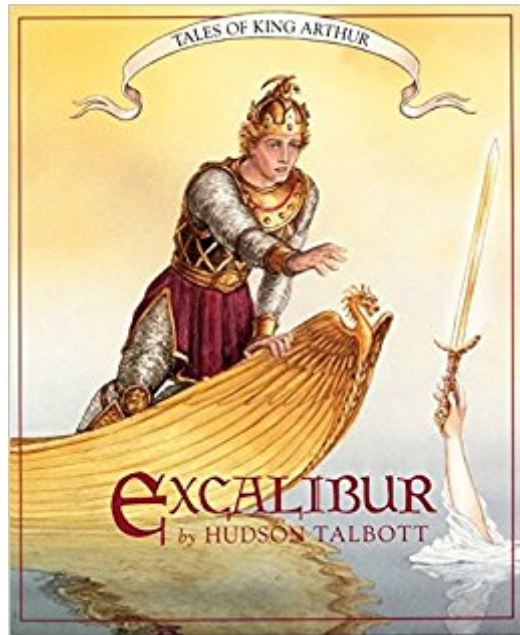




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Tales Of King Arthur: Excalibur (Books Of Wonder)



Synopsis

When the young Arthur pulled the sword from the stone and became High King of all Britain, he didn't realize that an even greater task lay ahead: that of uniting his country behind him. Wielding the great Pendragon sword, Arthur leads his men to victory in the Battle of Bedegraine. Afterward, his knights disperse in pursuit of individual glory and Arthur stays behind, listening wistfully to the older knights' tales of daring and heroism. All the time he wonders, Why can't I go questing as they have? But soon he does discover a quest of his own, and despite the warnings of his adviser, Merlin, he sets out to challenge the rebellious warrior King Pellinore in a fight that could prove to be his downfall. In this third volume of his Tales of King Arthur series, Hudson Talbott continues the thrilling story of the young king begun in *The Sword in the Stone* and *King Arthur and the Round Table*, showing Arthur's struggles to become a king not only in name but to the depths of his being. Exciting scenes from the days of chivalry and heroism burst from every page, from Arthur's encounter with Pellinore to his meeting with the mysterious Lady of the Lake, guardian of the splendid sword Excalibur. Hudson Talbott's masterful storytelling and dramatic paintings will enthrall fans of his previous books and win many new ones besides.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An often bewitching but occasionally insipid visualization of an ancient tale, the third in Talbott's series of Arthurian legends (after *King Arthur and the Round Table*) traces young King Arthur's maturation as he battles King Pellinore and receives the sword Excalibur. The story is recounted

prosaically, even awkwardly: "I need a quest!" complains Arthur. "A knight has more fun than a king." However, the pictures, composed in a traditional and romantic style, gracefully portray the hero's transition from a pretty, wistful youth to a reverent, confident king. Panoramic spreads of Arthur with his army convey a time-honored spirit of honor and adventure. The distinctly bloody fight scenes and a Barbie-esque Lady of the Lake are less than compelling, but Talbott is at his vivid best with animals: rearing horses, eager dogs and a miraculous Questing Beast. The intriguingly misty landscapes lend the classic story an air of mystery. All ages. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-6?Filling in more of the story begun in his *King Arthur and the Round Table* (1995) and *The Sword in the Stone* (1991, both Morrow), Talbott describes Arthur's maturation from an impulsive, glory-seeking boy to a young king, ready to serve others. The pictures are as colorful as the tale, yet both illustrations and words leave something to be desired. Sharp-eyed readers may spot inaccuracies, inconsistencies, or awkwardness in the watercolors (the Saxons' ships and helmets are Viking-style; horseless Pellinore steals Arthur's roan, but "next morning" is riding a black steed; Arthur is in a fancy crown with Pendragon insignia on shield, saddle, horseblanket, etc., but Pellinore asks forgiveness because he didn't recognize his king when they fought; the figures are poorly proportioned, etc.) The language is awkwardly suspended between the casual ("A knight has more fun than a king," Arthur whines early on), and the pontifical ("As for death, I welcome it, if it is my time," he intones a few pages later). Instead of this bland offering, slightly older readers should look for Robin Lister's *The Legend of King Arthur* (Doubleday, 1990), while younger ones will have more fun with Marcia Williams's *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* (Candlewick, 1996).?Patricia (Dooley) Lothrop Green, St. George's School, Newport, RICopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My children love the stories of King Arthur, Camelot, and his Knights. Hudson Talbott's writing and the gorgeous illustrations which accompany each story are remarkable. His "Tales of King Arthur" stories have quickly become story time favorites at our home. My son has asked to use the illustrations in these stories as a basis to reprint his room, so that it looks "like Camelot and Avalon look".If you like King Arthur, and want to see those legends told in a truly remarkable way, you need to get the three "Tales of King Arthur" books (*King Arthur and the Round Table*, *Excalibur*, and *The Sword in the Stone*), as well as the accompanying book, "Lancelot".

This is a short book with few pages. The pages are unnumbered. There is no table of contents. The artwork is good but a little too laid back for my taste. I would have given this two stars, but I added one star for effort made. This might make a good book for a child to review after having read fuller stories.

My son likes the book, he said he also likes the pictures. He wants to read more books about Hudson Talbot.

Each of the books in this collection by Hudson Talbott is excellent. My 5 year old son developed an interest in knights after a visit to Medieval Times. From there, he discovered King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Of the many books we have on this topic, these are the best written. The illustrations are wonderful. I highly recommend the entire collection. (Note: his 3 year old brother enjoys them too)

Good retelling of classic story, colorful illustrations are a plus and language is understandable for an elementary school student. We bought this along with *Sword in the Stone* and *King Arthur and the Round Table* for our son as a gift and he enjoyed them very much.

Great!

Very bright color they have and cool story. I like EXCALIBUR and Arthur stories, but it is a very short story for 1st grader. I expected a big children's book.

Tales of King Arthur: Excalibur tells how the sword named Excalibur came into the possession of King Arthur. After defeating his Saxon enemies Arthur becomes bored and wants to go on a quest. In the process, Arthur fights King Pellinore. Arthur is injured but eventually recovers. With the guidance of Merlin, Arthur goes to Avalon and encounters the Lady of the Lake who presents Excalibur to Arthur. He eventually tames his restlessness and takes his responsibilities as king more seriously. The full color illustrations greatly enhance the narrative and make this book ideal for young readers interested in Arthurian literature.

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