



The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short

Gerald Morris , Aaron Renier (Illustrations)

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The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short Gerald Morris , Aaron Renier (Illustrations)

Many years ago, the storytellers say, the great King Arthur held court with his gallant Knights of the Round Table. Poor Givret, who is easily the shortest man at court, bears the brunt of their jokes. But what he lacks in stature, Givret makes up for in brains—and before he knows it, his quick thinking has landed him a place at the famous Round Table! And so beginneth the exciting and funny adventures of Sir Givret the Short, Brilliant, and Marvelous.

The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short Details

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Author : Gerald Morris , Aaron Renier (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short for online ebook

David says

The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short (Knights' Tales #2) by Gerald Morris is a tale of a little-known Knight of the Round Table who thinks before he acts and who solves problems using clever solutions.

As the story begins Givret is not a knight. When King Arthur's knights hear of the legend of hunting the white stag and the rewards that catching it would bring, Givret counsels against hunting the stag. Many consider this cowardice. When the rest of the knights leave on their quest, Givret volunteers to remain near the castle to protect Queen Guinevere.

Sir Yoder arrives in the kingdom and mistakenly insults the Queen. When one of the King's knights, Sir Erec, hears of the insult, he sets off after Sir Yoder (to Scotland) to cleanse Queen Guinevere's name. When the rest of the knights and the King return, Givret tells of the story. Because Givret used his intelligence to dispatch Sir Yoder, King Arthur grants knighthood upon Givret, much to the amusement and bewilderment of the remaining Knights of the Roundtable.

King Arthur gives Givret a quest. He must follow after Sir Erec to Scotland. Though small in stature and not known for his brute strength, Givret the Short proves to the rest of the knights that being brave and true means more than simply fighting a foe with brute strength, and that thought, reason and cleverness can save the day.

The text uses the Arthurian legend and setting to tell this story of thought and cleverness.

Aaron Renier's illustrations add humor.

This humorous tale of adventure, knights and quests will attract beginning chapter-book readers. It has a positive message of solving problems through thinking and planning rather than brute strength and fighting. As useful as this story may be, I wish that Morris had concentrated on tales of the major knights first, rather than bringing in such an unknown knight's tale and his supposed quests so early in the series. (In a brief search I couldn't find any mention of Givret with that spelling.) Although I think the illustrations seem overly exaggerated and don't care for some of the expressions, the target audience will likely find them amusing. Readers should still enjoy this tale.

For grades 2 to 4, knights, King Arthur, adventure, fantasy, chapterbook, humor, easy chapterbooks, and fans of Gerald Morris and Aaron Renier.

Jim Erekson says

Once again, I should have been reading the 4th book in this series (Sir Balin the Ill-Fated), but #2 was available in e-book from the library, so here we go.

This parody of Arthurian chivalry tales is fun to read, mostly because the stories don't take themselves so seriously as the original material often so painfully does. Morris easily subverts the ridiculousness of some of

the extremes presented in medieval romance, but still gets me to want to follow his story from that ouvre. The jokes and twists feel like authentic folkish material, and I wouldn't be surprised to open up the Aarne Thompson index and find some of these motifs right there in European folk tales from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Entertaining! I'm also interested in looking at some more of Aaron Renier's work after reading this--he's got a good sense for drawing comical characters and I'd like to see some of his graphic novel work.

If I had to compare this work to anything, it would be Danny Kaye's "The Court Jester" (1955). (Which I still can't believe is not on Netflix--c'mon Ted Turner, cut some of your TCM stable loose!). Anyway, after thinking of Court Jester I couldn't think of any more to say about this book... Sorry.

Sherry says

Advanced second and third grade readers will appreciate this adventurous chapter book. Historical characters from the Knights of (King Arthur's) Round Table populate the book. Both girls and boys will find heroes within. Most importantly, the main message seems very clear: don't underestimate the power of thinking things through and acting upon rational and strategic planning, even, and especially, if that means you avoid battle. Being smart is a sign of brave and valued character, not merely popping off with emotive responses and hand-to-hand fighting at the first sign of conflict.

Anu Warrier says

Gerald Morris has done it again! With his quirky sense of myths and legends, and tongue in cheek humour, he brings to life the court of King Arthur and his knights, in yet another hilarious adventure. While they have nothing to do with the story, except to provide the setting, the king and his better-known knights such as Lancelot and Galahad often make a walk-through appearance in his books, though the starring parts are handed out to characters plucked out of his own imagination.

