



Morgarten

J.K. Swift

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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.

A daring moonlight raid leaves the outlaw Noll Melchthal in possession of an Austrian fortress. In the north, an outraged Leopold of Habsburg assembles the ultimate punitive force: a great army, thousands strong, boasting the best knights and soldiers the Holy Roman Empire has to offer. Noll's rebel army of boys and old men, numbering less than a thousand, have few swords, and even less armour.

But he has two things that Leopold does not: a Priestess of the Weave, and a ferryman.

The forests can protect them no longer. It is time to make a stand.

Morgarten Details

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Author : J.K. Swift

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From Reader Review Morgarten for online ebook

Michael says

Excellent read

I downloaded the first book in this series because it was free and quickly purchased Morgarten as soon as I finished. The author created believable fleshed out characters. Pair that with a great story and you have a series that I look forward to visiting again in the future.

Laura Jackson says

Ah, back to medieval Switzerland. Swift definitely does his research in regards to the history of Europe. The conflict of the time has been properly described and it's quite accurate in its application. The characters are very well defined and rounded. It was hard to form any attachments to them. They felt like they were kept at an arms length and I suppose it helps to keep the reader focused on the historical aspect. I felt the romance bits were lovely but they were enough. It's not a historical romance so I felt what he put in there was enough. A nice conclusion to this two-part series. I think as long as Swift keeps up with the same research, he can do some good series.

Lucian says

Yep, it was as good as the first book, Altdorf. Mysteries revealed, wars fought, good prevailed. I burned through this in two days, work days mind you. And for those co-workers who may read this review, I did not read all day at my desk. Only at lunch.

As a lover of historical fiction it was refreshing to read about another part of medieval Europe for a change. I hope there is more to this story but for now I will certainly pick up the authors other books as well.

Matt schmm says

Excellent story I'm dying for more

I hold these two books of the forest knights up at the top of my list with the oathsworn, Robert low. And saxon tales bernard Cornwell. I love the backstory of the characters and the memorys of Thomas. I couldn't stop reading this . Can't wait for the prequels an hope for sequels. Although it is completely original and different I would compare it to braveheart if I was to put it in a category or robin hood.

Robert C says

Very readable but doesn't break out of its genera

As stated, it is a very readable story with a good attempt at tying to history. There is just little to make it a true standout.

KateMarieTM says

As with the first in this set, I would rate four and a half. I realize with historical fiction regarding a singular event, there is a limit to how far such a story may continue. Morgarten is a well written novel interweaving an excellent cast of very likeable...well some not so much... characters in and around the Battle of Morgarten. I found I would be happy to read more about them, even if only in a totally fictitious tale.

Catherine Nobles says

Having read both Altdorf and Morgarten, I concluded that the author is an excellent storyteller and his research exquisite. There is so much that could be said about these books, like details of the stories and characters, but I leave that to others. I loved reading the books

I appreciate historical novels featuring locales and eras about which little has been written. I could be wrong, but I am not aware of other novels which enlighten readers about Switzerland's struggles to keep its independence, spotlighting Swiss mastery of guerilla warfare against Austrian oppressors. The fierce determination of the Swiss people was remarkable and it reminds me somewhat of my own country's freedom fighters. Miraculously, the Swiss neutralized armies of the "Holy Roman Empire" and routed the invaders against unbelievable odds.

My grandmother was Austrian; she was such a sweet and gentle person that I overlooked Austria historic aggressiveness in its centuries old obsession with controlling an empire.

I will certainly read more books by JK Swift.

Lissa says

Having not enjoyed the first book did not read this.

Cheryl M-M says

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.

William Breckenridge says

Good read.

Good story line that moves along well. Author does a good job of keeping to facts of history. Plenty of excitement to keep you interested until the end.

Dawn says

++Spoilers++

This is the conclusion of the first book, and you must read that first. This is not a stand alone

(See my review for Altdorf (book 1) <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>)

The writing is pretty good, but still lacked something emotionally. I believe it is his characters. They were well defined, but lacked depth. I also think this author tried to accomplish something epic in a mere 2 books. This could have been a superior work if he spent the time to add more details, especially with the characters, their past, their thoughts, feelings.. all of these were just glazed over. There was much left out as well. Like Catherine, Leopold's wife, and the Fool. Both interesting characters, and I thought they were to have more importance.. instead they just piddled out.

Here are some other issues and thought I have:

1. I did not like that Seriana and Thomas were not together in the end.
2. The author could benefit by reading some historical romance novels to enhance his writing when it comes to love, and interaction between people. Unfortunately, the characters here were not as complex as they could be.
3. I was disappointed with the ending and felt like it was rushed. The last few chapters were no more than a summary of what happened to the antagonist and a short blip about how the political atmosphere evolved after Leopold's defeat.

Although I enjoyed this series, I am not so sure I will continue to read more of this author's work.

Johan says

The second book in Swift's 'The Forest Knights' series. Following on from 'Altdorf', Swift engagingly tells the story of how the Swiss farmers and townsmen of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden - without the help of Zurich, Basel and Lucerne - faced the military might of the House of Habsburg.

An entertaining, and educational, David versus Goliath tale, with a dash of ancient spirituality thrown in for added zest.

Really enjoyed it.

Christien Newbury says

Slow

Very slow to get going. I stopped and started several times before everything finally came together in the final third. Not as good as the first in the series, but hopefully the next one will be better. Well written and historically gripping.

Jelios Ataliakrouso says

Outnumbered seven-to-one by Leopold's the battle-hardened Habsburg army and the elite horseback force(forgot the name) Our own battlehardend holy land warrior/sailor/healer is dressed for war, despite his initial opposition to the rebellion against Habsburg.

The romance, like the book before is very childish, but the scenarios of this godlike Tom, makes some serious inhuman odds.

The fighting despite inhumanly possible was fun, and the ending answers some questions regarding Tom, and also props up other questions to weather their will be a follow up book to the Forest Knights.

I enjoy the book overall even with the ill romance.

Anthony Hudspeth says

It's a good read but the mystic stuff is a little over done. It kept my interest enough to read through quickly (most of my reading time is about 30 minutes before bed) which is why I gave it 4 stars but again the mystic Druid stuff bordered on a fantasy novel set in history.
