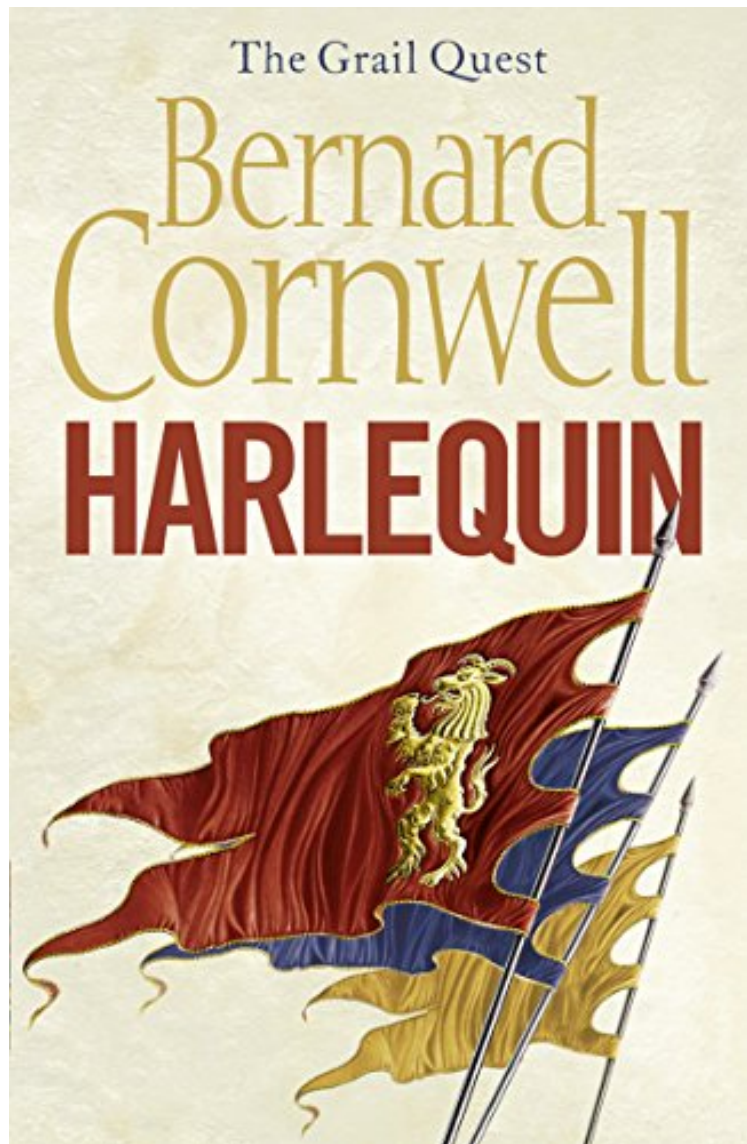


(Mobile ebook) Harlequin (The Grail Quest, Book 1)

## Harlequin (The Grail Quest, Book 1)

Von Bernard Cornwell

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**Von Bernard Cornwell : Harlequin (The Grail Quest, Book 1)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harlequin (The Grail Quest, Book 1):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Classic medieval tale in which the lovers of fiction based on historical events will fully enjoyVon Helpful Advice`The Archer's Tale' written by Bernard Cornwell is the first installment in Grail Quest series which evokes memories of the events in Europe in the 14th century that started the bloody conflict between England and France, known as The

Hundred Years' War. The story follows the only survivor of the French fierce raid on small English village of Hookton, named Thomas. Thomas who is a young medieval archer will leave his village to become fighter in English forces against the French usurpers. Thomas will seek his revenge, but additionally he will learn that one of the French attackers is his distant relative who is searching for an ancient lance that was used on Jesus Christ. The first book of so far issued four is focused on main character learning to become an archer while reader will eventually learn about his family secret. His father was a priest but also had a noble past, therefore young Thomas will join the English forces against French for the throne, but also to uncover all the secrets that lie in the history of his family...`The Archer's Tale' is a classic medieval tale in which the lovers of fiction based partly on historical events will fully enjoy - Cornwell's work is filled with brutal battles, swords, arrows, blood and intrigue which marked that time. The author also skillfully threw in a few romantic subplots and female characters with which Thomas will have the affairs, but manages to arouse the reader's interest because they are not flat characters, but bring interesting plots and their own stories. The name of the series of course is not accidental, because in the background of the story is the quest for the Holy Grail which is a common theme of the books that have this historical period for its setting. And precisely it would be shown that cousin Thomas is seeking is a key figure in this quest, though I will not disclose the details so as not to spoil the pleasure of reading. One thing that should be mentioned is that book well-described the Battle at Crcy where the French were massacred by the English archers, so convincingly and detailed that even historians usually reluctant to such fiction remakes, will enjoy. Overall, if you're a fan of historical novels, especially the medieval stories, `The Archer's Tale' should not be missed because it is a work that even literary critics not so prone to such titles positively evaluated, while the audience is enjoying interesting adventures of this medieval hero in already fourth installment of the series.

