



The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight

Gerald Morris

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Meet thirteen-year-old Sarah, who has been living on her own and searching for the knight who was responsible for her mother's death. Her quest for revenge leads to an even greater adventure when she witnesses Queen Guinevere being kidnapped. Soon Sarah finds herself accompanying Sir Gawain and Squire Terence on a remarkable journey to rescue the queen. Join Sarah on her inspiring quest to avenge her family's death.

The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight Details

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Author : Gerald Morris

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From Reader Review The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight for online ebook

Miss says

I don't feel words are the right way to transmit my feelings about this book.

A bit of this:

Followed by this:

Turning to this:

Summarized by these:

And people say perfection doesn't exist.

5 stars

AE says

I love the first two books of this series, and "The Squire, His Knight, and His Lady" will always have the top spot in my heart, but if there were one other book in this series I'd recommend as my top pick, it would be this one.

This series is overall excellent, hilarious, and consistently well-researched. But what sets this book apart from an already great series, for me, is how the side characters are handled. I liked Sarah, and I loved her ending, and I'm so delighted that Gawain and Terence are back in a major way, but I especially loved that this is where Lancelot and Guinevere really become...more of real people? In the first couple books, they're both very 2-dimensional, but in a way, that's how a lot of us are when we're young, and in this book they're

older and wiser for their experiences, and much more interesting. I was really pleasantly surprised by this book, and definitely would recommend!

Cinnamon says

Closure for Sir Lancelot.

Sarah's mother and caretaker, a Jewish cloth merchant, were killed because of hatred of Jews. So Sarah made a vow to avenge their deaths by seeking out the knight who prompted the villagers to kill them. But first she needs a sword. Opportunity strikes when she crosses paths with Sir Kai and Queen Genievere. She attempts to steal Sir Kai's sword, but when she is caught, instead of harming her for stealing, Kai gives her a sword made for his son and teaches her the basics of sword fighting. Then Sarah is thrown off of her quest when the queen and Sir Kai are kidnapped by a knight and she is the only witness. She travels to Camelot to tell King Arthur and is asked to travel along with Gawain and Terence as they set out to find the queen.

Along the way, Sarah becomes separated from Gawain and falls in with knight who looks less than desirable but can fight better than anyone she has ever seen. Soon she finds out that the knight is none other than Sir Lancelot. Together, they travel to a magical castle where the queen is being held. As they attempt to rescue her, Lancelot comes to terms with himself, and Sarah finds that revenge is not always so sweet.

One of my favorite of the Squire's Tale series.

Elizabeth says

This was the only Morris book on the shelf the day I needed some good Arthurian escapism, which is why I own it. Unfortunately, it concentrates on Lancelot rather than Gawain, who is my great love in Arthurian legend; Morris has been turning away from Gawain in his last few books, which is a damn shame -- he writes him brilliantly, and his character Terence, Gawain's squire, is a marvelous creation. The scenes in this in which they appear are the best in the whole novel, not least because they confuse the hell out of everyone else. Morris is less than technically adept as a novelist; if anyone was surprised by "Oh, I have a name. I am called Sir Lancelot" in this, they need to read some books with real live plot twists, because that was telegraphed in letters a foot high.

Stephanie says

(More like 3.5 stars.)

OH EM GEE TEH CUTENESS!!!1

I'm very fond of this series in general. They stick close to the more well-known versions of these tales (particularly the crazy-ass Chretien versions! yay!), but the author isn't afraid to put his own spin on things. I'm still amazed Morris made *THE SWORD BRIDGE* (I will never forget the all caps from the poem, never sound vaguely plausible. Granted there was some magic involved, but Lancelot and Sarah being like "what the actual fuck?" about that whole thing ended up being highly amusing. And, as always, I will always have some fondness for a story with (a) numerous female characters who (b) enjoy one another's company. It shouldn't be a lot to expect from fiction. AND YET. Also worth noting: while this is a more idealistic Camelot than most modern retellings, Morris doesn't shy away from darker aspects either.

