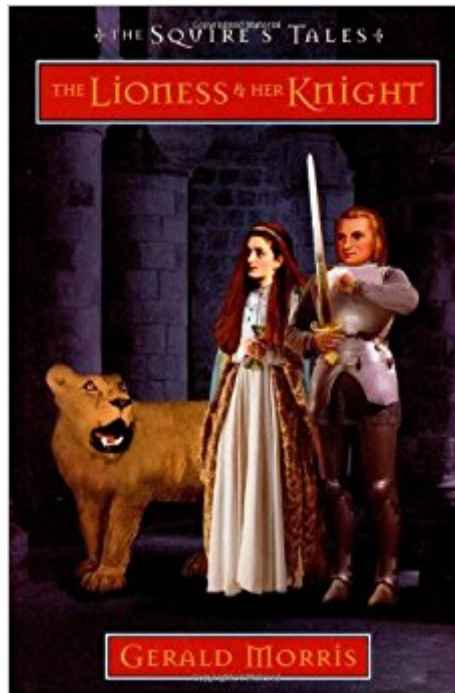




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The Lioness And Her Knight (The Squire's Tales)



Synopsis

Luneta is tired of living in dull Orkney with her mother and father (who happens to be the most boring knight of King Arthur's Round Table). She prides herself on always getting what she wants, so when the opportunity presents itself, she jumps at the chance to stay at a family friend's castle near Camelot. Her handsome cousin, Sir Ywain; a young knight seeking adventure; arrives just in time to escort her to King Arthur's court. Along the way they pick up a knight-turned-fool named Rhience, whose wit and audacity set many a puffed-up personality in its place. Before arriving at Lady Laudine's castle, the trio stops at Camelot, where they hear the story of the Storm Stone, a magical object deep in the forest that soon sweeps everyone into a web of love, betrayal, and more than a bit of magic. Filled with broken promises, powerful enchantresses, unconventional sword fights, fierce and friendly lionesses, mysterious knights, and damsels in and out of distress, *The Lioness and Her Knight* proves itself as witty and adventuresome as the rest of Gerald Morris's tales from King Arthur's court.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9 Adventure, magic, love, and knights of the realm collide in this delightfully witty tale from the legend of King Arthur. Lady Luneta lives cooped up with her parents in a remote region of the kingdom and, like many teens, longs to get out and have some fun. When her parents agree to let her see a bit of the world, and to give them a break from mother-daughter turmoil, Luneta is

thrilled. Soon she is on her way, accompanied by her cousin, the knight Ywain, to the castle of a family friend near Camelot. They meet Rhience, a former knight now pursuing the career of fool, and the three travel together, with Ywain imagining himself fighting gloriously in battle and Rhience spouting barbs and witticisms along the way. Once at Lady Laudine's castle, Ywain kills their hostess's husband in battle and immediately falls in love with the lady herself, Luneta becomes an enchantress under the direction of her great-aunt Morgan Le Fay, and Rhience proves to be a loyal companion and not such a fool after all. The characters are well developed and compelling and the dialogue is intelligent and sharp. While the plot goes on a bit long and occasionally veers off into several different directions, it's just too much fun not to find out what's around the next corner. With characters reminiscent of a Monty Python sketch and a knight with a Don Quixote complex, this romp through the land of King Arthur is a gem.

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Gr. 6-9. Sixteen-year-old Luneta is thrilled when her parents send her to live with her mother's friend, the beautiful Laudine. Escorted by her cousin Ywain and Rhience, a handsome young man who has pledged to live as a fool for one year, she travels to Laudine's castle. The ensuing adventures involve everything from a broken vow and a magical stone to a traitorous steward and an unsuspected talent for enchantment. Despite the dangers and trials encountered along the way, readers will feel confident of a happy ending. The wryly sympathetic portrayal of Luneta and the traditional duality of the fool provide ample scope for Morris' dry wit, which gives this medieval adventure his unmistakable stamp. In the appended note, Morris cites as his inspiration "The Knight of the Lion," a poem by Chretien de Troyes, though he brings Luneta's story to the forefront and gives her a consort worthy of her mettle. Although the story has magical as well as heroic elements, this entry in the Squire's Tales series is memorable chiefly as a fine romance.

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I have greatly enjoyed all of the books in Gerald Morris's Squire's Tales, and this one reconnects use with some of the character from earlier books, while giving us new characters to enjoy. One of the surrounding themes in this story is how things can spiral out of control when we "help" people through meddling.

