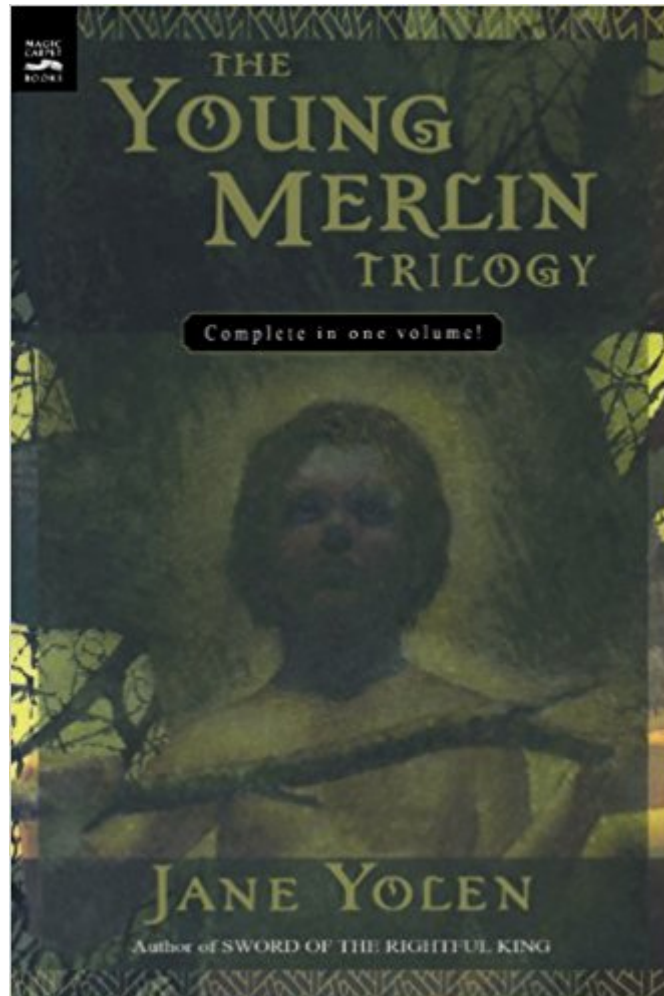




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The Young Merlin Trilogy: Passenger, Hobby, And Merlin



Synopsis

This is the legendary story of Merlin--from his abandonment by his parents at the age of eight to the discovery of his powers at twelve. Together, these three novels reimagine the origins of the greatest wizard of all time, giving readers a Merlin at once more human and more magical than any that has appeared before.

Book Information

Series: Young Merlin Trilogy

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (August 1, 2004)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #819,354 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #148 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #923 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Royalty #4502 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Praise for Passager:[star] "A stark, poignant, and absorbing tale . . . Promises to be an outstanding trilogy."--School Library Journal (starred review)"A worthy introduction to Arthurian legend . . .

Moving."--The Horn BookPraise for Hobby:"Challenging and ambitious . . . Hobby has quiet beauty and strong imagery."--BooklistPraise for Merlin:"Leaves the reader hungry for more . . . Great

reading."--American BooksellerABA's Pick of the Lists

JANE YOLEN has written more than two hundred books for children and adults, including *Sword of the Rightful King: A Novel of King Arthur*. She lives in western Massachusetts and Scotland.

I had read *The Young Merlin* and wanted the rest. It is a wonderful young person's book. Guess I will gift the Great Grandson.

Just as described!

Good book. Good service.

My son really likes these stories. He does not know Merlin but now he does. The book arrived in good time; we didn't have to wait long for it. Very good condition and price.

Nobody writes Merlin like Jane Yolen, whether it's the old man or a starry-eyed little child. And here the fantasy master's "Merlin Trilogy" is brought together in one volume: the ethereal, beautifully-written fantasy stories "Passager," "Hobby," and "Merlin." "Passager" introduces us to a nameless, homeless boy who has been abandoned for sketchy reasons. The boy lives wild in the woods, but gradually rediscovers his human nature when he encounters a woodsman, who takes him in and gives him a name and a home... "Hobby" opens with Merlin losing his new adoptive family in a fire. With no one to take care of him, he wanders through the woods again, calling himself Hawk. But then he suddenly encounters a vicious man called Fowler, who kidnaps him -- and not even taking refuge in the circus can keep him safe. "Merlin" takes us to a different part of the Arthurian legend. Hunted by Fowler, he runs back into the woods and takes refuge there. Unfortunately, he is captured by a village of the wode-people, the wild people who live apart from civilization, and they want to harness his magical dreams. When the village is invaded, Merlin must try to keep himself alive -- and the little boy who will change his life forever. Few authors can mix fantasy and history as Jane Yolen can, and she doesn't drop the ball in this. On the fantasy side, we have a boy of mysterious origins who dreams of the future; on the other hand, we have medieval lords and underlings, not to mention her skilful use of the wode-people. These three very, very short novellas are lushly, dreamily written. And most intriguing of all, the first one is almost entirely in Merlin's own mind -- every little event or emotion is seen through the eyes of a wild boy. The second and third are more grounded, but they retain that vague mistiness and sweetness, like a half-remembered dream. Her writing is descriptive and almost sensuous. Jane Yolen brings the preadolescent Merlin to life in the "Merlin Trilogy," a magical and beautifully written trio of novellas. Rather short, but thoroughly lovely.

Very interesting re-working of the tale of Merlin's boyhood. The stories are interesting, exciting, and enjoyable - but they're so short and fast-paced, it really leaves me craving more. This is good and

bad. Good, because the stories obviously have something attractive and engaging about them. Bad, because there's not enough there to leave me feeling satisfied. I want more! (I will probably end up researching the stories of Merlin for months to come, thanks to this series).

The Young Merlin Trilogy by Jane Yolen A book chronicling the young years of Merlin's life, from foundling, to magician's assistant, to wild child who befriends/adopts Arthur, all the time plagued by magical dreams. The book is nicely woven of many different legends of Merlin, also with the symbolism of birds (i.e. passager, hobby, and merlin) to stand for Merlin growing up and finding his destiny. Unfortunately, even though the book is very short, there isn't really a lot there. It's kind of empty and boring. The odd style doesn't really do it any favors. It's frankly disappointing, as Merlin is a funky dude. Grade: C

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