



The Arthur Trilogy #3: King of the Middle March

By Kevin Crossley-Holland

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Kevin Crossley-Holland's award-winning Arthur trilogy comes to its triumphant and moving close.

Arthur de Caldicot waits eagerly in Venice for the start of the Fourth Crusade. But it's now when Arthur's future should be clearest that he feels the most doubt. Jealousies and greed rive the Crusade, leading him to question its true mission. Back in England, his engagement to Winnie remains uncertain, while his search for his birth mother has been stymied by his vicious father. And his seeing stone shows him the last days of King Arthur's court--a great dream destroyed, but also a glorious legend rising from the ruins. Likewise in this book, Arthur becomes a man worthy of his kingly name.

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The Arthur Trilogy #3: King of the Middle March By Kevin Crossley-Holland Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—A glorious and uplifting conclusion to the trilogy. As before, Arthur de Caldicot tells his story, which this time finds the teen on an island off the coast of Venice waiting for a Crusade to begin. He is full of both wonder at his surroundings and the multinational band of men and anxiety over what is expected of him. Arthur is knighted and takes his oath to defend God seriously, but he is conflicted to learn that the Saracens are educated and devout people not unlike the Europeans. At the forefront of his thoughts is Merlin's admonition to keep asking questions. When money and politics wreak havoc with the plans for the Crusade, Arthur becomes disillusioned, and he faces a crisis of faith when the Venetians bring the Crusaders into an internal conflict to siege the city of Zara. Concurrently, Sir Stephen, Arthur's lord, is wounded and must be taken home to England, and because of duty, Arthur takes him and leaves the Crusade. Parallel to Arthur's own quest is that of legendary King Arthur and the Grail knights, whom Arthur watches in his seeing stone. He watches as Camelot is thrown into chaos, and he learns that not all battle ends in glory and that treachery exists even there. In a return home at Easter that is full of symbolism, Arthur finds answers to lifelong questions. Whether readers are familiar with the two previous Arthur sagas or not, they will be gratified by the majestic resolution to the parallel stories of Sir Arthur's coming of age and King Arthur's demise.—*Cheri Dobbs, Detroit Country Day Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 6-9. This third volume in the trilogy that began with *The Seeing Stone* (2001) opens with Arthur, Lord Stephen, and thousands of other crusaders camped near Venice, awaiting the building of a fleet of ships and the arrival of money to pay for them. Eventually, their leaders agree to help Venice recapture the Christian city of Zara in exchange for the vessels that will take them to the Holy Land, and Arthur sees horrors that he is powerless to stop. All this is mirrored in the old story of King Arthur, which young Arthur watches unfold at intervals in his magical stone. Just as the promise of Camelot dissolves into treachery, chaos, and death, so the boy's world seems fatally flawed by greed, brutality, and human frailty. Arthur's response to his fellow crusaders' violence and the questions he raises about religion, morality, and war resonate not only in the two worlds of the novel but also in our own. The traditional Arthurian story comes to its inevitable end as Arthur the narrator returns home to England to take up his new life, fully cognizant of a world full of evil but also filled with promise. *Carolyn Phelan*

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Review

Voice of Youth Advocates

February 1, 2005

Crossley-Holland concludes his Arthur Trilogy with this magnificently written medieval historical fiction blended with Arthurian legend. In 1201, Arthur accompanies Sir Stephen to Venice to requisition boats for the Fourth Crusade and is finally knighted. Arthur's keen observations and insight allow the reader to see and hear the sounds of foreign lands and varied peoples, lending the novel credence and immediacy. Arthur's seeing stone, a gift from Merlin, continues to reveal to him the tales of King Arthur and his knights. The knights' adventures frequently parallel those of Arthur, as do the circumstances of King Arthur's life, such as his parentage. Arthur gleans knowledge both about himself and life in general from these visions. Rich

characterizations, glorious descriptions, and authentic vocabulary (a glossary appears at the back of the book) effectively evoke medieval life for the reader. Arthur's feelings for his family and his betrothed echo those of all teenagers. His fear of battle and worries about being a good knight also reflect his commonality with other young adults. Especially timely are Arthur's observations about the Saracens and their religion; he does not understand why people use religion as a reason to kill each other, an unusual sentiment for a Crusader. Short chapters and lots of action make it a quick read, although readers who have not read the first two books in the trilogy will be somewhat lost. Young adults interested in the Middle Ages, the Crusades, and King Arthur will find this series enthralling to read.-Rachelle Bilz.

Horn Book Magazine

January 1, 2005

STARRED

(Middle School) Arthur de Caldicot, thirteenth-century namesake of the legendary King Arthur (*The Seeing Stone*, rev. 11/01; *At the Crossing Places*, rev. 11/02), is now sixteen, on his way to Jerusalem to join the Fourth Crusade. His small company of Englishmen has arrived in Venice, where they are stalled by unpaid bills and Venetian politics. For Arthur, the crusade is "an act of devotion...a war against the enemies of God"; for others, it's "company. Adventure. A woman or two. That's all." Arthur learns that war is a complex mix of gore and brotherhood, nobility and vileness; his musings on the subject are thought-provoking but never become didactic. Paralleling Arthur's experience is the saga of King Arthur -- now, as the young Arthur watches it in his obsidian seeing stone, coming to a sad and ignominious close. Crossley-Holland has written a novel of extraordinary richness, packed with event and color and texture. As a wise nun tells Arthur, "You care and think and feel, you are awake to the world," and Crossley-Holland transfers that vividness of experience to readers. Considered as a final installment of a trilogy, the book is even more of an accomplishment: it satisfactorily resolves all plot lines while simultaneously releasing Arthur into a somewhat unpredictable future. But whatever happens, as Arthur returns to England ready to take his place as lord of Catmole (or Camelot?), readers can be sure that Arthur has learned enough from his seeing stone not to repeat its mistakes, and that he will forever be "awake to the world." Copyright 2005 of The Horn Book, Inc. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal

(November 1, 2004)

Gr 7 Up-A glorious and uplifting conclusion to the trilogy. As before, Arthur de Caldicot tells his story, which this time finds the teen on an island off the coast of Venice waiting for a Crusade to begin. He is full of both wonder at his surroundings and the multinational band of men and anxiety over what is expected of him. Arthur is knighted and takes his oath to defend God seriously, but he is conflicted to learn that the Saracens are educated and devout people not unlike the Europeans. At the forefront of his thoughts is Merlin's admonition to keep as

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Russell:

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you have some other opinion?

Colton Fierros:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book The Arthur Trilogy #3: King of the Middle March it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

Felicia Sharpton:

This The Arthur Trilogy #3: King of the Middle March is new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having little digest in reading this The Arthur Trilogy #3: King of the Middle March can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel tired even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book kind for your better life in addition to knowledge.

Glory Ruiz:

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