2 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Die Apokalypse des Rittertums Von timediver Im Oktober 1337 sendet der infolge eines französisch-schottischen Bndnisse um seine Territorial- und Handelsinteressen besorgte englische Knig Edward III. seinem Widersacher Phillip VI. eine Botschaft. In dieser Note erklrt Edward Plantagenet, dass er (!) als Enkel von Philipp IV. (dem Schnen) und Sohn von dessen Tochter Isabella der rechtmige Knig Frankreichs sei. Den Neffen des Karpentingers "Philippe le Bel" aus dem Hause Valois bezeichnet er als Usurpator, dem er gleichzeitig auch seine Vasallenschaft fr die verbliebenen angevinischen Festlandsbesitzungen Ponthieu und Aquitanien aufkndigt. Hierdurch setzt der normannische Monarch einen historischen Prozess in Gang, der spter als "der Hundertjhrige Krieg" bezeichnet werden sollte. Dieser fand am 24. Juni 1340 mit der Seeschlacht vor der flmischen Stadt Sluis, seine erste grere militrische Auseinandersetzung, durch die eine bevorstehende Invasion Englands verhindert werden konnte.....Bernard Cornwell lsst den ersten Teil seiner "Grail Quest Trilogie" im Jahre 1342 mit einem fiktiven franzsischen berfall auf den Kstenort Hookton beginnen, bei denen der rtselhafte Hellequin/Harlekin (=Anfhrer der Teufelsschar), die mythische Lanze des Heiligen Georg" erbeutet und deren Hter, in der Gestalt seines Onkels "Pater" Ralph ermordet. Ralphs Sohn Thomas legt das Gelbde ab, die Lanze zurckzubringen und dem Geheimnis seiner Familie auf den Grund zu gehen. Er verlsst England, um sich als Bogenschtze einer Sldnertruppe im seit 1341 tobenden Bretonischen Erbfolgekrieg auf Seiten des Hause Montfort zu verdingen und schlielich am 26. August 1346 an Schlacht von Crcy teilzunehmen....Entgegen dem bergeordneten Trilogie-Thema, der "Suche nach dem Heiligen Gral", die in "Harlequin" behaupt keine Rolle spielt, wurden die Schwerpunkte des Romans auf die strategischen, taktischen und moralischen Aspekte des "Guerre de Cent Ans" gelegt. Entgegen einer Vielzahl von Genreromanen lsst Cornwell jedoch die Katharer bzw. deren Nachfolger in einer peripheren Betrachtung in einem fr sie ungnstigen Licht erscheinen. Nicht nur auf den Schlachtfeldern sollten Ritterlichkeit, Hflichkeit und Tapferkeit der Zweckmigkeit, Brutalitt, Rachsucht und Mordlust weichen. So erfreuten sich die aufgrund ihrer Reichweite und Durchschlagskraft gegen Rstungen bei Kmpfen zwischen Christen vom Zweiten Laterankonzil (1139) als unritterlich geachtete Armbrste und Bgen auf beiden Seiten einer wachsenden Beliebtheit als schlachtentscheidende Distanzwaffe. Hinzu kommt der noch recht ineffektive Einsatz einer Artillerie, die sich schmiedeiserner Kanonen und vereinzelter Rohre aus Bronzeguss, aus denen Steinkugeln und Eisenpfeile (Garros) verschossen wurden, bedient. So konnten erstmals gepanzerte Reiterkontingente gegnerischen Fusstruppen unterliegen. Daneben wurden Gefangene verstmmelt nach Hause geschickt, um die Zahl der wehrlosen feindlichen Esser zu vermehren. Traditionelle Taktiken wurden aufgegeben und der Kampf entwickelte sich zu einem Zermrbungskrieg. Ein Terrorkrieg der Verwstung (chevauche), bei dem sich vorwiegend irregulre Truppen (hellequins) plndernd und brandschatzend ihren Weg durchs Land nahmen, richtete vor allem gegen die Zivilbevölkerung. Kursiv geschriebene Begriffe werden zwar in der Handlung erklrt, durch Funoten oder ein Glossar htte man dies jedoch bersichtlicher gestalten knnen. Der Roman lsst neben einer historischen Landkarte auch ein "dramatis personae" zur Trennung von historische Personen und Kunstfiguren vermissen. So bleibt es dem Leser berlassen, als was er einen Count of Astarac oder einen Count of Amorika, zu verstehen hat. "Harlequin" ist nicht nur fr Cornwell-Fans lesenswert, er macht zudem neugierig auf seine Sequels "Vagabond" und "Heretic". 4 sterne. 15 von 17 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good book but... Von Ein Kunde I have no doubt that this is a good book and I enjoyed reading it very much but it should be clear that it has been already published as "Harlequin".