The books in this series have a pretty obvious formula. Main character goes on an adventure, there are a number of episodic struggles while they Learn Important Lessons, and at the end there's an exposition party, during which the main character is amply rewarded. Still, the overall storytelling feels lively enough that it feels unique each time. NOT easy to accomplish with a myth that's been retold literally hundreds of times. I've been working my way through this series slowly, over the years, because I'll be sad when I'm finished.

Sidenote: LOL FOREVER at the author's note where he talks about how perplexing he finds Chretien's The Knight of the Cart. My thoughts exactly.

John says

Returning to top form, Morris sends a young orphan on a quest that teaches her the emptiness of vengeance as she frees an entire kingdom from an enchantment (which involves crossing a bridge that is the edge of a super sharp sword--a notably suspenseful endeavor), saves Arthur's realm from a rebellion, both helps and is helped by Sirs Kai, Gawain and Lancelot along with other members of the merry crew, and performs all manner of heroic deeds including some with a sword.

Notable passages:

"At that time, there was a mighty knight by the name of Sir Turquin, who held a great hatred for King Arthur and all his knights." "Why?" Sarah asked. Brother Constans shook his head. "I do not know what reason Sir Turquin would have given, but it doesn't matter. He hated because he was a man who hates, and that was his own choice. It is the same with every hatred."

It was odd--warming and yet frightening--to discover that her own peace of mind depended partly on someone else's well-being.

Carrie Slager says

Well, this was Book 6 of The Squire's Tales series and I can confidently say that so far I love the whole series. There is no 'bad' book in Gerald Morris' retellings of the Arthurian legends; they're all great.

Although from the summary I expected Sarah to be a typical girl empowerment character, that was far from the truth. Her actions make sense and her character arc is gradual, but very powerful. Just as a warning to younger readers, let me say that this book is more graphic than the others and may offend sensitive readers. After all, the reason Sarah is looking for revenge is based on real, very tragic historical events. And the road to revenge is not without its victims, so just keep that in mind.

Once again Gawain and Terence show up near the end of the book, but it is Sarah and her Dung-Cart Knight that play a much more important part in the story. Gerald Morris certainly has an interesting take on Lancelot, who shows up later on. Lancelot has changed immensely from the first few books when he was a caricature of a proper knight: foppish, immersed in courtly love, etc. He has actually acquired some depth in this book and I look forward to seeing him in the next few books, if only to see how these changes affect his new life at court.

With a fast plot, amazing characters both old and new and hints at the tragic ending of the Arthurian legends, you won't want to put down The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight. Even though it's aimed at younger readers I loved it, which is why I recommend it to readers of all ages.

I give this book 4.5/5 stars, rounded up to 5 stars for Goodreads rating purposes.

Lisa says

I really enjoyed this one! The story went forward at a good pace, the characters were fun, and there was a lot of clever/funny dialog. I am sick right now and picked this book up to keep me entertained and give me upbeat company. This book did it all.

My very favorite part happened near the end. One of the evil flunkies is getting his comeuppance from Princess Charis:

"Not my lands! Who do you think you are? You, a little girl, stripping me of my fief? You may be a princess, but you can't do this! Have you no loyalty to your brother? To your father? Whose princess are you, anyway?"

"Charis rose to her feet, her face white with anger. When she spoke, her voice shook with suppressed rage. I can do this. I have done this. And, Sir Hugh, I am my own damned princess!"

Ha! I love that. I am my own damned princess! So there!

Amy says

Oh! I loved it I loved it I loved it!!!!

What amazes me about this series so far is how every book is as good as the one before it. I have yet to be disappointed. Perhaps I will be, with the eventual climax I assume will have to come, but right now I have nothing but giggles and the sweet taste of a good book. Packed with action, adventure, awesome characters...can you ask for more?

I suppose one might say a romance but whenever Morris adds a romance it is generally oddly done...so take my word for it, this book is excellent without one.

