



2010

### The Crowfield Curse

Debbie Barr

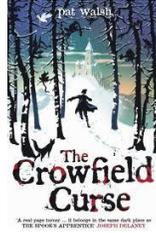
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Walsh, Pat. *The Crowfield Curse*. Scholastic, 2010. ISBN 9780545229227. \$16.99. 330 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction

Subject: Blessing and cursing--Juvenile fiction; Monasteries--Juvenile fiction; Great Britain--History--14th century--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

William lives at Crowfield Abbey. He is an orphan and little more than a servant there, but at least he is being taken care of. Everything changes the day when he realizes he has “The Sight,” an ability to see magical things. Will learns that an angel is buried in a wood near Crowfield and that something dark is lurking outside of the Abbey. A wealthy leper named Jacobus and his servant, Shadlock, are looking for the angel and have come to stay at the Abbey. The two men are from the fey court, and the evil Dark King is after them. They force Will to help them in their search for the angel. After some close calls, they find it. William then removes the arrow from its body, restoring it to life. The angel gives the immortal Jacobus what he wants most: death, and Shadlock is bonded to Will.

Walsh has created an impeccably researched book, with fascinating details on the life of monks in the 1300s. However, the plot itself is a little lacking, with a character forced into the events, rather than searching them out naturally. The pacing is also on the slow side, especially for a middle grade fantasy, which may be frustrating to readers. Still, *The Crowfield Curse* would be a good choice for someone looking for a medieval historical fiction with a twist of magic.

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