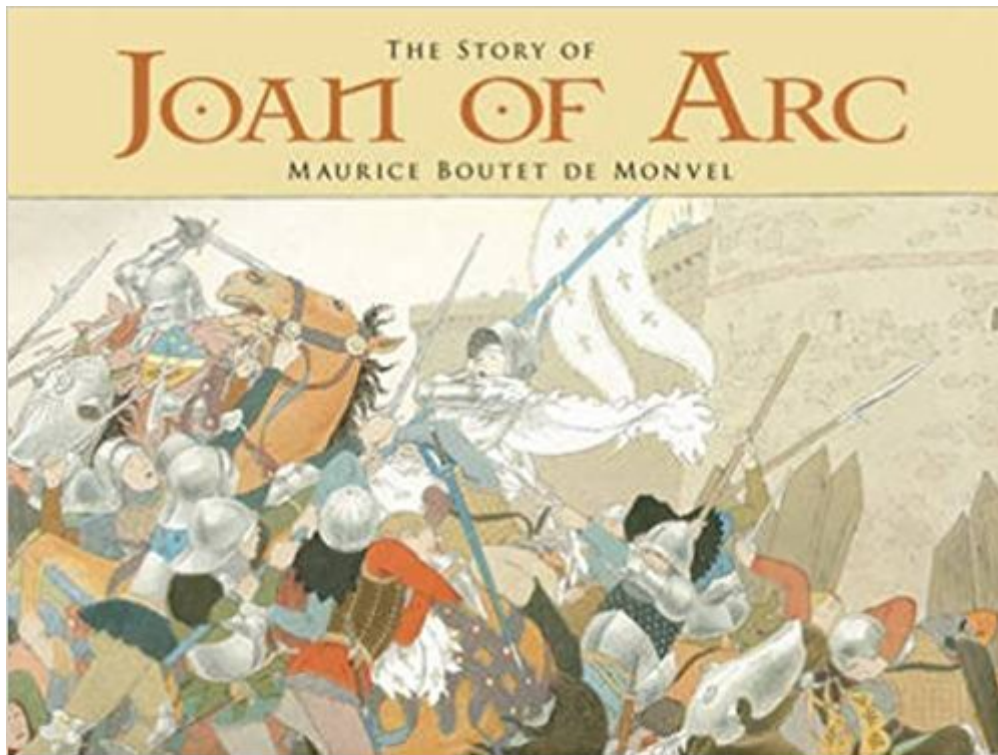




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The Story Of Joan Of Arc (Dover Children's Classics)



Synopsis

Her story is legendary, but it happens to be true: nineteen-year-old Joan of Arc led armies into battle during the Hundred Years War and helped liberate France from English domination. One of the most famous children's books ever published, this elegant work recounts Joan's wondrous transformation from peasant girl to military commander to Christian saint and martyr. Generations of artists and writers from around the world have drawn inspiration from Joan's life, and she remains among the best-known historical figures of the Middle Ages. Maurice Boutet de Monvel's simple but moving retelling of her story features a series of imaginative illustrations that won the artist international fame. All forty-five of the images from his 1896 deluxe picture book appear here in full color, reflecting the saint's enduring symbolic power as well as her deep humanity. An Introduction by Gerald Gottlieb is included in this edition.

Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Classics

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

My child had to read and write a paper about a saint. The teacher left it up to the students on whom they should write about, but I had no idea what book to get. As usual, I turned to my trusty (most kids went to the library so I know there will be plenty of duplicate reports) but I wanted my daughter to be able to keep her book and treasure it. As it stands, this book was written for the young reader in mind, but it is by no means a "baby" book. The wording is simplistic, not simple and the graphics

are to die for (nopun intended). Anyway, I'm satisfied and so is my daughter. Unfortunately the ending of the Joan Of Arc story is brutal, but most saints didn't have happy endings.

Great book, nice illustrations and an excellent account of Joan of Arc.

This book is a classic read. The art is incredible and the story is a must for every young girl.

Magnificent drawings...remembered from a cc I had back 70 years ago. THANK YOU

Wonderful book, the pictures are extraordinary.. so happy I found this book.

I am so glad Dover reprinted this book. Wonderful illustrations alone make it worth the cover price. It is a great addition to any library (child or adult), but given the uniqueness of this reprint, Francophiles, Medievalists, Traditionalists, and Catholics may especially treasure this volume. First, a quick caveat emptor for concerned parents: This book will not easily let parents avoid issues at the heart of Joan's story that some may find inappropriate for young children. Read below for details. The illustrations are wonderful, though most scholars agree that Joan was actually dark-haired and would have had the bowl-cut like the men shown in this book. But generally speaking, the pictures appear to be more accurate than most. And unlike other books on la Pucelle, they depict so many scenes of her story - even the eyewitness account of her comforting the dying English soldier. Rare, indeed. In sum, the pictures alone tell her story wonderfully. She was so much more than just a warrior. The text is lengthy, pretty dry, and it may make for a long read for one sitting with a young child. There is a longish (6 page) introduction without illustrations from a 1980 edition. The text is quite close to the historical documents in its facticity, with few exceptions, EG: Joan's first audience with the Dauphin is described according to the story of her near-miraculous ability to recognize him amongst his courtiers, which, according to Regine Pernoud, is a popular legend. Here it is not over-stated. The Dauphin does not "disguise" himself. There are a lot of facts in the book, dates, and names (in French) that would certainly be edited out of a 21st century publication. In all cases, however, this is a text that depicts Joan as a heroic, virtuous young woman and an orthodox Catholic saint. Not unremarkable, considering it was written years before her canonization in 1920. Finally, for parents, a note about content of this book. It is an unabridged reprint from 1896/1912. This may explain the relatively serious tone of the author that may be foreign to the 21st century. Also, the author does not shy away from what may be uncomfortable for

some parents: The pictures of the battles are full of energy (read, people charging each other with sharp objects), Joan's imprisonment is truly pathetic (our hero in chains being teased by men leering with swords) and she is shown being burned at the stake (quite tastefully, if that's possible). There is even one man with (gasp) blood on his head. The text and pictures also address the dead and dying. In addition, the author states that Joan was betrayed by her king, tortured, and denied the Eucharist by an evil bishop. Not even to mention the difficulty inherent in a divine mission on behalf of one national power against another! Historically, it is all true (we have no proof Henry VI purposefully betrayed her, but it certainly appears that way). Having said that, there are so many important lessons to be gained from talking about Joan's story - for children and adults. My sons absolutely love St. Joan. As they grow, her story has the depth to continue to provide a captivating backdrop for their formation. This version is especially good, perhaps, because there are so many different aspects of her life that are portrayed. One need only pick a page to scratch the surface of some very good lessons on virtue, responsibility, and sacrifice. I hope Dover will continue to print this book. I would love a hardbound edition

Louis Maurice Boutet de Monvel (1851-1913) was a French academic painter trained at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux Arts. In the 1890's, he began illustrating children's books. His masterpiece was "Joan of Arc" published in 1896 to great acclaim. The French art world understood that Boutet de Monvel had created a new style of book illustration for children. His intricate style of flat images with water color detailing influenced children's book illustration for the next fifty years. The clear line illustration of the French Bande Desinee school in my opinion owe a great deal to Boutet de Monvel. First and foremost, purchase this book for the illustrations. They will fascinate child and parent alike. Fortunately, the story of Joan of Arc is well told and will hold the attention of young children. This is a great book and work of art! Highly recommended!

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