
Reviewer: Tessa McMillan  
Reading level: Intermediate, Young Adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Subject: Knights and knighthood--Juvenile fiction; France--History--Philip II Augustus, 1180-1223--Juvenile fiction; Grail--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Tristan is discovered by a group of riders after he is washed up in Southern France. The group’s leader is Celia, a beautiful girl whose people are being persecuted by the Catholic Church for being Cathars. Robard and Maryam discover the group and are reunited with Tristan again. The two groups separate, but Tristan, Robard, and Maryam meet up with a regiment tracking Celia’s group. Tristan and his friends decide to help Celia and her people. They travel to Celia’s fortress home, Montségur, to find it under attack. The group sneaks in and helps defend it from the Catholic fighters. However, Sir Hugh turns up to aid the attackers, capture Tristan, and take the Grail. Tristan discloses his quest to his friends, and Celia helps Tristan, Robard, and Maryam escape to Calais. But, once they arrive in Calais to cross the English Channel, Sir Hugh is there to imprison the group in Eleanor of Aquitaine’s castle. While trying to escape, Maryam is captured again. Sir Hugh promises to hang Maryam unless Tristan comes forward with the Grail—except, Tristan has captured Eleanor to barter for Maryam’s life and their group’s freedom.

Spradlin’s second book holds up even better than the first in creating excitement, suspense, and strong character development. Readers will cheer Tristan and his friends on in their journey to keep the Holy Grail safe. The next and final book in the trilogy is *The Youngest Templar: Orphan of Destiny*.

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