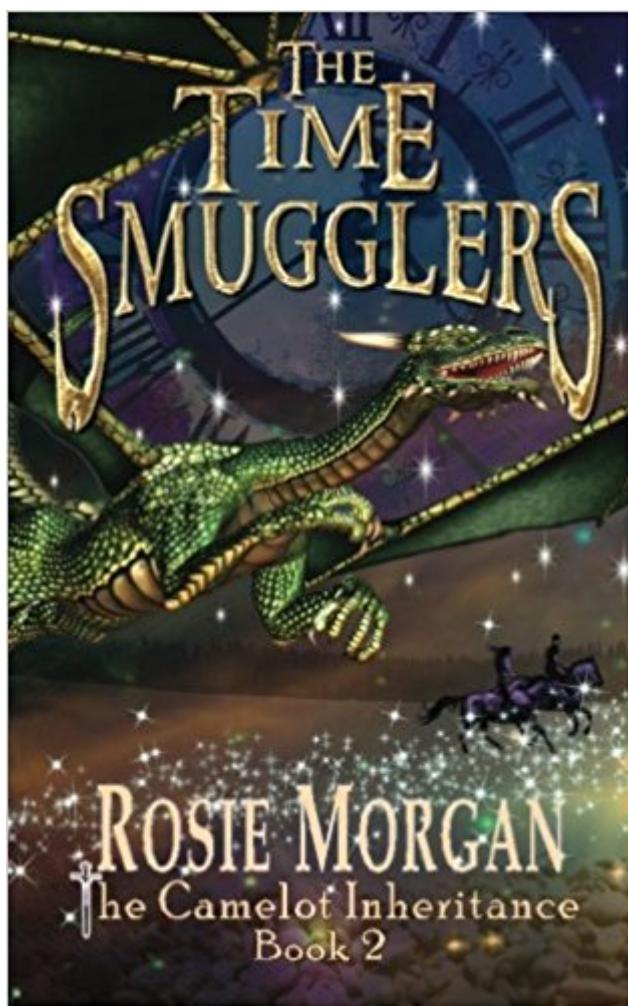


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The Time Smugglers (The Camelot Inheritance - Book 2) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

A mystery adventure book for children and teens age 9 - 12, 13 -14. An adventure book for boys and girls. Ages 9 and up. Featuring: Time travel, King Arthur & Excalibur and a dragon. A mystery book for children packed with action and adventure. Shortlisted for the 2015 International Rubery Book Award Finalist in the 2014 Wishing Shelf Independent Book Awards IndieBRAG medallion honouree Nominated for the 2015 Holyer an Gof Awards *Fast moving, dramatic and exciting.* The International Rubery Book Award. A thrilling mystery and fantasy book with action & adventure. Ideal for teenagers and boys and girls. Arthur Penhaligon is a skateboarder (usually). He also happens to be a Guardian, knighted by Excalibur. It's been a year since Arthur and his friends first met a shape-shifting cat and defeated a murderous rival intent on stealing Arthur's birth-right. But now, far below the Cornish hills, the deep magic is stirring again - summoning Arthur's enemies to the contest for Cornwall's crown. It's time to get back to the challenges of time-travel and the undeniable reality of myths and legends. On a Cornish path a tiny, green-stone dragon stretches a claw. In a churchyard a carved angel tests his wings. And at sea an emerald-encrusted pocket watch chimes once and slips through time. Camelot is calling; Excalibur is waiting and an epic world of magic, mystery and danger beckons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rosie Morgan lives, writes and draws in the county of Cornwall, UK. Before she started writing she was lucky enough to teach some wonderful children in schools dotted throughout south-east Cornwall. But perhaps most fortunate of all, she's got a great husband - who never allows her to be

serious for too long - and a fabulous family who've encouraged her every step of the way. Grâce à Dieu. Rosie loves: dark chocolate, sports cars and most animals (although she's not too keen on spiders).

