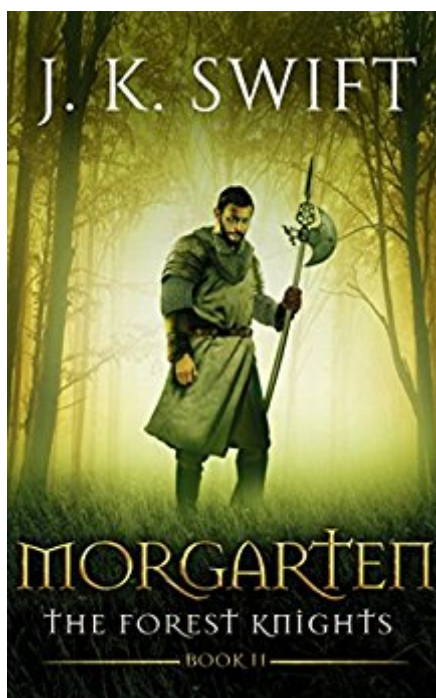


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MORGARTEN: The Forest Knights: Book 2



Synopsis

MORGARTEN (Book 2 of The Forest Knights Duology) This action-packed conclusion to The Forest Knights series picks up where ALTDORF left off. A small force of peasants from the forest regions surrounding Lake Lucerne, rise up against their Austrian overlords in the 14th century.

Outnumbered seven-to-one by the battle-hardened Habsburg army, they have little hope. Young Noll Melchthal has managed to take the Altdorf fortress away from Leopold of Habsburg with a daring moonlight raid. But his army consists of boys and old men, with only enough swords to arm half of them. How long can he hope to hold off the combined might of the Habsburgs and the elite troops of the Holy Roman Empire? He needs help, and the only people he can turn to are an ex-Hospitaller captain and a Priestess of the Weave. MORGARTEN is a novel of 77,000 words.

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Customer Reviews

I didn't write a review for book one because the moment I finished it, I downloaded and started book

two. Honestly, I didn't feel there was any sort of conclusion to book one...had it not been either free or \$.99, I would not have been happy with the way what is essentially a single book being divided into two. That said, I enjoyed the books greatly. It was not at all what I was expecting...I tend to make purchases off the Bookbub list without reading details too closely, especially when they are free/\$.99. I was expecting fantasy, magic, etc, and instead got what felt like historical fiction. Which is a good thing, as I probably wouldn't have picked this up had it been labeled as such. The only fantasy aspect in these books was the Druidic characters, and even that was low key enough that it's borderline...as in, would a biblical story be fantasy because miracles happen? I felt the characters were well developed and interesting...once I realized that the prologue was really a glimpse at a "recruiting drive" for the Children's Crusades, I started paying closer attention, and was more willing to plow through a very name/title/geography heavy beginning. I was reminded of when I first read A Song of Ice and Fire...none of the names, places or political divisions made any sense in the beginning, but soon they became second nature as the story developed. But I really would have liked a few good maps included in the Kindle edition to help give me an easier perspective. At the end of the book, there were what appeared to be historical epilogue type stuff...like so-and-so went on to reign for x years, etc. It made me curious how much (if any) of the events in the book had a trace of reality in them. I mean, Braveheart wasn't exactly true history, but it was cool to know that the characters were more or less real, and the events did have some historical basis. I would have appreciated some comments by the author in the epilogue that showed how (or if) his story fits with historical events. But anyway, I really liked this book and will be seeing what else the author has to offer...

I gave the first book, ALTDORF, 5 stars, and I am happy to now report that the sequel did not let me down in the least. As the story raced to it's thrilling conclusion, I found it impossible to put down (finally finishing at about 2 AM!). I look forward to reading more of Mr. Swift's works. A couple of notes to prospective readers: 1. ALTDORF and MORGARTEN really are one continuous story split into two books, if you have not yet read ALTDORF, do so before trying to read MORGARTEN. 2. These books are about 95% historical fiction, and 5% fantasy. If you are a historical purist, you might object to the fantasy elements, even though they form a very small part of the story; on the other hand, if you are looking for a Tolkeinesque fantasy, this isn't it. (No elves, hobbits or dragons, just Druids).

The Forest Knights were GREAT. The characters were likable & hate able in just the right

proportions. The words evoked the images well & I never got confused in the battle scenes. I've always liked Rick Steves travel adventures through Switzerland & now it's been bumped up on my "to go" list! Unfortunately; I don't dig short stories so I'll have to pass on the authors other works but I'll be keeping an eye out for more full length multi edition historical fiction from this guy (for sure...)

I thought I'd go ahead and read the 2nd book, after finishing the first, which was a special offer freebie on Google Books. I was a bit disappointed that the 2nd book wasn't available on Google Books! I had to go to to get it. I like the way the author weaves some realism into the story line. The places, and maybe even some of the people are real from the history of that period. As the saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction, and sometimes, makes a better story. I will have to consider more titles from this author in the future, it was an entertaining pair of books.

This book, and the preceding one in the series, are really good historical fiction that is so close to reality that you want to pinch yourself. It is the origin of Switzerland, something that might sound boring but is really fascinating! The characters seem real, and you can see yourself in the middle of events. What would YOU do? How would YOU react? The accuracy is keen, and it is a pleasant corrective to the myths of Robin Hood and the fantasies around parts of the world you already know - medieval England and, maybe, France. This is early Germany, and it is just as engrossing. The writing is quite good, and Swift has written carefully enough to set the characters amid real detail. It moves quickly, and you don't want to put it down, at least not for long. If you do not know the history, then you might not know the ending, so I will not reveal it. A very good read, indeed!

Good story line that moves along well. Author does a good job of keeping to facts of history. Plenty of excitement to keep you interested until the end.

Wow! Quite a story. I'm not sure how much of the story is based on historical fact, but it's a really good read.

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