



The Apprentice

Alexander C. Hoffman

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Rowan has lived with his father and his brother in the hills of the Corinthian Valley for almost seventeen years. He knows that his family's farm holds only chores and plants and predictability. He can envision exactly how his life will play out. Every day. Every season. When the apples will fall and when the frost will come. Always the same, year after year. It is not the life for him. So when a storm brings with it a strange visitor, a knight named Baird, Rowan seizes the opportunity and leaves his home behind. He travels with Baird to the capitol city of Estoria, but the life he finds there is filled with difficult choices and responsibilities. A threat is looming, and the capitol and the royal family may be in need of Baird and Rowan now more than ever.

The Apprentice Details

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From Reader Review The Apprentice for online ebook

Lacey Jo says

Great foundation for a saga

The characters develop quickly and they are easy to like. . . Or dislike either way you will feel strongly about them. The story is solid but at times a bit obvious. Generally I like a bit more tension and mystery however I still found the story enjoyable and would definitely read the next one as I am curious what happens with the young apprentice. I love a good coming of age story

Annette Fuller says

I'm pretty biased, since Alex and I have known each other since the first semester of undergrad. I'll just say that I enjoyed this story and I'm excited to read the next book and see where the characters go from here. :)

Angel says

A Knight's Journey: The Apprentice by Alexander C. Hoffman is a coming of age tale of a young man Rowan who seems to have his life mapped out for him but, wants to travel his own path. The character Rowan is a typical youth in that he wants to rebel against being a farmer and independently seek what he wants out of life than what his family wants for him, but, unique in that the main character is a young pioneer teaching himself how to read and write making himself more self-sufficient trying to brace himself for what lies ahead in the outside world but, realizes he is not readily prepared for the outside world when he chooses to travel with a knight and learn what it is to be a knight.

Rowan learns that leaving one society (the one he knows so well) for another that is filled with unpredictability and obstacles to overcome as in life. When we leave the nest we explore a world that is unknown. There is a definite philosophy in this story.

Similar to Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" the prisoner leaves the cave and enters the outside world. The light at first hurts his eyes. Thus, expressing the pain of discovering what we thought we knew versus what is true knowledge. To further explore this we must venture into the outside world and experience the knowledge it has to offer. Quoting Socrates "an unexamined life is not worth living."

Ian Hunter says

Right off the bat the author does a nice job drawing us into the story with a clear sense of the hero's goal and the obstacles before him. The relationship dynamics between him and his father, and between all the characters in the book are nicely defined, and bristling with tension and conflict on the horizon. The world building is vivid and poignant. And nothing comes at the reader too fast or too unsorted to create confusion. The pacing felt just right for an act 1, and as one would suspect, the tempo picks up as the story progresses,

as it should. This is solid epic heroic fantasy, not a hybrid or mixed genre piece. So genre purists can breathe easy.

The document is immaculately proofed and devoid of typos, and the line by line editing is also crisp, lending an easy flow to the words.

The young hero's thirst for adventure, his feeling stifled and bored with his farm life, is a common motif for this genre, and also for sci-fi. I recall a similar set up for Star Wars, episode one, and for many fantasy books that involve a quest of some kind. Still, the author makes the all-too familiar setup his own.

Note: this is YA lit, geared to an audience in the age range of twelve to sixteen, I would imagine, judging by the age of our hero. But obviously, there are readers of all ages who fancy these kinds of tales, myself included. Considering the audience in mind for this one, it was easy to go with five stars, as I can see young kids really enjoying this.

A.J. Raven says

I read a copy of this book to give it an honest review. The premise of the story is simple, a young boy named Rowan wants to see the outside world and leave his village and he gets a chance when a mysterious knight comes to stay at his house during a storm. Rowan leaves with him and that's when the story picks up speed. "A Knight's Journey: The Apprentice" by Alexander C. Hoffman is book 1 in the the series and you can tell that Rowan will grow in rank and as a character as the series continue.

The author takes a lot of time developing his characters and the settings. The couple of the starting chapters are all about Rowan's life on his farm and his desire to leave. With a page length of near 400 the story can get a bit tedious, but if you keep reading long enough you will definitely end up appreciating the author's style of story telling. I personally liked princess Eliza, it's all good to have interesting female characters in a story.

"A Knight's Journey: The Apprentice" is by no means a quick read but it sure is an enjoyable fantasy story about how the world changes for a young farmer's boy.

Note: The same review has been posted on Amazon US, and UK.

mindy disraeli says

I can't wait for the sequel

The author did a perfect job of developing his characters. I am so ready for the next book!!!! Write on!

Bill Tillman says

The Knight's Journey

An interesting coming of age book. Baird is the foremost knight of the kingdom, while returning from a secret mission for the king he finds a young man that wishes to leave the isolated region of high forest and mountains. Rowan finds in a world of intrigue and danger.