I loved the "sisterhood" feeling, how Sarah (the main character) goes from seeking revenge to caring about the group of women who end up surrounding her. So adorable.

All the characters are, really. It was great to "hear back" from Piers and Gawaine and Terence and Sir Kai and even Lancelot, who I previously disliked and have grudgingly come to appreciate.

I've always held a dislike for Arthinian legends but this series....

It is just so good to pass up. Well worth a read!!!

Merry says

It's incredible that even though Lancelot went into hiding 7 years ago, anyone and everyone knows who and where he is if they need to find him. Buddy... you're not as slick as you think you are.

I'm so glad Gerald Morris didn't shy away from actual historical middle ages stuff here, like mass murders of Jews. Kind of a bummer that Sarah didn't turn out to actually be Jewish, and that she didn't actually even kill the guy who orchestrated her parents' deaths, and also kinda a bummer that Lancelot and Arielle were judging her so harshly for killing the dude who was physically responsible for her parents' deaths.

I'm glad Guinevere was more of a grown-up in this novel than the first two Squire books, because her idiotic behavior felt like a cheap/easy shot, especially when Morris gave so much more heart and understanding to Gawain. Lancelot got some really good motivation in this, but I still feel like Morris did him a bit dirty.

This book felt like a "return" to the Squire books, much closer in spirit to the first 2 in the series. Although... Terrence has become such an inscrutable, non-human kind of guy that I kind of don't like him anymore. Also, if Lady Eileen was in this book, I literally don't remember it at all.

Jacob says

Fortunately this one, number six in the Squire's Tale series, snaps right back to the light hearted wit and twisting of genre conventions that has been the author's strength. In this case, the wit is set aside for a while in the middle of the story to concentrate on plot, a common occurrence that is forgivable because the plot is intense and engaging. We finally get to see Sir Lancelot again, and he's much wiser and humbler since we last saw him. Most of the prominent characters from books 1-4 are here and are welcome, and we finally get to meet Sir Griflet in person! He's been a running joke for some time. Morris also presents moral instruction once again, which I like in YA books because it gives youths the opportunity to consider and thoughtfully adopt or reject those ideas.

Rusty says

She is just thirteen when she sees Queen Guinevere kidnapped. Having met the kind queen and the knight accompanying her, Sarah realizes that her new friends what has happened. Alone, since her mother was murdered, Sarah understands that the knight asking her to report the kidnapping to Arthur so she travels to Arthur's camp.

Sarah's adventures begin as she accompanies knights to rescue Guinevere. Viewed through her eyes, we see a different view of Arthur, Guinevere, 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 think will enjoy the story.

Natalie says

This series is one of my favorites! Not only is it about King Arthur's knights told in a Medieval-y manner that is absolutely delightful and all I want in life, but also a little bit of practical modernism in there to make it easier to read. The author shows new light on lovely classic tales and makes them his own in amazing and beautiful ways. I love all of his characters, made-up as well as classic ones, so much that when ones (namely Terrence, Piers, Gawain, etc.) from previous stories show up later on my inner fangirl completely loses it with happiness. The writing and handling of the tales are also done marvelously and I CANNOT WAIT to read

the rest of the series but I also don't want it to be over!!

Istari says

Wit, satire and action galore make for a really good time with the princess, the crone and the dung-cart Knight

Nikki says

Ah, Gerald Morris is back on safer ground here, sticking to what he understand -- Chrétien and Malory. Well, you have to be a bit of an ass, to my mind, to dismiss one of Chrétien's works as a "clinker", and as I recall Chrétien never finished the tale in question himself, so...

In any case, Morris' shocking inability to research aside, this one is quite fun and Lady Sarah is a fun character. There are quite a few strong, positive female characters in this one, which made it that bit more fun, and he actually writes a Lancelot I give two hoots about, so that's something.

Of course, if the Arthurian legend is serious business to you, don't touch this with a barge pole, but I do find the light tone refreshing, myself.