I liked this book and its numerous sneaky charms. The book seems to be for early middle graders; I'm thinking 3rd or 4th grade. It doesn't tell the complete Arthur story, but it incorporates elements of Arthur and related and similar British legends and traditions. And that's all good. There are some stunningly good Arthur and Welsh/Irish/Cornish legend series for younger readers. I'm thinking of Susan Cooper's "Dark is Rising" sequence, *The Dark Is Rising Sequence: Over Sea, Under Stone*; *The Dark Is Rising*; *Greenwitch*; *The Grey King*; *Silver on the Tree*, and Jenny Nimmo's "Magician Trilogy", *The Snow Spider* (Magician Trilogy #1). Cooper's book really follows the Arthur story and is written with tremendous style and feeling. Nimmo references less well known episodes from that body of myth and legend and repositions them in a modern setting that captures the feel and texture and mood of the old stories. But, those works and others like them can be demanding and, certainly, confusing for a young reader. The old stories can be incomplete and ambiguous and that confusion and lack of a clear linear plot can be tough going for younger readers. There aren't many books that take the Arthur elements and put them together in a way that is exciting, suggestive of the old school, but still easy enough to follow and understand. That's where this book is its strongest, and that's why it seems fair to call it an introduction to Arthur-style storytelling. We have an Arthur character, we have a band of good guys. We have magic, shapeshifting, and a battle between good and evil. Animals and other living things are brought into the conflict. There are hidden good guys and creepy menacing bad things. For added oomph we have time travellers who drift into and out of the story, and some simple time travelling, all of which ties the modern story to the ancient and neverending story of the battle between good and evil. This is exciting stuff, and illustrates what I mean by "Arthur-style". Further, while the author takes liberties with the old conventions she is true to the feel of the old stories and touches upon most of the best-loved characters and events. The overarching sense that good will prevail if people of goodwill band together and fight bravely, which is one of the greatest messages of Arthur lore, is particularly well represented in this story. Clever references to Lancelot, Bedivere, the Lady of the Lake, Excalibur, and so on certainly add to the authentic Arthur connections. And, this book seems to have been written for the reader who is often overlooked. This isn't the very young Disney "Sword in the Stone" treatment, but it also isn't a complex, almost academic treatment. It is a clean, tight, dynamic and understandable tale that a middle reader can get into and understand. It has the right mood and feel and sense of legend and

mystery. There is a price to be paid for that. The writing can sometimes be clunky and bumpy. The book is efficient and exciting, and moves at a tremendously fast pace that doesn't linger long for descriptions or development. That's O.K., though, because the author has a real fondness for the story and affection for the characters and a commitment to presenting the story without irony or subtext. It seems to me the idea was to create a rip roaring fantastic yarn with a feel for Arthurian romance and in that it succeeds. If it whets the reader's appetite for more advanced or sophisticated fare, swell. If not, it's still a good, solid read and well worth your consideration. (This is the second book in the "Camelot Inheritance" series. It is accessible even if you have not yet read the first book, since the author brings you up to speed very efficiently within the first chapter or two.) Please note that I found this book while browsing Kindle freebies. I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

My son loved this series

Cannot rate it was a gift

This book was recently entered and was a finalist in The Wishing Shelf Book Awards. This is what our readers thought:

Star Rating: 5 stars
Number of Readers: 32
Comments:

Such a fantastic cover. The map in the front was excellent too. Now for the blurb. I liked the "On a Cornish path" paragraph. It made me want to open the book.

Boy, aged 13: I read The Golden Sword too but I actually thought this was better. Arthur Penhaligon has really grown up and is more interesting now. I loved the Watchers. They are so scary, just watching you. Sort of creepy.

Girl, aged 14: A very enjoyable read for my class of 14 year olds. They enjoyed all the magic and the modern take on the Arthur legend. What was particularly good for me, was how easily all my students followed the story from my top readers to readers of lesser ability. I would recommend it to any teenager looking for a page-turning read.

Teacher, year 10 Stats:

Of the 32 readers:	31 would read another book by this author.
32 thought the cover was good or excellent.	9 felt the best part was the "legend mixed with modern" plot.
28 liked the ending and thought it was exciting.	Another gem from Rosie Morgan. Fun, exciting; a page-turner for any teenager.
The Wishing Shelf Awards	

My first thought is not kind: This author has no concept of how commas work. The higher Lexile on this series is in large part due to run-on sentences that would benefit from the use of commas to

separate the phrases and clauses. When she does use commas, they're where a semi-colon is necessary. So much for the highly technical part of this review. As a fan of Arthurian myth and modern-day adaptations, I enjoyed the overall premise of this series. The narrative suffers from a lot of long descriptions of what's happening or what characters are feeling and an occasional lack of action and showing emotion through dialogue and action. Much of the main trio's discovery of unfolding events is through overhearing adults talk. They seem to figure out very little through their own initiative. Indeed, the protagonist, Arthur, rather passively accepts his role as Guardian of Wales, as do his friends of their own parts in the preservation of their country. Speaking of main trio—a boy who is the chosen one. His best friends, one goofy male and one smart female—who also have roles to play in defeating evil. Sound familiar? The author obviously loves her homeland. I may even be (very distantly) related to her, given that my Morgan ancestors emigrated from Wales in the 1600s. Her artistic representations at the beginnings of chapters are lovely. While middle-grade literature doesn't need to be super-sophisticated, the narrative here is just a little too basic to be really engaging. I will probably read others in the series, because I hate to leave a story unfinished, but I am not sure I would recommend that anyone go out of their way to find these.

Possible Objectionable Material: Children in perilous situations. Some frightening bits—especially the Crow Man. Children occasionally disobey adults. Fantasy elements, if you are opposed to such things. No cursing.

Who Would Like This Book: Fans of Arthurian myth, those who enjoyed the Harry Potter group dynamic. While the protagonist is male, Tamar is definitely a strong female character. There are many other female characters, both good and evil. People who can disregard poor conventions and storytelling and just enjoy the plot.

It's aimed at 10-14, and I'd say that's about right. Approximate Lexile: 1080.

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