



2008

### Babylonne

Tessa McMillan

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Jinks, Catherine. *Babylonne*. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN 9780763636500.  
\$18.99. 384 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: War--Juvenile fiction; Orphans--Juvenile fiction; Middle Ages--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Babylonne has had enough of her abusive family. Everyday her aunts tell her how sinful and evil she is because she was conceived through fornication. So in the summer of 1227, Babylonne decides to run away to seek acceptance and work from the honorable English knights who have fought against the evil French. Babylonne's plans are sidetracked when she runs into the red-headed priest, Isidore. Isidore was a friend to Babylonne's unknown and recently departed father, Pagan. Isidore disguises Babylonne as a servant boy as they travel across the French country side. Yet when Babylonne finally meets the brave knights she has been looking for, she is torn from Isidore's protection and thrown into a horrid battle with the French. At the risk of his own life, Isidore saves Babylonne from the horrors of war to keep her safe within his care.

Jinks creates the setting of the Middle Ages using descriptive language. Even though the novel is set in the Middle Ages, Babylonne's character is attractive to modern readers because of her wit, intelligence, and courage. This would be a great book to use in history or English classes for a unit on the Middle Ages. Yet teachers should be aware that there are several graphic scenes of violence, which means that the audience for this book is older teens.

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