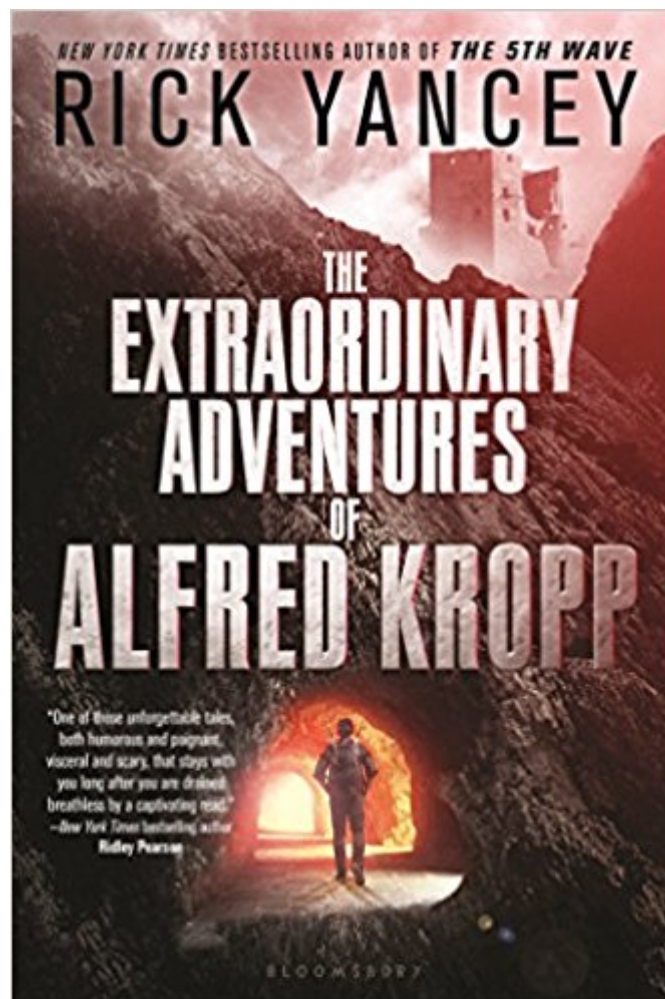




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The Extraordinary Adventures Of Alfred Kropp



Synopsis

A Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of the Year, Carnegie Medal nominee, and Book Sense Children's Pick. Before *The 5th Wave*, there was *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*. This first book in Rick Yancey's lauded series earned two starred reviews, and was called "unforgettable" by Ridley Pearson. Now the books feature a bold and exciting new look for the next generation of readers to fall in love with. Alfred Kropp is an ordinary kid with an ordinary life--until he steals the legendary sword of King Arthur and mistakenly delivers it into the wrong hands. Now the world is faced with imminent destruction, and it's up to Alfred to recover the sword . . . before it's too late. Packed with car chases, knights, and secret agents, this thrilling first book in New York Times bestselling author Rick Yancey's series is one that fans of James Patterson and Anthony Horowitz won't want to miss.

Book Information

Series: Alfred Kropp

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; Reprint edition (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619639165

ISBN-13: 978-1619639164

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 69 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #125,905 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Arthurian #31 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #196 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8 "Astonishingly tall 15-year-old Alfred is plunged into a world of adventure, assassination, and Arthurian legend when he agrees to help his uncle filch an ancient sword from the office of a CEO who just happens to be a descendent of the Knights of the Round Table. Of course the sword turns out to be none other than Excalibur, and the guy Alfred swiped it for is Mogart, a

knight-gone-bad who hopes to use its magical powers to take over the world. Enter Bennacio, another descendant of the Round Table, who then takes Alfred under his wing on a quest across the Atlantic to rescue the sword from Mogart. The descriptions of minor bits of blood and gore leave much to the imagination and will make Kropp especially appealing to fans of Anthony Horowitz's Alex Rider books (Philomel), Geoffrey Huntington's Sorcerers of the Nightwing (ReganBooks, 2002), and even Darren Shan's The Saga of Darren Shan series (Little, Brown). True to its action-adventure genre, the story is lighthearted, entertaining, occasionally half-witted, but by and large fun.â "Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 9-12^B. Everyone around Alfred Kropp is dying. And all because the unassuming 15-year-old took something he shouldn't have. Darned kid. Then the big lug goes on to save the world. Sound incredible? Well, not when you learn that what he's taken is Excalibur, King Arthur's sword, the most powerful weapon on earth, which has somehow survived in the custody of descendants of the original Knights of the Round Table. Of course, taking the sword is one thing; keeping it, as Alfred discovers, is quite another, especially given international forces--for good and evil--are after Excalibur, too, and they will stop at nothing to get it back. Heads literally roll in the ensuing, intensely violent and cinematic action, as Alfred discovers enough astonishing things about himself to fire a whole host of sequels, which are sure to follow. For readers willing to suspend disbelief, Yancey's first novel for YAs is a white-knuckle, page-turning read. Michael CartCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book kind of snuck up on me. It's the sort of adventure that I would have loved to read 40 years ago, the sort of book, I am trying to get my son to read, and the sort of book I hope my daughter might consider reading. Think Indiana Jones for kids. Okay, Indiana Jones is for kids, so think more like Indiana Jones at the Hardy Boys scale. Alfred Kropp is an orphan living with his uncle, who ropes him into a get rich scheme. That leads into an adventure involving Excalibur, the Last Knight protecting that famous sword, Agents of Darkness, and a shadowy group called OIPEP. There are car chases, bullets flying, a beautiful girl, and sword fights - i.e. action and fun. I liked this a lot better than the Percy Jackson series (a bit more grounded in reality- but only a bit) and not only look forward to reading the rest of the series, but am hopeful for a movie or TV series..What I particularly