Kurzbeschreibung Harlequins are lost souls, so loved by the devil that he would not take them to hell, but left them to roam the earth. In French, the word is hellequin the name given to the English archers who crossed the Channel to lay waste the towns and countryside. In the fourteenth century the English were just beginning to discover their national identity, and one of the strongest elements of this was the overwhelming success in battle of the English bowmen. Englands archers crossed the Channel to lay a country to waste. Thomas of Hookton was one of those archers. When his village is sacked by French raiders, he escapes from his fathers ambition to become a wild youth who delights in the opportunities which war offers for fighting, for revenge and for friendship. But Thomas is hounded by his conscience. He has made a promise to God to retrieve a relic stolen in the raid from Hooktons church. The search for the relic leads him into a world where lovers become enemies, enemies become friends and always, somewhere beyond the horizon that is smeared with the smoke of fires set by the rampaging English army, a terrible enemy awaits him. That enemy would harness the power of Christendoms greatest relic the grail itself. In this, the first book of a new series, Thomas begins the quest that will lead him through the fields of France, until at last the two armies face each other on a hillside near the village of Crecy..de Following the phenomenal success of the Sharpe novels set in the Napoleonic Wars, Bernard Cornwell has turned his storytelling talents to another great moment in English history, the Hundred Years War between England and France throughout the 14th century. Harlequin is the first book in Cornwell's Grail Quest series, which chronicles the adventures of young Thomas of Hookton, "a big, bony, black-haired country boy". Thomas rejects the church in favour of the life of an archer in France after his village is brutally sacked by the French. The young Thomas fights back against the French with his bow, and "in that one instant, as the first arrow slid into the sky, he knew he wanted nothing more from life". He vows to seek revenge on the plains of France, and recover the holy relic of St. George stolen from his village by the sinister "harlequin" with whose destiny Thomas finds himself inextricably entwined. The rest of the action moves at a hectic pace across the violent and bloody battlefields of northern France, as Thomas falls for a beautiful French widow nicknamed "the Blackbird", makes a mortal enemy of the "poor, bitter and ambitious" Sir Simon Jekyll, and follows the ensign of King Edward III and his heroic son, the Black Prince. Harlequin is a fast-paced and graphic recreation of the Hundred Years War, despite a rather gratuitous fixation on rape and pillage. The action comes thick and fast, although it remains to be seen if Thomas of Hookton has the wit and flair of Cornwell's other great heroic creation, Richard Sharpe. --Jerry Brotton.co.uk Following the phenomenal success of the Sharpe novels set in the Napoleonic Wars, Bernard Cornwell has turned his storytelling talents to another great moment in English history, the Hundred Years War between England and France throughout the 14th century. Harlequin is the first book in Cornwell's Grail Quest series, which chronicles the adventures of young Thomas of Hookton, "a big, bony, black-haired country boy". Thomas rejects the church in favour of the life of an archer in France after his village is brutally sacked by the French. The young Thomas fights back against the French with his bow, and "in that one instant, as the first arrow slid into the sky, he knew he wanted nothing more from life". He vows to seek revenge on the plains of France, and recover the holy relic of St. George stolen from his village by the sinister "harlequin" with whose destiny Thomas finds himself inextricably entwined. The rest of the action moves at a hectic pace across the violent and bloody battlefields of northern France, as Thomas falls for a beautiful French widow nicknamed "the Blackbird", makes a mortal enemy of the "poor, bitter and ambitious" Sir Simon Jekyll, and follows the ensign of King Edward III and his heroic son, the Black Prince. Harlequin is a fast-paced and graphic recreation of the Hundred Years War, despite a rather gratuitous fixation on rape and pillage. The action comes thick and fast, although it remains to be seen if Thomas of Hookton has the wit and flair of Cornwell's other great heroic creation, Richard Sharpe. --Jerry Brotton