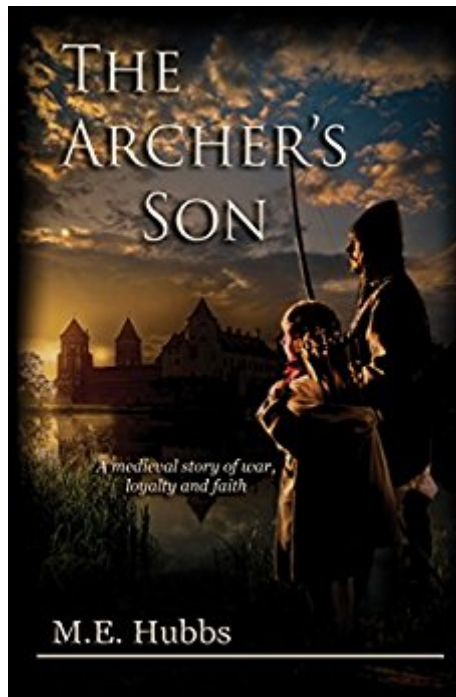


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The Archer's Son



Synopsis

Hedyn held an old sheet iron helmet and a mail tunic up in the starlight to see them better. The breast of the mail bore a ragged hole. The mail was sticky. It took a moment for Hedyn to realize it was soaked in drying blood."A bascinet and hauberk?" he asked."Aye, you shall need these before the night is done."Eager to see the world that lies beyond his small Cornish village, young Hedyn, son of an archer and serf, is thrilled to be chosen to join King Henry's army as it advances on Normandy. His excitement quickly gives way to exhaustion in body and spirit, as well as worry for the safety of his newfound friends and comrades. Treachery, disease, hunger, and death plague their steps as King Henry's men near their fateful battle with the French army at Agincourt. Can a mysterious stranger with a secretive past offer Hedyn hope amidst the horrors of battle?***** Advanced Praise for The Archer's SonMr. Hubbs has written an engaging and exciting narrative. But he has done much more than that. He enriched his story with details that bring the early 1400s to life. Here are the taste, the smell, the look, and the feel of the Middle Ages as experienced by a young man who is making history - quite literally. Nicky Hughes, retired curator of the Kentucky Military History Museum and the Capital City Museum, Frankfort, Kentucky.M.E. Hubbs' second book is as entertaining and well written as his first â " The Secret of Wattensaw Bayou. Set within the Medieval English and French landscape, the story has a perfect blend of action, adventure, and emotion. The colorful characters and dialog are accurately woven into the time period and the pace of the story makes it hard to put down. Although geared to middle school booklovers, I highly recommend The Archer's Son to readers of all ages. Paige M. Peyton, PhD - Author and Archaeologist.

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Customer Reviews

It is May 1415 and Hedyn is a young boy in Cornwall, England. Cornish is his first language with English being his second. Although he is going to France he does not speak French. King Henry wants twenty archers and five men-at-arms. He wants King Charles to relinquish the throne. Youngsters will be eager to read how the preparations go and the visit to the blacksmith who is making all the arrowheads. By July we read of them practicing with their arrows. Even though Hedyn feels he is not being treated fairly and he has some justification for this, he does not want to be left behind. August finds them on their way. Hedyn is astounded when William tells him that he prays to God and Jesus Christ, not to the saints! William also instructs Hedyn to start wearing his bow in its case so he is ready. Upon their arrival in France they are told no plundering is permitted as this is a Christian campaign. Ten days into the battle at Harfleur we read of Hedyn and his friend Roger having to supply food, drinks and arrows for Sir John's men. It is hard work and Roger falls ill. What will Hedyn do when he dies? Experience the reality of life and death in the trenches. By October the warriors are in Agincourt. Who is Tregeagle? What has he threatened Hedyn with? The epilogue wraps up the story with information on what happened to the different characters. A work of fiction that is based on true events. It is well-written and reflects the reality of life and war at that time. Good for teenagers and adults who enjoy history from this era. Just so you know there is some taking of the Lord's name in vain in this story - "Blood of Christ" and "Christ's bones". Once in France, there is comment of how they call the English blasphemers because of this. You will also read of ale being drunk which was a common drink back in that day. (Water was not always drinkable so even the young people drank the ale.)