Patrick Hedges says

A Knight's Journey follows young Rowan, a curious and adventurous youth ill-suited for the life of a farmer. So when a mysterious armed stranger shows up on his family's doorstep, Rowan sees a possible escape. At first reluctant, the stranger, a wandering knight named Baird, gradually accepts Rowan as his apprentice. On the long, arduous journey back to the royal family to whom Baird has pledged his allegiance, Rowan finds himself being trained in the art of wordplay by his new master.

Soon, Rowan will end up in a world far larger than he had ever imagined; a world far removed from his previous life. As political turmoil swirls around him, Rowan finds his new skills put to the test, as he and his new master face a force that threatens the kingdom's fragile peace.

This book started off at an extremely slow pace, as every part of Rowan's perilous trek is spelled out in great detail. The pace does pick up considerably in the second half, by which time the main characters are fully fleshed out, leading to a very gripping climax and wetting your appetite for Book Two.

Cadyn says

This is currently one of the best books I've read, though the real reason I'm saying that is because I'm a huge fan of the middle ages. I've always been a fan of sword fighting so when I started reading this book I got a bit excited and rarely set it down until I was done with it. It had a good storyline though not necessarily unique. Baird died in the end sadly, but it was a sacrificial death. The book has a lot of action near the end. In the very beginning though there wasn't really a lot of action, and that's not necessarily disappointing as I thought that fact would be the ending completely makes up for that. I really want the author to make a sequel to the book and I hope it's not too far away.

Stephen says

Rowan has lived with his father and his brother in the hills of the Corinthian Valley for almost seventeen years. He knows that his family's farm holds only chores and plants and predictability. He can envision exactly how his life will play out. Every day. Every season. When the apples will fall and when the frost will come. Always the same, year after year. It is not the life for him. So when a storm brings with it a strange visitor, a knight named Baird, Rowan seizes the opportunity and leaves his home behind. He travels with Baird to the capitol city of Estoria, but the life he finds there is filled with difficult choices and responsibilities. A threat is looming, and the capitol and the royal family may be in need of Baird and Rowan

now more than ever.

This is not your ordinary fantasy Knight and Apprentice novel. This is a coming of age tale of a young man Rowan who seems to have his life mapped out for him but, wants to travel his own path. It is about his trials of becoming a knight and learning about the world around him. I found that this book grabbed me and would not let go. Although I found the ending a bit of a let down, getting there was outstanding. Waiting for the next book and hoping that the main characters serve to retake their places. Great Readin Everyone.

Loren Lockner says

While over-drawn, some very intriguing parts. A Knight's Journey has a great premise. A seasoned and decorated knight, Baird, takes on a rough farm boy, Rowan, to be his apprentice. During their travels to the Capitol, Baird trains and instructs his young charge and once in the capital city, learns that skullduggery is rampant as an enemy of the king seeks to destroy him and take over his throne. The author throws in a saucy princess named Eliza, who can stand up for herself. (I really liked her character) While I enjoyed the story, I felt that it was way too long-winded and meandering. Still, I had that feeling about the Lord of the Rings as well. I wanted the action to just 'hurry up,' and while the ending and unusual twist was worth it, I suspect some readers will have the patience to make it to the end. Would love to see the novel cut down in size. Still, a good read for the most part.

David Scott says

I really enjoyed this fantasy tale of a young farmer's boy who convinces a travelling knight to take him on as an apprentice. While slow moving at first, I enjoyed the character development of both Rowan and Baird and the relationship they shared. The main battle comes late in the book, and is really intense. I wish the story had a more upbeat conclusion, but I'm hoping that more than one of the characters presumed dead at the end of the first book prove to have survived the ordeal and reappear in the next volume of the series.

In any case, Rowan's story is far from over, and I can't wait to read more.

Donald Smith says

Knight's journey

A good read kind of slow. Doesn't really get going until the last two or three chapters. Looking forward to seeing the second book

Ed says

This is a story of a boy with a wanderlust who tags along with a knight who is passing through.

The knight ... well, he's not exactly enamoured of the prospect - at least not initially. The story can seem a

little slow initially - it does take it's time in building up the characters concerned.

It's better for it, it's just ... well, just don't expect a high speed action romp from the first page. Expect something with a little more depth and characterisation.

Somewhat inevitably - this is called "the Apprentice" it feels a little like a training montage. But it's not trivial about it, it's very much developing a character who - by the looks of it - might go on to great things.

I know I want to know where this goes next.

Mnoraznan says

The story's progression was seamless and easy to follow. The pacing is good, ramping nicely with the plot beats and narrative. Hope the next book will come out soon.
