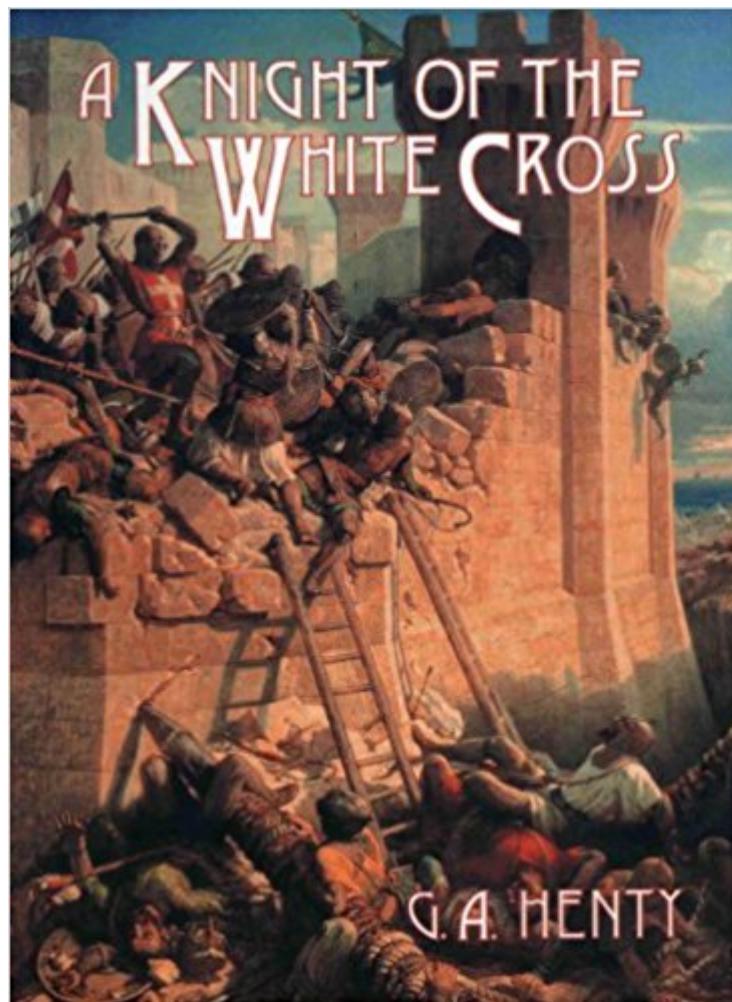


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A Knight Of The White Cross



Synopsis

Young Gervaise Tresham leaves England and the turmoil of the Wars of the Roses to become a Knight of St. John.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1310L (What's this?)

Paperback: 487 pages

Publisher: Lost Classic Books (December 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1890623067

ISBN-13: 978-1890623067

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #724,956 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #166 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #231 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations #459 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Writing in *World* magazine, George Grant reminisced about the childhood pleasure of reading George Alfred Henty's books. Whenever I ran across [a Henty book] in our local library I quickly checked it out, rushed home, and read it usually without putting it down. George Alfred Henty wrote his first boys' adventure, *Out of the Pampas*, in 1868. Its popularity spurred him to write some eighty more children's books. Drawing on his own experiences fighting in the Crimean War and as a foreign correspondent in Europe and Africa, Henty fashioned stories for children that combined realism and what he called a manly tone, with admiration for British strength and courage. His novels encompass an array of times and places from the early days of Egypt to the mines of the California Gold Rush. George Alfred Henty was born in Trumpington, England, on December 8, 1832. He studied at Cambridge, but left without his degree so he could volunteer for service in the Crimean War. After several failed attempts at careers, he decided in 1865 to become a writer, beginning as a correspondent for *The Standard*. He also wrote adult novels of mysteries and

adventure, but turned to children's stories after contributing with success to Union Jack magazine. In his World article, George Grant calls Mr. Henty a Victorian literary phenomenon whose 144 books and myriad short stories have long enthralled adults and children alike. His fiercely accurate narratives range across the whole spectrum of human achievement, highlighting the greatest characters and the most decisive moments in history. George A. Henty died on November 16, 1902, leaving a literary legacy that Lost Classics Book Company is proud to help revive.

