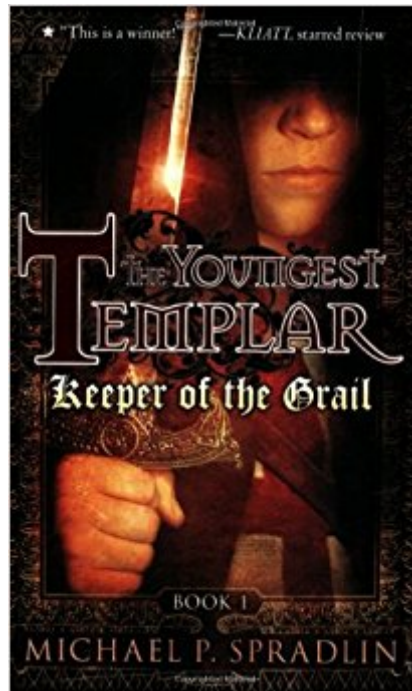




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Keeper Of The Grail (The Youngest Templar, Book 1)



Synopsis

As an orphan, Tristan never dreamed he would travel the world or discover the truth about his past. But all that changes when the Knights Templar ride through the abbey on their way to battle. Suddenly, Tristan finds himself as a squire to one of the most respected knights. While exciting, it is also dangerous, as Tristan gets caught between rival knights desperate for power and entrusted with the most sacred relic—the Holy Grail. With the help of a young archer and a deadly warrior, can Tristan safely bring the Holy Grail back to England? Or will he succumb to the dangers of the evil men who follow in its wake?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #352,402 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #332 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #513 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Royalty](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5—Spradlin has reworked familiar elements into a fast-paced historical adventure with a touch of fantasy. Taken on as a squire by a well-regarded Templar knight, 14-year-old Tristan goes with King Richard's crusade to the Holy Land. A foundling, he gleans from others, especially from an enemy he makes among the Templars, that his origins are something special. Quickly acquiring sword skills, he participates in a battle at Acre, even coming to the aid of the King. Later on, he is entrusted with the Holy Grail and instructed to take it to Scotland. On his way home he is attacked and later befriended first by one of the King's archers, Robard Hode, and

then by a Saracen assassin who turns out to be a maid, Maryam. While the events may test credulity, the first-person narrative carries readers along before dumping Tristan into the Mediterranean Sea for a rather abrupt ending. Although it seems obvious that all will survive, readers may want to wait until the second book is available, promised in fall 2009, before beginning this exciting journey. --Kathleen Isaacs, Towson University, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Left as a baby at a monastery, Tristan has spent the last 14 years working with the gentle monks and pondering his identity. Facts surrounding his arrival there seem to indicate he is of noble birth. Yet even these suspicions in no way prepare him for what's in store with the arrival of Sir Thomas and a group of Knights Templar on their way to the Holy Land. In short order, Thomas makes Tristan his squire, Tristan makes an enemy of malevolent Sir Hugh, and the warriors, with Tristan now among their ranks, head to the Saracen stronghold of Acre. Let the fighting begin! And so it does, with much of the book's second half taken up with battles, skirmishes, and ambushes. The deadly action, uncompromising in many of its descriptions, may take center stage, but Spradlin smartly doesn't neglect story. Tristan is given an immense challenge and responsibility and meets new friends, whose names clever readers will find familiar. The stirring saga ends with a true cliff-hanger, priming fans for the next installment. Grades 5-8. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Was very pleased. This was purchased as a gift for my aunt and she really enjoyed it.

This was a really nice surprise. I'd read several of the authors other books and enjoyed them (mostly the monster fiction) and thought I'd give this series a try. It's now not only my favorite book of his, but one of the best books i've read in the last few years. fun characters, and scene after scene of tension and action. the pacing is really great. the author also does a very nice job handling a time period and subject matter that could be controversial in the hands of another. There is no preaching here (religion-wise or political correctness), it's about the characters, and their story. fun and action packed, great for middle readers and young adults.

This is the first book in a likable series about a young would be Templar knight who is in possession

of the Holy Grail. A corrupt senior knight is pursuing him and his allies; an archer of King Richard, the Lionhearted and an assassin girl formerly of the enemy. You can relate to the characters and there is factual basing of events. I have all the 3 books in hardcover and don't regret buying it. The characters are not bigger than life like usual fantasy novels are but they stand out. It is not a waste of time. This one starts the balls rolling and ends with a cliffhanger, hooking you enough to have to see what happens next. That was good enough for me.

Great book and I can't wait to read the second and third. Well written and extremely entertaining and great start to a trilogy!

I got this book to encourage my 9 yr-old son to read ... and then we were both hooked. Great story, good descriptive style and easy to read format for readers young & old. It's historical fiction interspersed with a little lystery and some great figures from the past. Already on to the 2nd in the series!!

Phenomenal book! Be sure to get all three because once you are sucked in you won't be able to put it back down.

daughter likes it

Very, very good quality; arrived within a week of ordering. A terrific adventure book with a twist of history to boot!

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