



Knight: The Medieval Warrior's (Unofficial) Manual

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The knight is the supreme warrior of the Middle Ages. Fully armored and mounted on a magnificent charger, he seems invincible. Honor and glory await him as, guided by the chivalric code, he fights with lance and sword.

This carefully researched yet entertaining book provides all the essential information you need to become a successful knight in the later Middle Ages, during the period of the Hundred Years' War. Should you go on a Crusade? Which order of chivalry might you consider joining? What is required when you go through the ceremony of knighthood?

Here are the answers to these and many more questions plus practical advice on topics such as equipment, fighting methods, and the conventions of warfare. But the knightly life is not all battles and sieges: there are also tournaments and jousts to enjoy and the world of courtly love.

Based on contemporary lives and descriptions, this book—written by a leading medieval historian—paints a vivid picture of what it was like to be a medieval knight.

Knight: The Medieval Warrior's (Unofficial) Manual Details

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From Reader Review Knight: The Medieval Warrior's (Unofficial) Manual for online ebook

Yune says

I picked this up after reading another entry in the (Unofficial) Manual series. *Knight* is a little less irreverent than *Gladiator*, but I think this is purposeful; the intended audience, after all, is the aspirant knight, who needs must be concerned with honor and chivalry.

This is not to say it's devoid of humor! It's just subtler. Consider tips such as "Have as little to do with peasants as possible" or the closing illustration, captioned, *Sir John Chandos at the head of his troops (and shortly before he was killed after tripping over his surcoat)*.

Because of the relative brevity and wide-ranging breadth of the chapters, I'd consider this more a survey than a comprehensive manual, but it's still impressive in the amount of detail it manages to cram in. You'll learn the stages of training, what arms and armor you'll be expected to have, money matters from ransom to becoming a mercenary, the doldrums of siege warfare, and even which sorts of ladies might help advance your career. Sprinkled throughout are anecdotes of real-life knights who found glory or infamy.

I think I'm now a firm fan of this series. It's both educational -- I'd consider it a great starting point for anyone researching the topic -- and entertaining.

Paige says

Informative, full of great historical anecdotes, and a nice smattering of humour.

Holly says

This was a fun book.

Sharon says

An entertaining and educational guide on how to be a knight in the 14th century. Michael Prestwich provides plenty of detail from numerous sources without ever sounding dry or academic. He uses humor to effectively punctuate some of the more absurd notions of chivalry and knightly behavior. If you are interested in this historical period or want to learn more about knights, this is just the book for you.

Tanel Vari says

Ei, see ei olnud nii halb, aga mind häirisid paar asja. Esiteks see, et omaaegseid rahaühikuid kasutati ilma

igasuguse selgituse või tänapäeva paralleleel toomata (okei, lõpupool oli üks pisike seletuskastike, mis siiski polnud piisav). Teiseks piigi järjekindel nimetamine odaks, mis pole ju otseselt vale, aga ma olen teistsuguse terminoloogiaga üles kasvanud. Ja sihtgrupp oli ilmselgelt kõvasti allapoole minu vanust. Ja tekst oli lisaks liiga hüplik ja eklektiline, näited suvaline faktikogum siit ja sealt. Värvitahvlid jätsid siiski parima osa muljest.

Avis Black says

Didn't care for this at all. There's very little detail in here, and the author writes like he's talking to children.

Douglas Koehne says

Enjoyable book that combines a touch of humor with historical information on how one might become and live as a knight in the early 15th century. Very easy to read with some interesting stories to illustrate the discussion points (battles, tournaments, ladies, training, etc.). It's a quick read with a historical twist to what most are familiar with when it comes to knights (through the King Arthur myths or other medieval literature).

Muchi Muchima says

Catrine says

I feel I should be more excited about this book. It is well-written, and it's clear that it tries to be exciting and interesting. Still I was never really engaged in it. It's definitely interesting, and it's definitely not dry, but it wasn't engaging. Perhaps it's because I read another, far more engaging book on that time period recently, and perhaps I had too high expectations, I don't know.

Michele says

I have read about knights, chivalry and the Middle Ages, but I cannot remember reading a book on the subject with as much enjoyment as I got from reading this. It's a charming and entertaining work! Written in supposedly the middle of the 15th C. (he doesn't comment on the English War of the Roses - so it precedes that but is written apparently after Agincourt), it's a practical "how to" for would be knights, describing the training, the orders, battles, tournaments, campaigning, crusades, ransoms and booty - the whole thing. In fact, I frequently found myself wishing that I could take part in goal to become a knight, such is the subtle charm of this little book.

Célia says

A very good book that teached yu both about knights and everything surrounding them, and a little about history (great battles, crusades...). Written as if we were in 1415, it's a very fun and easy manual to read.

Bookworm says

I didn't like this one *quite* as much as the Legionary Unofficial Manual book. This one seemed a bit less organized and focused to me, and, I must admit, the semicolon abuse was a bit distracting at times. But it's still a very entertaining and informative read, with a good glossary at the end for those wanting more information.

David Santiuste says

This is a wonderful little book, providing an engaging introduction to the world of the late medieval knight. The author, Michael Prestwich, is a distinguished historian of medieval warfare, but in this case he wears his learning lightly. This is one of a series of books by this publisher, all of which are written in the same informal style.

Almost every aspect of a knight's life is considered, in fifteen thematic chapters, from his training as a youth to his death and 'afterlife'. Flashes of dry wit help to lighten the tone, and this is a very entertaining book, but there are some serious insights here too. The chapter on battles, which is richly detailed, is particularly strong.

Carefully chosen extracts from primary sources – all of which are fully referenced - help to bring the period to life. The book is beautifully presented and lavishly illustrated, including 113 images altogether. Finally, for those who wish to learn more about medieval warfare, an excellent list of further reading is provided.

I would particularly recommend *Knight* to young adults, although older readers should by no means feel excluded. Medieval enthusiasts of all ages will read this book with interest and pleasure.

[NB: A longer version of this review was printed in *The Court Journal*, the magazine of the Scottish branch of the Richard III Society.]

Meaghan says

This book is just as good as its companion, Legionary: The Roman Soldier's (Unofficial) Manual. I learned a great deal about 14th-century warfare and life in general. All of it was interesting, and much of it was amusing. I had no idea, for example, that Ulrich Von Liechtenstein was a real knight (and he liked to disguise himself too, although he did not come from Gelderland), or that the Scots were once able to sneak

into a besieged castle under cover of night by going on all fours and mooing like cattle. Any history buff will love this book.

Margaret Sankey says

Michael Prestwich, well-published expert on Edward I, now breaks loose as an Emeritus with this charming and clever synthesis of the careers of Geoffroi de Charnay, John Hawkwood, Boucicaut and William Marshall--a how-to guide to the ins and outs of the European tournament, crusade, social and civil war circuit (which, of course, if you were born to it, you wouldn't need in the first place). And of course, how to deliver motivational speeches: "(True Englishmen) who, under the lead of my father, and my ancestors, kings of England, found no labor painful, no place invincible, no ground unpassable, no hill however high inaccessible, no tower unscalable, no army impenetrable, no soldier in arms or host of men formidable!"--the Black Prince, standing in front of the Hedgerows of Death 1356
