



2009

# The Squire's Quest

Janice Card

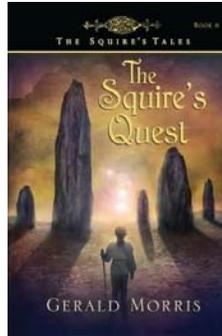
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Morris, Gerald. *The Squire's Quest*. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. ISBN 9780547144245. \$16.00. 275 p.

Reviewer: Janice Card

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy fiction; Adventure stories;

Subject: Arthur, King--Juvenile fiction; Knights and knighthood--Juvenile fiction; Fairies--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

*The Squire's Quest* is the ninth, eagerly anticipated, book in Morris' series of Arthurian tales. Squire Terence is half human and half faery, capable of passing from one world to the other. He has been Sir Gawain's squire throughout the series, although in some of the books he plays only a cameo role. This installment follows Terence's adventures surrounding Mordred's appearance in King Arthur's court. Everyone seems immensely impressed with Mordred, a young man who claims that he wants to become a knight of the round table. However, Terence is suspicious and watches him closely. Death and destruction follow in Mordred's wake, but no blame can be pinned on him. Terence is determined to help King Arthur maintain his kingdom and make all things right. To do this, he travels far, builds friendships, and seeks wisdom from the Oracle at Delphi.

This story is a treatise on the greed for power and the drama of courtly love affairs. These obsessive romances appear rather ridiculous, especially since they cause heartache and death. Morris based this adventure story on Arthurian tales told by Chrétien de Troyes, who lived and wrote in the twelfth century. Overall, Morris has created a wonderfully involving read.

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