



2010

The Youngest Templar: The Orphan of Destiny

Tessa McMillan

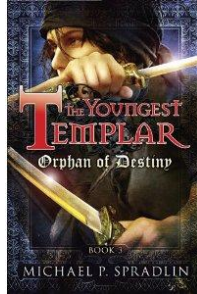
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McMillan, Tessa (2010) "The Youngest Templar: The Orphan of Destiny," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 3 , Article 18.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol31/iss3/18>

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Spradlin, Michael. *The Youngest Templar: Orphan of Destiny*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2010. ISBN 9780399247651. \$17.99. 258 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: Grail--Juvenile fiction; Middle Ages--Juvenile fiction;

Europe--History--476-1492--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Tristan, Robard, Maryam, and Angel escape Sir Hugh and Eleanor of Aquitaine's clutches. As they make their way home through Scotland, a blacksmith named Little John joins their group. The group decides to visit to St. Alban's monastery, but Sir Hugh's men had already murdered the monks and burned the monastery down. One monk, the deaf and mute Brother Tuck, survived and he joins the group as well. The party continues on and arrives at Robard's home: Sherwood. There, they find a Shire Reeve is persecuting Robard's people with exorbitant taxes. Tristan and Maryam help Robard protect Sherwood's people and scare off the Shire Reeve. After things are settled there, the group continues on to Rosslyn, Scotland. Once they arrive, they find that Sir Hugh's men have overthrown the city. Tristan sneaks inside, but the person he wants to find is dead. When Tristan returns, he finds that Sir Hugh has captured his friends. Tristan challenges Sir Hugh with a duel and kills him. A group of good Templar knights come to their rescue. Tristan gives the Grail to the correct priest for safekeeping and receives a letter left by Sir Thomas. In it, Tristan finds out that he is a son of a king. Tristan decides to become a Templar knight.

Spradlin's final book in the Youngest Templar series is a great ending to a wonderfully written story. It is enjoyable to see Spradlin's spin on the Robin Hood legend unfold throughout the three books. Teens and young adults will enjoy the adventures of Tristan and his friends.

Volume 31, no. 3 (January/February 2011)