



Sword of the Rightful King: A Novel of King Arthur

By Jane Yolen

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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*. . . .

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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*

From [Booklist](#)

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 Merlinnus the mage to bind the people's allegiance more firmly to the young King Arthur. Besides Arthur and Merlinnus, 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 Merlinnus 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 Phelan*
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Review

[star] "Spellbinding . . . A standout in this enormous canon."--*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"A subtle, many-layered tale . . . It is, as the book's ending tells readers, 'an old story but a good one,' and Yolen does it honor." --*VOYA* (5Q--highest rating)

[star] "[A] page-turning tale of magic and adventure, betrayal, loyalty, and love."--*School Library Journal* (starred review)

[star] "Combining old and new, adventure and idealism, this will leave many readers hoping for a sequel."--*Booklist* (starred review)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Shiner:

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Jamie Arellano:

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Cindy Gross:

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Virginia Benson:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Sword of the Rightful King: A Novel of King Arthur, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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