I cried when this series ended. It is a fast-paced, witty, intelligent, and fun new take on King Arthur

and his round table, the knights, Merlin, and the enchanting world of faeries. Worth a read. Everyone in my family loves these books and recommends them as often as possible.

This is a great series of books that girls especially enjoy. After a quick explore at the library, you will want to own your own copies.

Knights and castles. Ladies in waiting. Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot. The stories of romance and chivalry. I always hated them. I thought Guinevere was a spoiled shameless woman, Lancelot was a peacock masquerading as a man, and Arthur wasn't worthy of his title of King. Jousting didn't thrill my soul. I'd rather watch baseball. (Hint: I despise it). Honestly, I'm supposed to take two men in metal riding at each other with sticks seriously? At least the Scots threw poles with brute strength and tossed rocks with abandon! At least they danced! Honestly, Sir Modred seemed to have more gumption than the rest of the knights put together. So how did I become a fan of a series of books like The Squire's Tales? I happened to read a blurb about one (the eighth in the series I think) and it sounded funny. I was having a bad day and a funny book sounded delightful. I bought it. As you can see, this alone should have shown my mental state. I'm having bad day today, so I'll buy a book today, and read it on a day when I'm probably having a marvelous day. After all, bad days don't happen that often! But when it arrived, the house was empty and I chose to ignore housework for books. I have singular tastes, but hey. Honestly, I laughed through the entire book. I rolled, I roared, I got more raised eyebrows from my kids than I can count. I read sections to my husband who dutifully smiled and snickered as the occasion warranted. He is so obliging. I decided that it was worth a shot. Maybe, just maybe, the first book would be at least semi-enjoyable. It was. I read the second book. Loved it. I passed them on to friends. I kept buying. I've now read them all and am tapping toes, fingers, and nose hairs for the next book. Haven't I bought enough of them to hold weight with you? I personally have purchased four complete sets! I've never been a fan of the Arthurian Legends. These books do what someone should have done years ago. They take all of the stories, from all of the sources and languages, and pull the best from them into one great story. A few of my favorite things in these books: Lancelot: He's shown for the philandering creep that he is without defiling my mind to do it. He also is later shown as a repentant and worthy man. What a concept. Repentance. What will they think of next? Guinevere: She's shown as the silly self-absorbed woman that she was. She

isn't romanticized and idolized as the epitome of femininity. It's about time. Arthur: He's shown as a hurting husband. His wife's mental infidelity is shown as the home-wrecking thing that it is. He's shown as a loving and forgiving man but one who is strong and unyielding, too. Tristan and Isolde: A totally different take than the movie. I loved it. Get the books. Buy them today. Do not go past go, do not hesitate. But if you can't buy them, go to the library, eBay, whatever it takes but get the books. You won't regret it and you just might learn to enjoy Arthur. Now that's amazing! Ok, if I haven't convinced you yet I could mention that one of my daughters had a less than thrilled attitude about having to read the first book. While she knew better than to truly complain, she was not excited about it in the least. It took a reminder that there was a deadline. The shelf of eight more books wasn't very encouraging either. However, I am pleased to say that she started on the second book without a word of encouragement and talks about Terrance as though he was a dear friend. They're THAT good. Caveat: These books DO have the "other world" stories of Morgan le Fey and similar "magical" things that are in the original legends. If these things violate your conscience, I am afraid I've just wasted your reading time and for that, I apologize.

Reader thoughts: This is one of my favorites of the Squire's Tales series. It has just as much humor and adventure as the others (less morbid), but it also has more wit (from a substitute fool) and more character (from the lady compared to a lioness). There's also more magic and more dueling (with rubber swords) and more betrayal and backstabbing (between two sisters). This book surprises me every time I read it. I laugh in delight and imagine that I am as interesting to listen to as Rhys is. When the reader first meets him, he is juggling one ball in one hand, "going back to the basics" he says. "What is progress for a juggler, 4 balls? 8? I'm taking juggling to it's barest form." And he proceeds to insult the cowardly knight who is anything but amused. Thankfully, our heroine IS amused, and they join forces against evil (and general pigheadedness). Writer thoughts: The end of the book was almost risky. The one sister's decision made the climax almost pointless. However, it works perfectly. As one of the characters points out, having your inheritance stolen could embitter you for life. Giving it away could make you happy for life, even though it seems to be the same result on the outside.

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