I have thoroughly enjoyed Gerald Morris' writing ever since my eyes fell on his Squire's Tales, the first of which I picked up for my elder son a couple of years ago, and truth be told, enjoyed quite as much as he did. In fact, after that first book, I borrowed every other title I could find in subsequent visits, so I could read them first. His irreverence is contagious.

The entertaining Knight's Tales series are equally good, written as they are for younger readers. This, The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short, the second in the series, is laced with his trademark humour, though the tales are shorter and simpler, keeping in mind his target audience (Ages 4 - 8). Aaron Renier's illustrations are in keeping with the quirkiness of the tale.

Givret is short, and therefore bears the brunt of the court's jests. However, when every one is quick to take up a seemingly innocuous quest, he is the only one who has the intelligence to see that the completion of the quest may not be such a good thing after all. Recognising Givret's foresight, when he sees the resultant chaos, King Arthur makes Givret a knight, much to the bewildered amusement of the Knights of the Round Table.

Wanting to know what Givret should be called, when he is a knight of the Round table, Arthur is upset when a fellow knight, amidst much merriment, says 'Call him 'Sir Givret the Short''. The king wants to call Givret

‘Sir Givret the Brilliant’ and he is taken aback when the new knight, not a whit out of countenance, admits to preferring ‘short’ as a tag. Givret’s explanation? It is an easier tag to live up to, because “... he cannot promise to be always ‘brilliant’.”

Immediately after knighting Givret, King Arthur sends him on a quest – to save an erstwhile colleague. Sir Givret is a reluctant hero and would rather fight dragons than save his fellow-knight, since, in his opinion, his colleague “is an idiot”. However, his King is unwilling to listen to him and thus, start Givret’s comical adventures. He seems to spend much of his time trying to save his fellow knight and his beauteous lady, both of whom have a tendency to fall from the frying pan into the fire, having more courage than brain, and it is interesting to notice how he comes to the conclusion that there is place for both in the world.

And so, Givret continues on his madcap adventures, and at the end of them, he is called Givret the Wise, Givret the Brilliant, and Givret the Marvellous (read the book to find out why) though his adventures have only strengthened his opinion that Givret the Short is the best tag he can have.

Add a herald who loves to use big words, a peddler who sells useless stuff such as finger bowls and salad forks, knowing full well that people will buy the most useless things as long as he can convince them that it is the latest fashion, a villainous count with a weakness for beautiful ladies and a superstitious fear of enchanters, and an enchanter who is not what he seems, and you have a simply un-put-down-able book that affectionately mocks the classic legends of courage, even as it imitates them.

Overall, a book worth reading, and one that tells children, without preaching that battles are not always won on the battlefield.

(First published on curledup.com)

Sarah Harmon says

Sir Givret the Short is such a cute, adventurous tale of a short little knight who is given the chance to protect the queen because King Arthur is out hunting a magical stag. The crazy adventures that Givret comes up against is so fun for the reader!

I liked this book a lot!! The author did a great job writing the story!

I think having this story in my classroom would be great for my future classroom and students.

Camille Stanford says

This short book was so cute! It is the story of Sir Givret the Short who is more of a thinker than a fighter, and is known by his, well, stature. He goes on a quest to become a knight of the round table, and it becomes a little more than he bargained for. But Givret is clever, and manages to fend for himself even if he isn't very tall.

Trace says

Luke's Review: I liked this book because it was about a short, little knight, and I think he got his name because of his height: Sir Givret the Short.

The most exciting part of this story was when Erec was standing in the doorway and Count Oringle threw himself from the nearest window because he thought Erec was dead. But he survived the fall and Erec rubbed his temple and then said "What's wrong with him? All I wanted was a drink of water!"

Anne says

The legend of King Arthur is a very appealing one, and lots of people attempt to cash in on it. Some do it better than others. This is the case of the latter instance. Sir Givret is one of the lesser known knights of the Round Table. He is smart, thoughtful, and short. He helps out a lot of people while fulfilling his quest as a new knight. Lots of humor and adventure. Easy to read. My biggest issue with this book is that it mixes even more unknowns into the Arthurian legend than already exist and I think it would be really hard for a kid to tell which is which. I think it is important to keep the legend more "pure" for lack of a better word.

