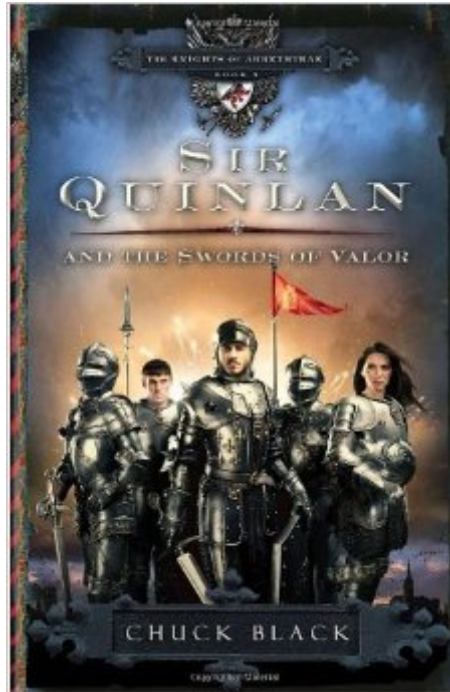


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Sir Quinlan And The Swords Of Valor (The Knights Of Arrethtrae)



Synopsis

Two friends face the Dark Knight's deadliest scheme, but only one knight has the courage to overcome. Sir Quinlan leaves his boyhood friend to serve the Prince, fighting a battle darker and more intense than any he's ever known. The mysterious Sir Baylor recruits him into the ranks of an elite unit of knights known as the Swords of Valor, but when tragedy strikes and everyone blames Quinlan, the Swords of Valor disband, ending a legacy of heroic deeds. Alone and despairing, Quinlan wanders the kingdom, fleeing his past. His providential encounter with Taras, a mysterious Silent Warrior and former trainer of Valor Knights, offers Quinlan a chance to redeem himself and learn the ways of the secret warriors. The training is grueling, and just when Quinlan seems to have left his failures behind, he receives an impossible challenge from the Prince—one that will force him to face his past and the mighty men who blame him for the tragedy that ruined them. Can Quinlan reunite the Valor Knights in time to save the people from the Dark Knight's evil plot to rule the Kingdom of Arrethtrae, or will the Valor Knights lose the most important battle of all?

Book Information

Series: The Knights of Arrethtrae (Book 5)

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Multnomah (October 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601421281

ISBN-13: 978-1601421289

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (68 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #128,922 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Action & Adventure #42 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Historical #56 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Customer Reviews

Two young soldiers are called to serve the Prince, but only one has the courage to take a stand against the Dark Knight, Lucius. A mysterious knight shows up in Burkfield and recruits Sir Quinlan to a group of elite warriors called the Swords of Valor. But when a mission goes terribly wrong and Quinlan is blamed for the tragedy, he is left alone in the world to fend for himself. Rather than waste

away, Sir Quinlan trains vigorously in the ways of the Silent Warriors. After a time, the Prince gives Quinlan a mission--reunite the Swords of Valor which he broke up in order to prevent a massive calamity. Can he do it, or will he shy away from becoming the man he's supposed to be? The idea of a world where Christians are represented by Knights, angels are represented by Silent Warriors, and demons are represented by Shadow Warriors is very cool. This is pure allegory, but that doesn't harm the story being told. I liked the brothers Tav and Quinlan, as well as the paythas--cute and seemingly gentle critters--and the role they played in the story. The illustrations were well-done and the cover is very cool. Boys 8-12 will enjoy this most, but girl readers would like it, too.

Micah (13yo), Eden (12yo), and I all read *Sir Quinlan and the Swords of Valor* by Chuck Black this past week. This book is part of the Knights of Arrethtrae book series. There are several other installments already in the series, but it is the first we have read. Each book in this series is able to stand alone, so they do not have to be read in order. The book is an allegory in a medieval setting. The allegory is to the growth of the early church. In this book, Sir Quinlan is a young knight who isn't particularly good with his sword, but he genuinely loves the Prince. He joins a special unit of knights who go into battle against the Shadow Warriors and work to protect other knights who are carrying the story of the Prince throughout the kingdom. Tragedy strikes their team, however, and Quinlan faces trials larger than he ever imagined he would face when he originally joined. The allegory is very clearly laid out in the initial chapters, which made it a little less interesting for me reading on an adult level, but I know that for the younger set it may good to be clear up front. Once the story got moving, I could think less about analyzing the allegory and relax into enjoying the story. I felt the story was well-written as a whole. There were a lot of different characters, and at times I wished that some had been developed more. The book is relatively short, though, at 176 pages. I loved the character of Sir Quinlan. He is a bottom-of-the-class type character. He isn't a high achiever, but he seems to accept who he is and is comfortable with that. He feels that what he has to offer in service of the Prince is inadequate. But the Prince takes what Quinlan has, and builds on that. He makes Quinlan strong and able to lead the Swords of Valor. I think there are many young Christian readers that will be able relate to Quinlan. Micah says of this book: "I think *Sir Quinlan* is a great book to read because it has adventure and fantasy in the middle of important lessons for life." Micah and Eden both expressed joy and sadness over the ending of the book. It was a somber reflection of the reality that is coming for all of us. I'm glad they could feel that, at least a little bit. The book also includes discussion questions, answers, and piano sheet music for the song "Ride of the Valiant." We are excited to have a new author to add to our list of favorites, and we can't wait to look

for more of his books!

I can't say enough great things about these books. I did not know what to expect from Chuck Black book. Biblical allegories are often lame and you get the feeling the author is trying too hard to make a point. That is not the case here. These books are fun to read. Chuck Black is the author of many novels including the popular Kingdom Series and The Knights of Arrethtrae series. Each story is strong enough to stand on its own. I have 10 kids, and each of the readers enjoy the books. Even kids who are not familiar with the different Bible stories will still be on the edge of their seats. My wife has read all of them aloud. Our children are familiar with Bible stories, and they "get" what is going on. It adds another whole level of interest as they try to link the story they are hearing with the stories they already know. But, that usually happens after each episode, since some of the segments are so tense they are completely lost in the story. Then, after reading to them we hear "Please! One more chapter!" This is a refrain I hear nearly every night.

5th in the Knights of Arrethtrae Series, this is the engaging story of Sir Quinlan, a young man who leaves home to serve in the "Swords of Valor." These knights serve the King, doing battle with the forces of the Dark Knight who plots to take the Kingdom. Taking the blame for a tragic failure, Quinlan seeks to flee from his past. He finds redemption through the help of Taras the Silent Warrior and by facing up to a task that will challenge his courage and commitment to the King. This is an engaging story that is obviously spiritual allegory. Written for older children and young teens, it is an enjoyable story that communicates important truths. Young boys would find this an engaging story of knights, battles, evil enemies and challenges. Parents will be glad for reading material that enforces the values they want to instill in their children. I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for this review.

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