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Merlin's Shadow (The Merlin Spiral)



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Synopsis

Betrayal. After destroying the sinister Druid Stone and freeing his people from its dark control, Merlin finds himself to be a royal advisor without a king. Along with his friend Garth and Natalenya, his betrothed, Merlin treks north with the orphaned Arthur in hopes of keeping the young ruler safe from soldiers misled by their turncoat captain. Relentlessly pursued by his nemesis Vortigern, Merlin and his band make for the fortress of Dintaga. But dangers multiply when Merlin realizes that Vortigern is not his only enemy. Even his own sister appears bent on Merlin’s destruction. As the threat on all their lives increases, Merlin discovers their only hope is sailing to the lands of eternal darkness and once again cleansing the world from an ancient and powerful evil. (Book 1 of The Merlin Spiral, MERLIN’S BLADE, is the winner of the 2014 Silver Moonbeam Award for Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction.)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Merlin’s story continues in this second installment of Treskillard’s Arthurian series as the protagonist makes his way from village boy to mighty wizard and king’s advisor. Along with his friends and a boy named Arthur, Merlin hopes to find safety and shelter from his murderous enemies. Before he can realize his destiny, more challenges to his life and his faith loom in the future-including a confrontation with his own sister who has vowed his death. His is a quest of good against evil, but to win the day, and safety for the future king, he must once again cleanse the land

of a great evil. This weighty epic with a cast of dozens of characters and places is an attempt to re-create the origins of Merlin from a Christian perspective. While mature readers with heads for detail and patience for plot may enjoy the ongoing story, it's a daunting prospect for someone unfamiliar with the first book or less willing to invest time. Fans of Merlin's Blade (Zondervan, 2013) will certainly want to pick up this next book in the series, but new readers will want to start with the first title.Ã¢â ¬â •Stephanie Whelan, New York Public Library

The travails of Merlin continue in this second book in the Merlin Spiral series. Having driven the sword into the Druid Stone, Merlin, Natalanya, and their small band must now protect Arthur, the heir to the throne. However, MerlinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s younger half-sister, Ganieda, is set on destroying both Merlin and Arthur. MerlinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hope for continued success often wanes, but he is buoyed by his friends and followers. Readers who follow high-fantasy Arthurian legends (and have read MerlinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Blade, 2013) will immediately become immersed in this sequel, but undertaking this dense tome as a stand-alone requires thoughtful concentration. Grades 7-10. --J. B. Petty

Compared to the first book, Merlin's Shadow was even more of an intricately woven cord. It took unexpected twists and turns, showing loss of hope...and hope regained. Over and over again. No one was immune to this relentless struggle against faith and confidence. My son and I began to think of Bedwir as a forgotten and well abused rag doll. Merlin's struggles in this book were mirrored with his sister, Ganieda. Each character grappled against seen (or unseen) demons which battled for their favor...or their death. Both brother and sister are hunted, enslaved, and given choices which will determine the course of each life, as well as the fate of all Briton. Both my son and I are huge fans of this series now, and impatiently await the next installment!

I wish there were more in this series.

This is the second in a series. I'm so glad I discovered the series and can't wait for #3. Well, I guess I will but it's pre-ordered, something I don't do very often. Merlin's Shadow kept me reading late into the night. I highly recommend the series!

Good condition.

I am not finishing this one. Predictable and a waste of time.

I really like this book because im a fan of merlin I would recommend this to my family and friends

Loved it!

"Merlin’s Shadow," by Robert Treskillard is the second book in a trilogy about the legend of King Arthur. In the first (which is recapped in the second, but which I have not read), Merlin is the blinded son of a swordsmith, a deceased mother who drowned in a lake, and the half brother of Ganieda, a young girl with an affinity for wolves. Merlin’s antagonist is Vortigern, a battle chief who betrays Arthur. When the second book begins, Merlin (his vision miraculously restored but still badly scarred), his girlfriend Natalenya, a very young Arthur, and a few other stalwart companions are on the run from Vortigern and his men. Running parallel to Merlin’s story, is the tale of Ganieda, perhaps fantasy literature’s toughest nine-year-old, who has discovered a magic fang and an orb which allows her to see the whereabouts of her brother, at whom she is furious (see recap) and wishes to seek revenge upon. Both Ganieda’s grandfather and a mysterious stranger seek to control the young girl’s powers, but Ganieda has a definite mind of her own. Meanwhile Merlin has an uphill battle to evade capture and protect the once and future king. Along the way, he’ll endure considerable adversity, and struggle with doubt and insecurity, while his sister will also have to choose sides after deciding what she values most.The book’s main strength is its vividly drawn setting and atmosphere. The weather conditions, geography and physical discomfort the characters experience are brought to life on every page. (A scene involving an escape from a cockroach-filled dungeon is definitely not for the squeamish.) The characters, at least the main ones, are portrayed as real people, as opposed to stereotypical storybook heroes and heroine. They sometimes lose faith, even cry and stumble, but always get back up on their feet (even, as in the case of one, after falling into a corpse pit). The author also does everything to ensure that you can read this book without needing to read its predecessor: including a pronunciation guide, glossary of all characters, and as mentioned a brief "The story so far," as a preface. Overall, it’s an engrossing read and an original take on a legend.

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