



2006

Crispin at the Edge of the World

Laura Wadley

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Avi. *Crispin at the Edge of the World*. Hyperion, 2006. ISBN 078685152X. \$16.99. 240 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Historical fiction; Adventure stories;

Subject: Great Britain--History--Richard II, 1377-1399--Juvenile fiction; Middle Ages--Juvenile fiction; Voyages and travels--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In this sequel to the Newbery-winning *Crispin and the Cross of Lead*, Bear, sick and exhausted, flees with Crispin from his former foes and from his new enemies, members of the rebel brotherhood who think he has betrayed them. They fall into the company of an aged healer, and her deformed young protégé, who treat them with the utmost kindness and care. After Avi has beat the reader about the head and shoulders with the remarkable notion that Christian folk can behave badly and pagans can behave nobly, he sends Bear, Crispin, and Troth, the young girl, on a sea voyage which lands them shipwrecked in France and at the mercy of a "free company" of soldiers, brutal in their demands, who pull Bear and his little family into great danger.

Although continuing the medieval practice and speech which characterized the first Crispin book, *Crispin at the Edge of the World* seems often no more than a thinly veiled political tract, with a rushed and unsatisfying ending. With its beautifully beguiling cover art, one might have hoped for more.