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MORGARTEN: The Forest Knights: Book 2



Synopsis

MORGARTEN (Book 2 of The Forest Knights Duology) This action-packed conclusion to The Forest Knights series picks up where ALTDORF left off. A small force of peasants from the forest regions surrounding Lake Lucerne, rise up against their Austrian overlords in the 14th century.

Outnumbered seven-to-one by the battle-hardened Habsburg army, they have little hope. Young Noll Melchthal has managed to take the Altdorf fortress away from Leopold of Habsburg with a daring moonlight raid. But his army consists of boys and old men, with only enough swords to arm half of them. How long can he hope to hold off the combined might of the Habsburgs and the elite troops of the Holy Roman Empire? He needs help, and the only people he can turn to are an ex-Hospitaller captain and a Priestess of the Weave. MORGARTEN is a novel of 77,000 words.

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Customer Reviews

Once again Swift has delivered a great reading experience. This sequel to ALTDORF (The Forest Knights) picks up where we left the main characters at the end of book one. Set in medieval times with a great balance between fiction and historical fact, this book certainly doesn't disappoint when it

comes to keeping the reader interested and involved in the story. It was intriguing to see the way the romantic triangle evolved, only to come to sudden halt, due to certain visions and misinterpreted dreams. Going by the ending it must mean there is a third part on the way, I can only hope so. Kudos to the author for Pirmin's special ending or closure. It was sincere and warm without being overly dramatic. As always the tale flowed smoothly with solid characters and realistic scenarios. The story links back once or twice to remind us exactly where and who the Swyzer children were and the adults they have become. Bonded by mutual pain, suffering and warfare. They still stand as one. AVP-UK

I want to include my impressions of Altdorf, the first book of this terrific duo of stories. Mr. Swift is new to me although other readers may already be familiar with his writings. Mr. Swift is an outstanding creator of exciting and informative historical fiction. His character development is excellent and his character dialogue is extremely well written. I always enjoy authors who find periods of history largely neglected by other writers to inform, expand, and entertain readers with creativity and story-telling skills. Many authors have explored the activities of Templars both in Outremer and after retirement. I cannot remember ever encountering stories involving Hospitallers. Mr. Swift's small band of retired Hospitallers are very interesting and leaves the reader wanting to know more about their early lives and adventures Outremer. (Fortunately for us, Mr. Swift, in his notes at the end of the Morgarten story promises a prequel to describe the activities of this group in their early lives growing up to be Hospitallers) I would like to learn more about the process of becoming a Hospitallers sergeant and what sort of naval operation they were engaged in while in Outremer. I suggest to readers that they read Altdorf first....and, if the reader happens to have Kindle, the first book is FREE!!!!!!

I gave the first book, ALTDORF, 5 stars, and I am happy to now report that the sequel did not let me down in the least. As the story raced to its thrilling conclusion, I found it impossible to put down (finally finishing at about 2 AM!). I look forward to reading more of Mr. Swift's works. A couple of notes to prospective readers: 1. ALTDORF and MORGARTEN really are one continuous story split into two books, if you have not yet read ALTDORF, do so before trying to read MORGARTEN. 2. These books are about 95% historical fiction, and 5% fantasy. If you are a historical purist, you might object to the fantasy elements, even though they form a very small part of the story; on the other hand, if you are looking for a Tolkeinesque fantasy, this isn't it. (No elves, hobbits or dragons, just Druids).

I've really enjoyed The Forest Knights series so far, Morgarten is #2. A lot of historical fiction focuses on England so it was refreshing to read about another part of medieval Europe. The book was well written and well paced. The author revealed mysteries from the first book, Altdorf, very well. One such reveal was so subtle and situated nicely between story lines that it almost sneaks up on you. But other mysteries are brewing and clues at the end of the book make me hope that there will be a third installation in the future.

This book, and the preceding one in the series, are really good historical fiction that is so close to reality that you want to pinch yourself. It is the origin of Switzerland, something that might sound boring but is really fascinating! The characters seem real, and you can see yourself in the middle of events. What would YOU do? How would YOU react? The accuracy is keen, and it is a pleasant corrective to the myths of Robin Hood and the fantasies around parts of the world you already know - medieval England and, maybe, France. This is early Germany, and it is just as engrossing. The writing is quite good, and Swift has written carefully enough to set the characters amid real detail. It moves quickly, and you don't want to put it down, at least not for long. If you do not know the history, then you might not know the ending, so I will not reveal it. A very good read, indeed!

MAKE SURE TO READ ALTDORF FIRST. This is the second book of The Forest Knights books, and the conclusion. They are both unique and excellent stories. They are set in medieval Switzerland and the heroes are Knights Hospitallers of common birth, peasants and Druids. I have never read anything where the characters aren't nobles, or the Druids are sacrificing children. If you like this genre then you'll love these books. To J K Swift In our politically correct world, I think your future works should also include Reformed Druids. They can worship Bush's, Shubbery and Trees.

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