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Longbow (The Saga Of Roland Inness Book 1)



Synopsis

Roland Inness is a peasant boy with an unusual talent and a secret. He has learned the art of making a longbow and the skill to use it with deadly accuracy. Why must this be kept secret? The Normans rule England with their armored knights and a well-aimed longbow can pierce that armor. Possession of the weapon is a hanging offense and when Roland takes the wrong deer on the wrong Lord's land he has to flee for his life. His flight will take him from the high hills of the English midlands to the wild frontier with Wales and on to the court of Richard the Lionheart. Along the way he is hunted by a paid killer, aided by a strange monk named Tuck, and taken in by a gruff Norman knight, who values his skill with the bow. That skill and his courage will be sorely tested as he fights to earn the trust of his new master. As King Richard celebrates his coronation, Roland faces old enemies he thought he had left behind and must test his skill at a royal archery tournament against the greatest bowmen in England, to include the favorite, Sir Robin of Loxley. A mix of history, myth and high adventure, *LONGBOW* follows the journey of Roland Inness as he seeks to find a place for himself in a restive kingdom and become a man in a brutal age.

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Customer Reviews

This is just one heck of a good read! I have to say, I was a bit dubious when a friend recommended this book to me. I figured it was just something for "young adults", which I am not and haven't been for decades. But, my friend, an Army Ranger, wouldn't shut up about it, so I decided to give it a quick read. I'm glad I did! While the lead character may qualify as a young adult, the story is not of that limited appeal. It's just a great, exciting tale and an easy and fun read. Lots of action and thrills and suspense. A fine story that flows well, will catch you up, and won't let go. Well done, very well done, indeed, on the story front. But, unlike some authors who can put together a good story but can't draw a character or script a line of believable and natural dialogue, Grant can do both, as well. Character dialogue in novels set in past times can sometimes be a real problem. I can tell when it's not being done well when it distracts me as the reader. Often I've found it to be too tortured and affected, trying too hard to sound like maybe that's the way folks actually talked back then. (One "forsooth" will sink it for me.) Other times, it's 'way too modern, or just has too many modernisms included to get away with it. Either way, when I start noticing the dialogue, as such, there's a problem. Good dialogue seems to slide right in, as natural as can be, and doesn't distract. Grant does just that. I was well into the book, captured by his story, before I remembered that I wanted to consciously focus on his dialogue. I wanted to check that out because, first, I know I could never do it well; and, second, I know that when done right, it's a sign of a very good and skilled writer.

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