liked about the book (besides the action) was how it portrayed Alfred's feelings of alienation, betrayal, guilt, and honor. Something to have a good discussion about with my kids when they read this.

I'm a little disappointed by the reviews on this page because I think they emphasize the wrong things, and make the book sound less appealing than it really is. First things first. Many people will find this book because they liked Yancey's "The Monstrumologist" and the followup "Curse of the Wendigo", and are looking for more Yancey. The Kropp series came out before Yancey hit it big with Monstrumologist. I didn't particularly care for "The Monstrumologist"; I thought it was humorless, and the whole Victorian era America meets hyperviolent Frankenstein vibe was forced and a little overwritten. Well, the Alfred Kropp series is entirely different. It is very funny. It is not so earnestly written. It is more fun. And, it just feels more honest and authentic, (even though fantastical), than the sort of high-concept but shallow Monstrumologist. Second things: this book is being described as white-knuckle non-stop adventure, in the style of the Horowitz Alex Rider books. Well, there is non-stop action, but not in the mindless, silly Alex Rider style. Alex Rider may be the most bland one-dimensional hero in ya action fiction. Alfred Kropp, on the other hand, is an absolute hoot, and a truly engaging personality. And that brings us to the real appeal of this book. Alfred sees himself as a failure and a loser. But, as his first person narrative makes clear, he is insightful, thoughtful, observant, honest, rueful, and very, very funny. Throughout the course of the book the action seems to be designed to put him in the company of noble, interesting, admirable adult characters, from whom he actually learns lessons about bravery, dedication, effort and loyalty. After all of the silliness of the plot and wild implausibility of the action, we end up with an appealing character who has entertained us through the entire adventure and who has actually grown up a little, and gained some confidence, some backbone, and some self-awareness. What other ya "action" book can claim all that? And that's why this book is worth serious consideration.

My son is a very good student and reader, however, reading is not one of his favorite things to do in his free time. For school, however, he is required to read a certain amount of books outside of school and it has always been like pulling teeth to get him to read anything. Upon the suggestion of a book store worker, we bought the first book in the Alfred Kropp series and from that point on, I could not get him to put the book down. I was so impressed with his desire to keep reading in his free time and then, when he was done, he couldn't wait for the sequel. Based on my son's experience, I have to give this book five stars. I'm working on finding more similar works that will

keep him as entertained.

Ok, it's official, Rick Yancey is awesome. After reading the Fifth Wave I was willing to read anything else I could get my hands on by him. I read The Monstrumologist series, and surprised myself by loving it, and after some time I bought the Alfred Kropp series, and trust me, I was not expecting to like a book about an awkward teenage boy. Yancey sucked me in though, and I think I finished this book in a day. I would recommend this book if you like Rick Yancey, and I can definitely see this being a book that boys would like reading too.

This is a nice, light-hearted romp with an unlikely, teenage outcast-becomes-superhero protagonist. While the plot drives the world towards armageddon it is written in a manner appropriate to teens (especially those already 'trained' on Buffy, Harry, Bella and the other teenage hero(ines) from the last 10 years). Well worth reading. Books 2 & 3 are not required as each is a complete story (although reading 3 before 1 is not recommended).

Excellent book for a young teenage reader. My son has read several Rick Yancey books in this series and really enjoys which impresses as a father of a 13 year old.

For a book that's supposed to be exciting -- 15-year-old Alfred must retrieve the magical sword Excalibur, and then must retrieve it a second time from somebody bent on using it to take over the world -- this one isn't. There's a certain feeling of dullness and drabness in this book, a kind of plodding onward but without exciting ups and downs. Interesting premise, but the story just didn't come to life for me.

This was a fun read. It's too bad the other two books are not available on audio for those of us with reading disabilities.

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