This is my tenth G.A Henty novel I have read. Like the rest, I greatly enjoyed it and found it both informative, historically accurate, and entertaining. Nearly all of Henty's works that I have read have the same themes. A boy grows up into a man and somewhere on the way meets a girl and they end up getting married at the end- happily ever after. The stories are predictable because this is the standard theme. It was the same with this book also. However, I still just love Henty's work. They are such a great way to learn history and enjoy a story at the same time. Probably the one that I enjoyed the best was "The Young Carthaginian" which I found to have some fantastic plot twists and amazing escapes that I found to be quite ingenious. Each book has a different history set and therefore the stories and escapes do vary in accordance with the time and place. But Henty never disappoints and you don't know what is going to happen. Only the general pattern. I like the happy endings and the inspiration of a boy becoming a man performing valiant deeds. These books are great for youth and teens that parents would like to have such values as honesty, kindness, bravery, hard work, and courage instilled. I was sad when this book ended and enjoyed thinking about the characters as if they were real. If you want to fall into a realistic, but historic fictional story Henty is a great pick!

I had read this book over three decades ago. I enjoyed it then, and I enjoyed again. This is, in fact, one of Henty's best. G. A. Henty was a prolific 19th Century writer, directing his work towards young men. His heroes are generally teenagers who combine humility with great courage, integrity and intelligence. They are, of course, just TOO perfect. Some criticize this, saying that the standards thus set are too high to be achieved. These critics (speaking in current times when all heroes, it seems, are to be degraded) forget that Henty intended to set high standards - not to be achieved necessarily but to be striven for. His books, I believe, help guide young men to become good men. "A Knight of the White Cross" (1896) tells of a young teenager, Gervaise, who came from an English family ruined in the War of the Roses. He became a page in the Knights of Saint John (the Hospitallers or, later, Knights of Malta), rising through great exploits to become at 17 the Knights'

youngest commander. The scene of most of the action is at Rhodes itself, and the Mediterranean Sea. I have been to most of the places mentioned and find his descriptions accurate. I have only too small criticisms: The action he describes in the harbor of Rhodes would, I think, require a larger harbor than was in truth available; and he treats Arabic and Turkish as indistinguishable languages. Considering the scope of the work, these are indeed trivial complaints. I mention them only to show how true to geography and history Henty is. This is a great book, which I heartily recommend. Read it yourself and then share it with a young person.

Remember when you read by a flashlight under the covers when your folks said lights out because a book was so good? This is one them. For any child, male or female, whoever dreamed of adventure -- like fighting Moor pirates and other great adventures that tie the isolation of European snobbery to the real-life facets of war, creative escapes, and reward, then this novel is for you. Truthfully, this is outstanding. Yes, the key character, Gervais, a knight of the St. Jon Hospitler-kin, but later to the Templar Knights, is a bit over-aggrandized. I mean, nobody can be that good all of the time and even need to seek the glory of God. Still, if you want an adventure novel with action and grace, and propriety, with a hint of romance -- this one is solid. A fun read; adventuresome, realistic, not-preachy but just pure old "take-me-from-my-boring-suburban-neighborhood-and-make-me-a-humble-warrior", then this story, for anyone who like knights but doesn't attend knights-n-maiden fairs and is happy with King Arthur and his round table, but doesn't want to go to dragon-lore knights just yet, is worth the read. Short of the aggrandizement, I'm giving it five stars for darn good use of language and storytelling; still re-reading parts of it to just see how a good "plot and then this happened" works, because this writer did exactly that. Tell your sweetheart, as he or she mumbles beneath the covers, that you need to turn out the light, that he or she needs to leave you alone because you are fighting infidels. If that doesn't describe your day at work then I want your job -- T.E.

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