To state that reading about the events of daily life and gruesome acts of war encountered by the characters of this story was enjoyable seems somewhat insulting and totally inappropriate. This is a story deeply based on facts, the disease, mud, blood, and gore are facts. That so many were able

to survive and flourish is a testament to mankind's will to live. The story is told in a smoothly flowing manner and there are not so many characters introduced that one loses track of who is whom. There are heroes and those who are not even close to being heroes, much as in 'real life.' The epilogue finishes Hayden's life story and ties up any loose ends very nicely. The language is precise and the story line is enthralling. Although many foreign and archaic words are used, there is a glossary included at the back of the book. Reading this story was very much a learning experience, and I do greatly appreciate having had that experience. I had the opportunity to meet the author, and his lovely wife, at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library event. Mark was dressed much as one would imagine his character William to appear, and proceeded to display and describe the manufacture and use of garments, armor, and weapons from the time of the Hundred Years War. He smilingly encouraged me to "keep my bow fingers." The intended audience is teenagers, and is more appropriate to those who can understand bloody, violent death (as acts of war often are). The main character, Hayden, witnessed the deaths of many of his companions and the memories haunted him in nightmares for the remainder of his life. Soldiers of today are no different. BTW: although I have a signed copy, I chose to read the kindle version. I did not find the glaring spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors so often encountered in other books in that format.

To say this book is excellent is an understatement. This is one of the best books I've ever read. My only tongue-in-cheek complaint is it kept me away from doing some needed chores because I simply could not put it down. The historical detail is amazing and the author is so skilled that as you follow the story along with the main character you feel that you are there every step of the way. There are such touching moments as well and every now and again there are delightful illustrations that only add to the enjoyment here. I downloaded this as a free ebook because I was impressed with the author's skill as a writer after reading a sample chapter but the characters were so well developed throughout and the story so well done and exciting that I was even more impressed with the obvious talent and care shown here after I read the book. I will definitely be on the lookout for more of this author's works.

I have just finished reading *The Archers Son* and again after reading your first book this also was hard to put down! You did an outstanding job of making the reader feel as though we were there also fighting the battle, and feeling so sorry for them that they had no food! Hadyn came alive for me as did William. I never realized how tough it was and is on the battlefield! Very good reading and excellent job writing!

I wouldn't say this is a bad book, but I came away a bit disappointed with it. The perspective of a teener, basically a go-fer for the real fighters, is perhaps interesting, but he is so far off to the sides of the major conflict that it is difficult to see what is actually going on in the conflict around him. Heydn is appealing; one might wish for him to find a way to become more of a hero than he does (his climax is three arrows fired in anger, essentially, though that is somewhat difficult to believe, as he apparently had never to that point shot an arrow from his new-ish long bow). Okay, it's fiction. I really thought I would be reading something that gave a better historical report, in an historical context, of the Battle of Agincourt, a hugely significant turning point in European history, due largely to the success of the English long bowmen. But there is just too little detail about the battle itself to give more than a hint of that context for the (fairly pedestrian) activities of Heydn. The tiny bit of postlude suggests what happened to various characters after the Battle of Agincourt, but I would really have preferred to see more of the development of those characters actually in the novel. Beyond the (missing) bird's-eye view of the battle, what were the main characters actually doing? What was Squire John's role in the battle? Where was William Whitwell during the battle and how did he handle himself? Oddly, perhaps, I suspected some more expansive role for Hedyn's horse, El ("angel" -- wasn't she going to somehow come to his rescue, someplace somehow?). It just seemed to me that the author missed interesting opportunities to give more scope to his story than he did. Doesn't anyone proofread anymore?? Can we agree that "vanished into an ally [sic]" (rather than "vanished into an alley") doesn't make much sense? How about "he reigned in his horse?" Surely, he "reined in his horse."

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