



2007

Hunted

Eliza Nevin

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Russell, Christopher. *Hunted*. Greenwillow, 2007. ISBN 9780060841195. \$16.89. 254 p.

Reviewer: Eliza Nevin

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: Plague--Juvenile fiction; Mastiff--Juvenile fiction; Human-animal relationships--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Fourteen-year-old Brind, raised with Sir Edmund's pack of hunting dogs and the huntsman of Sir Edmund's manor, is banished from Dowe Manor when Sir Edmund's wife, Lady Beatrice, dies of the plague. A greedy friar blames her death on Brind, "the Devil's boy," and "the witch," Aurelie, Edmund and Beatrice's foster daughter. Mad with grief, Sir Edmund believes the friar's accusations and sends his remaining loved ones away, only realizing his mistake until it is too late. Brind and Aurelie, accompanied by two loyal mastiffs, flee from the friar, angry mobs, and the invisible enemy of the dreaded plague, trusting the dogs and luck for their survival, until Sir Edmund finally comes to their rescue.

An exciting story with great characterization of the dogboy, who speaks limited English in growls and barks, and the orphan Aurelie. The friar is a menacing and engaging villain, and the dogs are loyal heroes. Enjoyable, but the story lacks the spark of a great book. Dog lovers will especially enjoy it.