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The Kitchen Knight: A Tale Of King Arthur



Synopsis

Here noble Gareth, King Arthur's nephew is knighted by Sir Lancelot, vanquishes the dreaded knight of the Red Plain, and wins the hand of a fair maiden.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 3 Up-- While this tale is retold in most adaptations of Arthurian legend, it is not readily available in a single, lavishly illustrated version such as this one. The story is of Gareth of Orkney, Gawaine's brother, who hides his identity to serve a year as a kitchen boy in King Arthur's court, and his quest to the Perilous Gard in the company of Linette, who also hides her identity and reviles him throughout their journey to rescue her sister, Linesse. He falls in love at first distant sight of Linesse, who checks him out by kidnapping his dwarf, but decides he's worthy and agrees to marry him. There is a lot more to the story, of course, and Hodges gets in all the essentials that Malory included, leaving out some unexplained characters and repetitive battles. She also leaves out Gareth's comment that he doesn't listen to women, anyway. Just as well, even though it's a comment appropriate to its time, and quite telling about chivalry. Linesse's testing of a man who saved her life may be understood to be wise in a time when women were kidnapped and treated as property. The loose ends tend to be Malory's own. This does not tell in quite the straight line of Gawaine's adventure with the loathly damsel, told also by Chaucer's Wife of Bath. Hyman's richly

romantic illustrations are lush watercolors, framed and broken with framed insets for closeups and framed text inside the panoramic picture. The format is horizontal, capturing the sweep of the story. While not a tale of King Arthur, it's a wonderful taste of Arthurian legend, hopefully whetting young appetites for more. --Helen Gregory, Grosse Pointe Public Library, MI Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Dramatic...A beautifully illustrated medieval story." (Booklist) --Booklist "A grand tale in a handsome edition." (Kirkus Reviews) --Booklist

The King Arthur stories are foundational stories to which all young children should be exposed. Unfortunately, some authors take the approach of compressing the many stories into one volume. This approach has the value of consistency but unfortunately strips out a lot of the meaning of the stories. A better approach is to take the individual stories and re-work them so that young children can understand them. The story of the "Kitchen Knight" is one of the best stories in the Arthurian cycle. Unfortunately, it is also one of the stories with so much odd detail. Margeret Hodges does a beautiful job of boiling down the story to its essential parts. In addition, Trina Schart Hyman's wonderful illustrations add yet another level of pleasure to the story. Highly recommended.

I have loved the illustrations of Trina Schart Hyman since I was child. Some years back I tried to buy this book, but it had gone out of print and the used copies were selling for \$50.00. So, I was excited to see that it had been reissued. The story is based on one of the legends of King Arthur. It is about a young man who seeks favor with the King Arthur; he goes on a journey, faces many foes and yes saves a princess locked in a tower. However, the maiden in the tower does have a fiery sister which makes the story a bit less patriarchal. The pictures are the main attraction and they are beautiful. It is standard paperback book quality. I would not recommend it for children younger than 1st grade unless they have a decent attention span because there is quite a bit of text.

This is a beloved favorite at our home. There is so much to love about it. We love the vivid text and the luscious illustrations. This will always have a place in our home library!

The book is fabulous but our copy had the entire upper page edge uncut. I had to trim the whole book with a knife!

I would say that this story from Hodges and Hyman is an excellent classic, retold with vivid language and illustrated with unique scenes. The characters are layered with depth of feeling, and make this another of my favorites by a great team.

My grandchildren love these books. The illustrations are beautiful!

One of my all-time favorite books. I loved it as a child and am so happy that I can now share this book with my own children. If you or someone you know enjoys tales of heroism, bravery and honor; this book is for you.

Sometimes the best stories for morals are the old stories. This is a fantastic example of that philosophy ...my daughter loves this story and it creates a great dialogue for teaching how to act in society.

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