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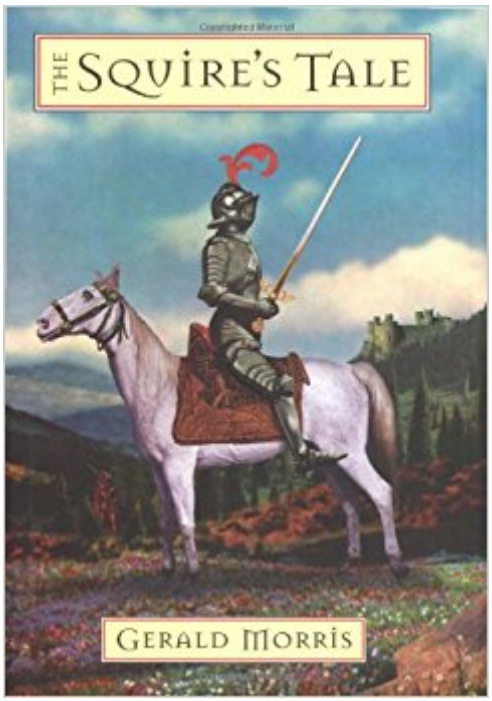

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Synopsis

Growing up an orphan in an isolated cottage in the woods, young Terence never expected much adventure. But upon the arrival of Gawain, his life takes a surprising turn. Gawain is destined to become one of the most famous knights of the Round Table. Terence becomes Gawain's squire and leaves his secluded life for one of adventure in King Arthur's court. In no time Terence is plunged into the exciting world of kings, wizards, knights, wars, magic spells, dwarfs, damsels in distress, and enchanters. As he adjusts to his new life, he proves to be not only an able squire but also a keen observer of the absurdities around him. His duties take him on a quest with Gawain and on a journey of his own, to solve the mystery of his parentage. Filled with rapier-sharp wit, jousting jocularity, and chuckleheaded knights, this is King Arthur's court as never before experienced.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jousting, questing and otherwise comporting themselves in the usual fashion of Arthurian knights, Sir Gawain and his companions also exhibit emotional sensitivity and a goofy sense of humor in this medieval comedy. In his first book for young readers, Morris follows Terence, an orphan raised by a magical hermit, as he becomes squire to young Gawain. Through a series of battles and adventures, Terence remains true to his lord. As Gawain learns to love women for their souls instead of for their pretty faces, Terence discovers he has special talents of his own. A knight seems to gain honor by racking up a high body count, and the battle scenes are often funny; for example, Gawain earns his place at the Round Table by killing one rude, hungry and murderous knight while

armed only with an empty stew pot. Although women do not quest or battle, Morris refreshes gender roles: Terence is a great cook, ugly women find love and Sir Gawain even cries. This Arthurian adventure is all heartAand humor. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-9-Terence, the squire in question, is not Chaucer's but a 14 year old of unknown parentage in Arthur's England, raised in the woods by a wizard who can see the future clearly but is foggy about the past. Gawain, not yet of the Round Table, comes across the boy and, needing a squire, takes him along. The story then follows the nobleman through Terence's eyes. New adventures weave through the familiar, threaded on the story of the loathly damsel, here called the "ugly woman," one of the strongest of the Gawain legends. The entertaining action moves rapidly through encounters with fools and villains to Gawain earning knighthood and the love of a smart and worthy woman. His squire, who has recurring visions and contact with an interesting shape-changer, eventually learns the mystery of his own birth and his destiny. Overall, this is a good story, well told, both original and true to the legend of Gawain, counteracting his lesser position in Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur. Readers who savor swashbuckling tales of knighthood will enjoy this adventure. Librarians will find a great choice of comic and breathtaking quests for booktalks.Helen Gregory, Grosse Pointe Public Library, MICopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a great beginning to a wonderful series about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. We read the first five or six books in the series to our children when they were younger and they have continued reading it on their own. They have asked for their own copies as they have moved out of the house.

This book gives me the same joy it did when I first read it some ten years ago. The writing is clever and funny, the characters lovable, and the plot charming without being dull.

I enjoyed this tale very much. I love the character of the hermit, and I hope to meet him again in some of the follow on books, and Terrance and Gawain's relationship make the book delightful. Gerald Morris weaves his tale well, and I appreciated the way he adds to the legend of Sir Gawain without adding in anything that contradicts it.

I read this book as a kid and have now bought the next three books in the series. I love it. Plain and simple. It's funny, entertaining, and different. If you enjoy magic, knights, and questing, I highly

recommend this book.

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.

I enjoyed this entire series quite a bit. I would recommend it for middle school/jr high up through adults. I had a bachelors and a masters degree at the time I read it.I think the other reviews have given enough plot synopsis so I won't re-write it. In my opinion, Gerald Morris is a masterful author with great story ideas and superb character development. I am anxiously awaiting the next book from this author.

My favorite Will always be The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart,but this series is promising and a the end of the book I find myself dying to know what will happen next.

Love this book. Got it used but in great condition. Only has a black line through the side of it and a library stamp on one of the pages

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