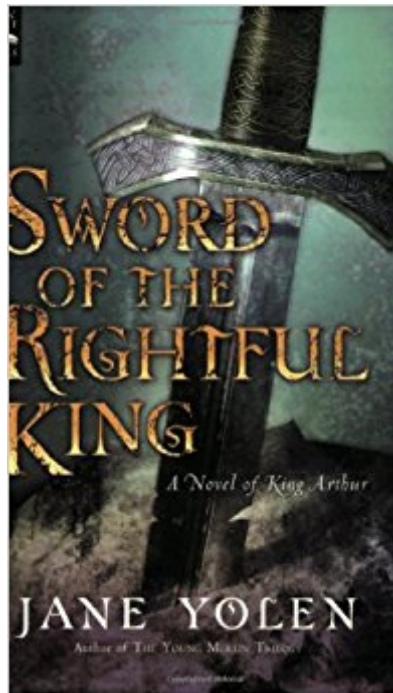




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Sword Of The Rightful King: A Novel Of King Arthur



Synopsis

The newly crowned King Arthur has yet to win the support of the people. Merlin must do something before the king is betrayed, or murdered, or--worst of all--gets married. So Merlin creates a trick: a sword magically placed into a slab of rock that only Arthur can withdraw. Then he lets it be known that whosoever removes the blade will rule all of England, and invites any man who would dare, to try to pull out the sword. But then someone else pulls the sword out first. . . .

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152025332

ISBN-13: 978-0152025335

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 1 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #127,633 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #34 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Arthurian #61 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Bestselling author Jane Yolen does not retell the tale of King Arthur in this imaginative novel for young readers so much as re-invent it. There are familiar characters such as Arthur, Gawaine, and Merlin (here called Merlinnus), and elements from the traditional story, including the famed sword in the stone. But *The Sword of the Rightful King* treats these as ingredients to cook up an entirely new story. In Yolen's version, Arthur is a young king. He wears the crown but sits perhaps a bit uneasily upon the throne. It has been reported to the king that there are some who will betray or even kill him in order to rise to power. To assure the subjects, the magician Merlinnus places a sword in a stone and announces that whosoever pulls it out, will be the rightful ruler of England. The fact that someone else pulls the sword out of the stone first is just one of numerous intriguing twists. Yolen manages to update the legend and make it fresh for a modern younger audience without resorting to gimmickry and incongruous references (no one says "dude", Lancelot does not ride a

skateboard). Instead, she recasts the characters as real people: flawed, troubled, and altogether human. And while they still exist in long-ago England, the people we meet and the situations they find themselves in are accessible to readers of any age. (All ages) --John Moe --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 6-9. Yolen takes elements of Arthurian legend and makes them her own in this involving novel. The central image of the sword in the stone comes to prominence not as the way an unknown boy becomes king but as a means devised by Merlinus the mage to bind the people's allegiance more firmly to the young King Arthur. Besides Arthur and Merlinus, the narrative closely concerns Sir Gawaine, who is determined to stay loyal to Arthur despite his mother's traitorous plots against the king, and young Gawen, who arrives at court to train as a knight and becomes an assistant to Merlinus instead. In Yolen's hands, many characters who have been colorful cardboard figures in other books come to life as sympathetic human beings. Even Sir Kay, for all his flaws, is somehow likable as portrayed here, and Arthur's affection for him is understandable. Yet all is not well in Arthur's realm, even at his court: evil is real, magic is dangerous, assassins are abroad, and power is the only language universally understood. The revelation of a secret creates a surprise ending that departs from traditional Arthurian legend, though many will find it a satisfying climax. Combining old and new, adventure and idealism, this will leave many readers hoping for a sequel that is just as well written and intriguingly crafted. Carolyn PhelanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Every time I start a work of Arthurian fantasy, I hope for the best, but I'm usually disappointed. This one was not nearly as bad as some I've read, and it did take a novel approach to Guinevere which was interesting. It also made Arthur a likable character, which does not always happen, so it could have been worse. Still, don't think I'll go looking for more since it's mostly just a rehashing of the same old story. Some day, someone is going to write a new version with a fresh outlook which will make Arthurian fanatics delirious with joy, but this is not it.

Awesome book. It's a lot of fun for those interested in King Arthur legends. I did this book with my 8th grade classes, and they liked the ending plot twist a lot.

Satisfied with the purchase and will do business again

Loved the entire book. Had to read it for school but I still loved the description and over all story
hope u like it too

Good book Good price.

Most of the Arthurian facts are correct, with a bit of a twist, but the story is well written and engaging
till the end!

Good book!

Great product

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