



The Seven Songs of Merlin (Merlin Saga)

By T. A. Barron

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There has never been a magic like Merlin's, and T. A. Barron reveals how the legend was born in his adventure-loving five-book epic featuring the heroic young wizard and his unforgettable band.

To celebrate the epic, which has sold over a million copies, Philomel has created a stunning paperover-board edition with fantastical new cover art by Justin Sweet to enchant and enthrall a whole new generation of readers!

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The Seven Songs of Merlin (Merlin Saga) By T. A. Barron Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9. In this sequel to *The Lost Years of Merlin* (Philomel, 1996), 13-year-old Merlin faces down the powers of darkness on the island of Fincayra and masters the traditional Seven Songs of Wisdom. In one month's time, he must discover the soul of each song and journey to the Otherworld to obtain a magical elixir to save his mother's life. He is accompanied by Rhia, a girl who possesses a mystical relationship with nature; and Bumbelwy, an annoying and pessimistic court jester. Adventure follows adventure as Merlin seeks wisdom and learns that his pride is his worst enemy. The trio encounters giants, a huge spider with a voracious appetite, and a treacherous one-eyed monster. In the village of Slantos, Merlin finds the magical sword that will one day belong to King Arthur. This richly layered fantasy is filled with harrowing escapades and many surprises. While readers may never doubt the outcome, they will eagerly devour the chapters to arrive at the satisfying conclusion. Arthurian legend is used as the starting point for a delightfully original story of magic and myth that retains the spirit of the classic tales. Merlin is a flawed hero, yet he rises to each new challenge. While the title can stand alone, there are constant allusions to incidents and characters introduced in the first book. Readers will surely be waiting impatiently for the third part of this marvelous series. --Bruce Anne Shook, Mendenhall Middle School, Greensboro, NC

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From Kirkus Reviews

This second installment of the sequence that began with *The Lost Years of Merlin* (1996) is as full of action and excitement as its predecessor, but is kinder and gentler in tone; while its origins are epic, it is foremost a tale of the heart. Teenage Merlin remains on the enchanted isle of Fincayra, charged by its inhabitants to traverse the countryside, playing the flowering harp and thereby rejuvenating the land that was scarred in battle during the overthrow of Merlin's father, the evil King Stangmar. Although Merlin is proud to serve, his own desire to be reunited with his mother, Elen, so overwhelms him that he abandons his task and teleports her to his side. No sooner do the pair embrace, however, than Elen is poisoned by a deathshadow, meant for her son by evil Rhita Gawr: Merlin's mother can only be saved if he masters the seven wizard's songs within one lunar month. The quest on which Barron sends his amiable hero is delightfully accessible and appropriate for this audience: In essence, Merlin must rise above his own hubris, and use his heart and mind as an adult. Aiding Merlin in his tasks are the lovely and resourceful Rhia, and a new character, the dour would-be jester Bumbelwy. While plenty of characters from the previous novel appear, as do familiar landmarks, it is Merlin's inner journey that readers will cherish above all: His development is convincing and heartwarming. A rich and resonant read. (Fiction. 9-12) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

Barron weaves danger, challenges, bravery and self-discovery. Metaphorically, Merlin's journey is one that we all make or at least yearn to make. Barron says: 'All of us have a certain magic down inside of ourselves. And like Merlin, all of us can discover our own magic.' -- *Colorado Daily-10/97*

In this riveting fantasy, Merlin's ability to see not with his eyes but with his heart is most compelling-not just for young readers, but also for their parents. -- *Family Life (Critic's Choice Review)-10/97*

Spellbinding...readers will relish not only the action and the well-crafted setting but also Merlin's growth from a callow youth to a wiser, more caring wizard-in-training. -- *Booklist-10/97*

The Seven Songs of Merlin is a sparkling gem that shines with the multi-faceted brilliance that is Barron's. --
Chinaberry Book Review-11/97

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Farr:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on pre-school until university need this The Seven Songs of Merlin (Merlin Saga) to read.

Kathryn Robinson:

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Timothy Rhine:

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