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# Dragon: Hound of Honor

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Edwards, Julie Andrew and Hamilton, Emma Walton. *Dragon: Hound of Honor*. Harper Collins Publishers, 2004. ISBN 0060571195. \$17.89. 179 pp.

Reviewer: Mary Chapman

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Detective and mystery stories; Historical fiction; Folklore;

Subject: Knights and knighthood--Juvenile fiction; Middle Ages--Juvenile fiction; Dogs--Juvenile fiction;

Thirteen year-old Thierry, ward of Count Montargis in medieval France, wishes to become the squire to a brave knight named Guy Sieur DeNarsac, the Captain of the Count's Men-at Arms. DeNarsac is part of a tight group of friends who reunite at a tournament held at the Count's estate. The friends include Aubrey de Montidier, Captain of King Charles V's guards, along with his trusted wolfhound Dragon; Chevalier Richard Macaire, a King's knight; and Isabelle, Count Martargis' daughter and Aubrey's fiancée. Aubrey disappears on the day of the tournament and his hound turns up three days later wounded and exhausted. Dragon leads Thierry and DeNarsac to Aubrey's murdered body and the two determine that Dragon is their only clue to the killer.

Edwards and Hamilton retell "The Legend of the Dog of Montargis" very well. They draw a vivid picture of medieval France and life in Charles V's court. The mystery is full of exciting moments as Thierry and DeNarsac try to learn from Dragon who the murderer is. Included with the story is a family tree and glossary of French-English and medieval words so that the reader can make sense of the French names as well as French and medieval terminology. This book would appeal to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade readers.