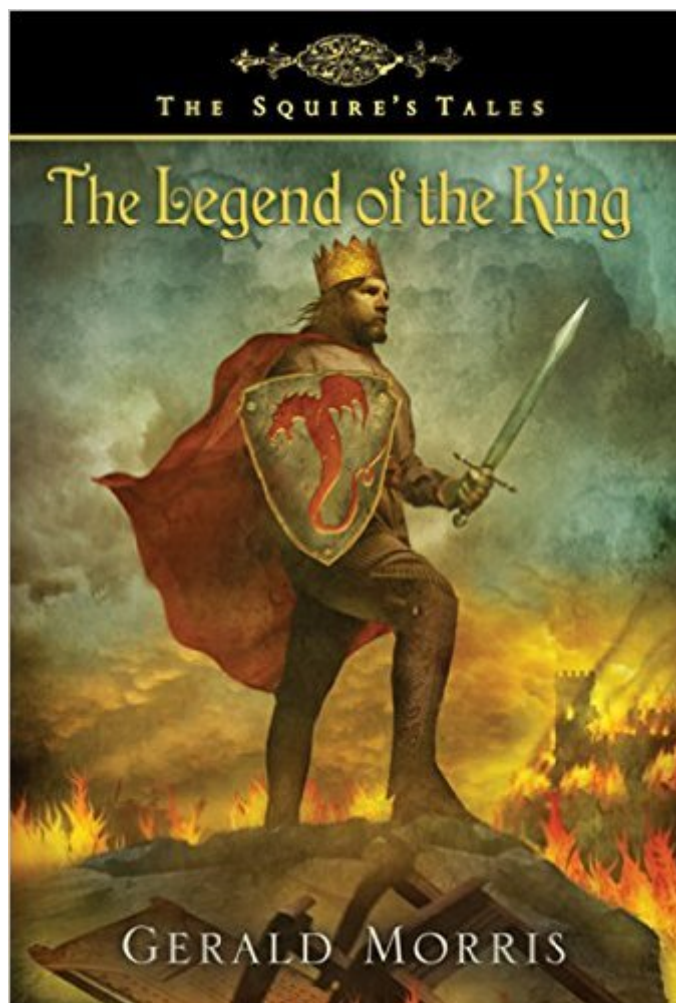


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The Legend Of The King (The Squire's Tales)



Synopsis

In this final installment of the Squire's Tale series, Terence and his fellow Knights of the Round Table must come together in a last stand to save Camelot. The characters Gerald Morris has brought to life throughout his series—Terence and Gawain, Lynet and Gaheris, Luneta and Rhience, Dinadan and Palomides—each have an important role to play in this climactic final conflict. Maintaining their faith, selflessness, and honor, Arthur's court bands together to try to defeat Morgause and Mordred and banish the dark magic from England forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

All good things eventually come to an end, and the same applies to Gerald Morris' clever fantasy series about King Arthur's knights. "The Legend of the King" follows Arthurian legend to its natural bittersweet conclusion-- and while there's plenty of loss and mayhem, Morris manages to give it a hopeful slant. It starts with Gareth coming back to Camelot, and raving drunkenly about "looshe" women, the king, Lancelot, and the world in general. Then their sorceress mother appears to Agrivain, and encourages him to undermine the Round Table and its knights -- leading to a disastrous encounter with Lancelot, and the queen being accused of treason. And the knights riding through the land encounter some sinister doings -- Mordred is riding through the land, claiming that a maddened Arthur is turning his armies on his own people. As the people of Camelot turn against each other and the kingdom begins to crumble from treachery and sorcery, Terence, Gawain and the small band of loyal knights must fight to the bitter end...It sounds very depressing, but Gerald

Morris manages to make "The Legend of the King" an experience that is both saddening and humorous. Anyone who knows about Arthurian lore will have a pretty good idea of how the story goes and how it ends, but Morris still manages to put his own quirkily fantastical spin on it. There's still plenty of humor here ("Shall I send them a threatening message telling them that if they don't lift their siege at once, my wife won't cure their scabby bits?") and some lighter romantic moments.

This is the last of a ten-book series called *The Squire's Tales*, but the first that I have read. The author, Gerald Morris, indicates in his "Envoi" (or Afterword) that his goal was to find a way to introduce a new generation to the Arthurian legend. I believe he has succeeded far beyond the attempt of Philip Reeve in *Here Lies Arthur*. In terms of content, Morris has tweaked the supernatural elements of the Arthurian tales by introducing Hecate, the evil spirit from whom Morgause and others have received their powers. In Greek mythology, Hecate was associated with cross-roads. Hence, her position between the after-life and the here-and-now is apt, and Morris uses her as sort of a portal between the living and the un-dead, which is important in this volume since Morris has taken on the task of describing the exit of sorcerers from the world as well as the death of Arthur, which inevitably comes for the same reason it always has: the adultery of the queen and the treachery of Mordred. Unlike Reeve's book where the "good guys" actually became the "bad guys," Morris's book has left Arthur's integrity intact but shows him as a flawed man, much in the way Shakespeare would have treated him had he attempted to do so. Using quotes from Yeats ("Things fall apart; the center cannot hold....") and Whitman ("...nothing collapses, and to die is different from what any one supposed"), Morris employs a concept of biblical proportions. As Paul of Tarsus wrote in his epistle to the believers at Colosae, Jesus Christ "is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col. 1:17). Without him, then, all things "fall apart."

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