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The Princess, The Crone, And The Dung-Cart Knight (The Squire's Tales)



Synopsis

Ever since the murder of her mother and guardian, Sarah has been searching for the knight she holds responsible for their death. But vengeance may not be as satisfying as she thought it would be.

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Customer Reviews

We've read the entire series of these books and this one is the best so far. Anyone with high-level elementary or middle-school level readers interested in things like the Arthurian legends will love these books. But I recommend that they be read in order, as things from prior books in the series are referenced frequently. This author has a second series of books set in Arthurian times as well for low-mid level elementary readers we also enjoyed.

Book just as described. Love it! Thanks so much!

I cried when this series ended. It is a fast-paced, witty, intelligent, and fun new take on King Arthur and his round table, the knights, Merlin, and the enchanting world of faeries. Worth a read. Everyone in my family loves these books and recommends them as often as possible.

Sarah has one of the best character arcs in all of Gerald Morris' books, and if you've read the previous books, you should enjoy seeing familiar characters again.

I have been reading this series to my 9 year old son in sequence. This story was a bit darker and more suspenseful than the previous books. A few times I hesitated a bit as, for example, the main character, a 13 year old girl, lops off the head of a knight early in the story. There is also a minor theme of Jewish persecution that runs through the story. But Morris handles these topics very well and provides resolution to the tension they introduce. Morris does a good job in all books of creating female characters that challenge traditional gender roles, even as he portrays chivalry as a central pillar of feudal society. This book in particular has an ironic twist in that regard. As with the other books, I appreciate Morris's sincere writing, his love of the material and his talent to retell a great story.

The title of this review is my favorite line from *The princess, the crone, and the dung-cart knight* by Gerald Morris, edited to conform with a no obscenity policy. This book gets a 5 out of 5 stars, I love Morris's light fun style of writing and the odd out of place characters he adds to Arthurian legend. Some other books in this series are *The Squire's tale*, *The Squire, his Knight, & his Lady*, *The savage damsel and the dwarf*, and *The ballad of sir Dinadan*. Sarah is a spunky self-sufficient young woman on a quest for vengeance on her mother's murder. As a reader you just can't help but love this girl for both her courage and her good heart. After witnessing the kidnaping of Queen Guinevere Sarah sets out with Sir Gawain and Squire Terence on a remarkable journey to rescue the Queen. On the way she meets some truly strange people and learns a lot about herself and the world she lives in. Near the end of the book when Sarah finally ends her personal quest by getting vengeance on her mother's murder she finds out that revenge is not the answer for the pain she feels over her losing her mother and that true peace can only be found within herself. This book is not as light and funny as *The Squire's tale*, or *The Squire, his Knight, & his Lady*, it shows some of the darker parts of the Arthurian world such as prejudice, injustice, and violence. However it does keep the sharp wit and dry humor that I have come to think of as trademark for Gerald Morris.

She is just thirteen when she sees Queen Guinivere kidnapped. Having met the kind queen and the knight accompanying her, Sarah realizes that what has happened to her new friends. Alone, since her mother was murdered, Sarah understands that the knight is asking her to report the kidnapping to Arthur so she travels to Arthur's camp. Sarah's adventures begin in earnest as she accompanies knights to rescue Guinevere. Viewed through her eyes, we see a different view of Arthur, Guinivere, and some of the knights of the Round Table. In her travels she meets interesting individuals, both honorable and not. I liked this little read for the young who I believe will enjoy this story featuring King Arthur, Queen Guinivere and the knights.

So far this year I have only read one book better than this one--and that was 'The Savage Damsel And The Dwarf', by the same author who wrote this, Gerald Morris. Mr Morris has a true gift for writing. All of his books are good, and I would heartily recommend reading every single one of them. However, it is in his books that star strong, willful female heroines that he really shines. Let's face it, strong women are inspiring and exciting, and unfortunately, also rather too rare in literature, or even in films and television. Girl power is great! (Personally, I think that was why the tv series 'Buffy' was always better than its spinoff 'Angel', because it had more strong, likeable female characters.) In this novel, young, brave, determined Sarah goes looking for revenge, but ends up finding herself. Her journey is as much about self-discovery as it is a quest for justice, and the outcome is upliftingly beautiful and poignant. Yes, this book tackles some serious issues, but thankfully, in the skilled hands of Gerald Morris, it is also incredibly witty, entertaining and laugh-out-loud funny! Plus, as always, there's lots of knights in shining armour, exchanging both swordplay and wordplay equally cuttngly. I only hope that this brilliant author writes more books in this series, because I've read them all now, and I'm going into serious withdrawal...

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