Allison says

While ostensibly we follow the titular Sir Givret around, this story is actually mostly a retelling of de Troyes' Erec and Enide romance. Some of Erec's original deeds are given to Givret, but mostly Givret goes around fixing sticky situations by being clever. He is actually a minor character from the original poem, given a starring role here. The most memorable part of the Erec and Enide story is when Erec takes her with him on a quest but orders her not to speak because he is angry about the rumor that he's given up being a knight to stay at home with her. She disobeys several times to warn him of danger. Eventually lessons are learned about sometimes someone's worth lying beyond their appearance, that cleverness can solve problems without fighting, and that married couples should listen to and respect one another.

Arthurianmaiden says

[Also if I am uite glad with how Gerald Morris managed their love

Cindy says

This is the second in the series.

It was also good. We had some debate on the pronunciation of some of the names but it was still an enjoyable read. These stories are fun to read aloud.

I recommend this series to high schoolers who need a little humor with their reading and don't to be stuck in a long or difficult book.

ProfCurrier says

Caitlin Nassani

This book was great for young boys for grades 2nd and 3rd. The topic is about a short man in Medieval times. It is about adventure and it has a lesson that students can learn from. In the book, there are some men that are mean and feel that the man, Givret should not be a knight. The story shows that a knight can do something other than fight to become a knight. I think some students can learn that their flaws can just make them stronger or that they even have more to them then what people say. The book was about 100 pages but had chapters like a normal chapter book, there is also more to the series then this book. The book also had language to that time period but, explained the words which was fantastic especially for young readers.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jaglvr for Kids @ TeensReadToo.com

THE ADVENTURES OF SIR GIVRET THE SHORT is the second story in the entertaining THE KNIGHTS' TALES series. However, the reader does not have to have read THE ADVENTURES OF SIR LANCELOT THE GREAT to understand or enjoy this story. It is able to stand alone on its own content.

When we first meet Givret, he is simply Givret, not a knight. When King Arthur's knights hear of the legend of hunting the white stag and the rewards that catching it would bring, all of them, but for Givret, leave on their quest. Givret volunteers to remain in the castle to protect Queen Guinevere.

All should be quiet, but the traveling Sir Yoder arrives in the kingdom and mistakenly insults the Queen. When one of the King's knights, Sir Erec, hears of the insult, he sets off after Sir Yoder (to Scotland) to cleanse Queen Guinevere's name.

When the rest of the knights and the King return, Givret tells of the story. Because Givret used his intelligence to dispatch Sir Yoder, King Arthur grants knighthood upon Givret, much to the amusement and bewilderment of the remaining Knights of the Roundtable.

Upon knighthood, King Arthur gives Givret a quest. He must follow after Sir Erec to Scotland. Though small in stature and not known for his brute strength, Givret the Short (later to be called Givret the Wise or simply Givret the Marvelous - you have to read the story to learn about THAT one!), Givret proves to the rest of the knights that being brave and true means more than simply fighting a foe with brute strength.

Mr. Morris, aided with the entertaining illustrations by Mr. Renier, writes a quirky tale for young readers to enjoy. Using the King Arthur characters and setting, Mr. Morris lets readers know that thinking things through can oftentimes provide the result that is desired. Brute strength doesn't always solve problems. Sir Givret is different from the rest of the knights, but it's his difference that saves the day in the end...many times!

Jolyn says

Gerald Morris hits it out of the park yet again with another wonderful story! The humor is a little more subtle in Sir Givret's story and the lessons to learn a little clearer (less cloaked) but it is still fun to read and I recommend it to young and old alike.

I was not familiar with the story of Sir Givret prior to reading this book but I am so glad I have learned about him now. Givret is actually not yet a knight when the story begins and yet he is wiser than most of the knights. Unfortunately the knights do not listen to him and in fact go so far as to call him a coward while they set off on a foolhardy quest. Givret is proven correct about the quest and saves the day but only King Arthur recognizes what Givret has done. King Arthur rewards Sir Givret by knighting him and sends him on a quest but poor Sir Givret wonders if he is actually being punished by this new quest as he is basically a babysitter for another foolish knight. He again manages to save the day, I mean the knight, remains humble and ends the story as a thoroughly likeable and very wise knight unlike most of the knights who are part of King Arthur's table. Don't miss this story.

April says

Another great hit with our family!
