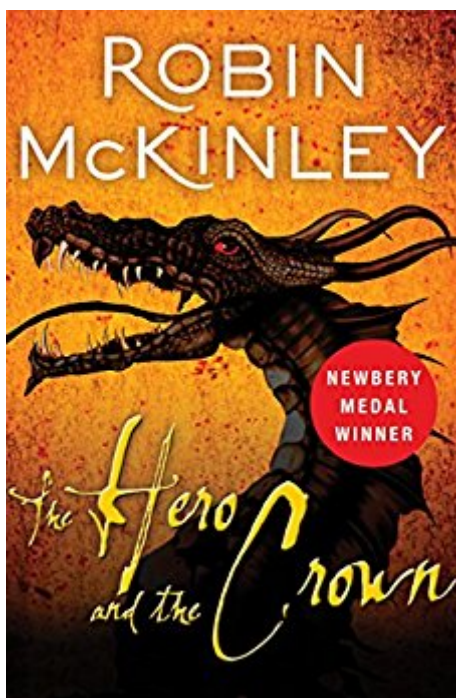


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The Hero And The Crown



Synopsis

In Robin McKinley's Newbery Medal-winning novel, an outcast princess must earn her birthright as a hero of the realm. Aerin is an outcast in her own father's court, daughter of the foreign woman who, it was rumored, was a witch, and enchanted the king to marry her. She makes friends with her father's lame, retired warhorse, Talat, and discovers an old, overlooked, and dangerously imprecise recipe for dragon-fire-proof ointment in a dusty corner of her father's library. Two years, many canter circles to the left to strengthen Talat's weak leg, and many burnt twigs (and a few fingers) secretly experimenting with the ointment recipe later, Aerin is present when someone comes from an outlying village to report a marauding dragon to the king. Aerin slips off alone to fetch her horse, her sword, and her fireproof ointment. But modern dragons, while formidable opponents fully capable of killing a human being, are small and accounted vermin. There is no honor in killing dragons. The great dragons are a tale out of ancient history. That is, until the day that the king is riding out at the head of an army. A weary man on an exhausted horse staggers into the courtyard where the king's troop is assembled: "The Black Dragon has come." Maur, who has not been seen for generations, the last of the great dragons, great as a mountain. Maur has awakened.

Book Information

File Size: 822 KB

Print Length: 244 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media Teen & Tween (November 18, 2014)

Publication Date: November 18, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00OGWASFU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,173 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle

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Customer Reviews

I could not put this book down as it is a fascinating read. Characters were interesting also. Although the characters were not highly developed, it did not detract from the story. Perhaps that was part of the reason that the book was such a fast read. In some ways, the writing style was fairly simple, keeping the emotion level on the low side. You knew the characters were dealing with strong emotions, but the reader didn't feel those emotions. Perhaps that is another reason it was an easy read. Normally, I think deeper character development and the ability to draw the reader into the experiences of the character are signs of a great writer. However, in this case, the lack of these did not detract from the story. The authors is an excellent story teller.

Robin McKinley has always been on of my favourite authors, and I thought I had read everything she has written to date. I was thrilled to find this missing book. As always, she weaves the reader into the tale, and it is seamless. Highly recommended.

My granddaughter had read blue sword and was looking for the series. She couldn't find this book and really wanted to read it. Was very happy when she got it. Shipper and buyer were excellent and received it before time. Thanks for the great work.

Robin McKinley's writing holds up over time. This story is as fresh today as it was the day it was published. I've owned several copies of the book and have given them away to friends. My bookshelf had a bare spot, just waiting for McKinley's novel to fill it up. When it arrived I had to read it once again--for about the tenth time--and just like the very first time I read The Hero and the Crown, I felt like I was in Aerin's world seeing the dragon and the white stallion and experiencing Aerin's failures and triumphs. Anyone who appreciates a well written story will be engaged immediately by this wonderful tale--it will capture your imagination and emotions and will hold them hostage right up to the very last word. Thank you, Robin McKinley for this story and for The Blue Sword.

This book reminds me of some of the fantasy novels I started reading when I was much younger. Its

language is authentic for the setting, and the story is original and well written. As an editor, I appreciate that the author appears to have given thought to grammar, punctuation and spelling. This is a story of courage, resourcefulness, and determination as a young woman struggles to attain her place in a society that does not recognize her for who she is. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and believe others will, too.

One of my favorite books of all time. Read it in 5th grade and now at 40 years old have likely read it 20 times. Just bought for my 13 year old! Love.

I have read this book countless times since my Sophomore year in high school. The story never ceases to keep me spellbound!

This was just a wonderful story of a young girl over coming life's obstacles in a land of magic. This was fantasy at its best. Cannot wait to read other books by this author.

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