



## The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest

By Bernard Cornwell

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A brutal raid on the quiet coastal English village of Hookton in 1342 leaves but one survivor: a young archer named Thomas. On this terrible dawn, his purpose becomes clear -- to recover a stolen sacred relic and pursue to the ends of the earth the murderous black-clad knight bearing a blue-and-yellow standard, a journey that leads him to the courageous rescue of a beautiful French woman, and sets him on his ultimate quest: the search for the Holy Grail.

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### **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The young archer Thomas of Hookton joins the forces of King Edward III to fight against France in Cornwell's latest, which takes place in the mid-14th century at the beginning of the Hundred Years War. Thomas, a brilliant, handsome warrior who combines physical strength and skill with the bow, survives the pillaging of his village to become an archer and then rescues a female counterpart known as the Blackbird after she's nearly raped by Sir Simon Jekyll during one of the troop's raids in France. The nobleman becomes Thomas's chief rival as Jekyll continues to pursue the Blackbird, and Thomas is finally cast out of his unit after failing to kill Jekyll in an ill-conceived assassination attempt. He recovers to join and couple with the Blackbird, making his way through France and parlaying his skills into a royal pardon even as his opportunistic partner leaves him for the libidinous Prince of Wales. The three members of Cornwell's romantic triangle eventually meet during a huge climactic battle at Cr,cy, where Thomas must face up to a demanding family legacy involving a quest for a special lance. Cornwell has been down this path many times before, and he's a consummate pro when it comes to plying the tried-and-true combination of heroic characters; a fast-moving, action-packed plot; and enough twists and turns to keep the narrative from lapsing into formula. He uses his historical expertise judiciously as well. This book marks the beginning of a promising new series that brings an intriguing period to life. (Oct. 9) Forecast: Cornwell, the author of the Richard Sharpe series, set during the Napoleonic Wars, has a strong and growing U.S. fan base. The Archer's Tale, already a bestseller in Britain, should strengthen his hold on the Patrick O'Brian crowd.

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From Library Journal

Cornwell temporarily abandons Richard Sharpe for a new hero: Thomas of Hookton, a young archer in King Edward III's army who undertakes a quest for the Holy Grail.

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From [Booklist](#)

Cornwell, one of the undisputed masters of historical battle fiction and author of the best-selling Richard Sharpe series, spins an irresistible tale of honor and revenge set on the brink of the Hundred Years' War. Thomas of Hookton, the bastard son of the eccentric local priest, is the sole survivor of a horrific assault launched on his seaside village by Norman raiders. As his father lays dying, he reveals to Thomas the secret of his aristocratic heritage. Vowing revenge on the French nobleman who orchestrated the raid and subsequently stole a treasured relic, he joins a select group of archers prepared to wage war in France in the name of King Edward III. Battling his way through the French countryside, Thomas' quest takes on greater danger and significance as he makes a bitter enemy from within his own ranks, uncovers a dark family secret, and becomes embroiled in an idealistic scheme to reclaim the vanished Holy Grail. Authentically detailed and appropriately gruesome, the medieval battle scenes fairly crackle with tension; however, what sets Cornwell's work apart from most run-of-the-mill military adventures are his meticulously developed story lines and his razor-sharp characterizations. *The Archer's Tale* is no exception as an increasingly intricate plot unfolds and the initially callow protagonist matures into a suitably complex, multifaceted hero.

*Margaret Flanagan*

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## Users Review

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#### **Eric Freeman:**

This The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest is great guide for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest in your hand like finding the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

#### **Nick McAllister:**

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#### **Samuel Potter:**

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study it. Beside that the guide The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest can to be your brand new friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of their time.

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