



The Young Carthaginian

G.A. Henty

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Set in ancient times, during the Punic wars, this story follows the adventures of young Malchus, an officer in Hannibal's army. Henty describes the army's incredible journey through southern Europe and across the Alps in fascinating detail, providing both a lesson in ancient history and an absorbing story. The balance of power in Europe swayed between Rome and Carthage and the outcome of this struggle would determine the course of Western Civilization, even until today.

The Young Carthaginian Details

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Author : G.A. Henty

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Classics, Childrens, Adventure, Young Adult, Literature, Cultural, Africa, Teaching

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From Reader Review The Young Carthaginian for online ebook

Karen Gadd says

Very dense. Hard to get started, but interesting.

Bill Suits says

Not his best work and uneven.

Del says

A fun book about a time I didn't know much about. The author does a pretty good job of transporting you back to give you a view of what life was like during the time of Hannibal. I enjoyed it, but someone who already knows a lot about this time likely would not. It is an era I haven't studied, however, so I learned enough to make it enjoyable.

Listened to the unabridged Audible.com audiobook version.

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Féarghal Mac giobúin says

I first read the *Young Carthaginian* as a child.

Back then the Romans were popularly seen as the good guys, the civilising force of order against the barbarian hordes. To read this through the eyes of a young Carthaginian officer, a cousin to the dreaded Hannibal was groundbreaking for me.

Malchus is a sympathetic protagonist and we follow him through campaigns in Spain, southern France, across the Alps and into Italy. Hannibal's greatest triumphs such as the River Trebia, Lake Trasimene and of course Cannae are all intimately described.

Henty shows the cost of war and the human suffering quite harshly. Malchus loses men not just to the enemy but to disease, the cold and desertion. It is an absolute classic and a great introduction for children to

historical fiction, as good as if not better than the Eagle of the Ninth.

Spenser White says

This book tells well a perspective of history nor often told (but getting more prevalent): history from the perspective of the losers. I didn't know much of the facts I learned from this book and the character are portrayed well. It feels, though, like sometimes I'm in proper Victorian England, but each era of history makes the others before it like them in ways. Top notch book.

Gloria says

While it started out slow, the book picked up pace about half way through. There was also substantially more history in this book than the telling of a fictional story. As a history buff, I didn't mind it in the least. But others looking for a compelling story might be a bit bored.

Feliks says

Can not recommend to others, nor even tolerate myself--even with the widest leeway granted for a children's adventure book, this is frankly godawful. I had high hopes for this fine-looking printed work of historic fiction---it is a very handsome volume, complete with publisher's notes, author's preface, maps, illustrations, and superb cover art. In short, everything one could ask except good writing. The book fails on four broad points: content, technique, characters, and dialog. I will itemize them in turn:

Content: staid, stale, stodgy. There is no new historical information provided. It's all straight out of a Western Civ 101 textbook. Content-wise, it falls well short of being anything amazing, un-guessed at, or looked-at-from-a-fresh angle. Henty makes no startling addition to what we know of Hannibal's campaign. Dismal & dismaying to discover this in such a famed novel.

Technique: Not successful. The author labors to convey his story wholly without the imagination necessary for the task. Blocky paragraphs of adjectives and adverbs, falling back on a mass of old, exaggerated cliches and hyperbole such as '*his lofty forehead*' and '*his tireless companions*'. Henty descends into the old pitfall of '*telling, rather than showing*'. No one wants to hear a western historian re-tell the Punic War in this fashion, believe me. This kind of writing would make the Strathemeyer syndicate wince!

Characterization: the two grievances above would not damn the book entirely. But (you think to yourself trying to find something via which to salvage your purchase) "Well, if the history is lacking, are there at least any engaging characters?" Edgar Rice Burroughs proved that a hist-fic book without excellent research done, can still be fun if the characters are well-invented, convincing, and charismatic. Unfortunately here, they are not. What you get is leaden, wooden depiction, stilted and unrealistic. Cardboard-cutouts and store-window mannequins. It is frankly annoying to see the great Hannibal depicted in such a simplistic fashion. The Carthaginian army are --in this book--nowhere drawn earthy or vulgar the way we might expect soldiers to be. These men do not stink, spit, curse, urinate, or sweat--they 'perspire' and dab at their forehead with their hankies. They "*do not know the meaning of the word 'fear'!*" You catch my drift.

Dialog: worst I've seen in a long time. There is no casual, vernacular slang. No colloquialisms, no colorful chatter--these troops all speak exceeding proper, formal schoolroom English. How bizarre! There is no ethnic flavor to the conversations at all. There is not even any especially 'Carthaginian world-view' offered. This story of the invasion of Rome is essentially told from the Roman viewpoint even though the troops wear barbarian armor. Everything is conveyed through a British mindset. Yes...this highly-lugubrious dialog, is really what forced me to toss the book aside. Painfully mawkish speech-making. No one in history ever spoke like these figures do.

The book simply can't recover from these faults. Sad.

Abigail Rasmussen says

I read this book when I was 12 years old. Henty books are rather on the "boyish book" side but many girls I know (including myself) enjoy them as well.

You can find many G. A. Henty books on LibriVox: <https://catalog.librivox.org/search.p...>

A friend of ours, Jim Hodges, has recorded many G. A. Henty books and we own them all and my brothers have listened to everyone of them. <http://jimhodgesaudiobooks.com/>

Tim says

We borrowed this book (on CD) from some friends and listened to it in the van whilst traveling hither and yon. To my shame, it's the first Henty I've read. I have heard good things about Henty's work for a number of years, but this was my first experience.

I wish I could have given the book 3 1/2 stars, but I bumped it up to 4... I'm a nice guy.

It was a good story, packed with historical interests. The protagonist, Malchus, was quite lovable in a PG sort of way. He exemplifies many admirable character qualities. The downside, however, was that it made his character seem a bit flat: almost Ned Flanders-ish, but not quite. The story moved from one pond of action and adventure to another to another, to the point where young Machus's life seemed reminiscent of an episode of 24. The action portions of the book, however, were fun and well-told. The streams between those ponds of action, though, were not as pleasing. It would appear that Henty had a penchant for supplying detail, much detail, tedious detail. I think the book would have been better without it, but it was still a good book with it. My seven-year-old liked the book, so I'm sure we'll do more Henty. Maybe we'll even borrow some more from our friends!

Vic Heaney says

A good old-fashioned adventure story. It follows Malchus, a young noble of Carthaginia, as he accompanies Hannibal's army as it invades Italy. Malchus takes part in all the astonishing battle victories of Hannibal and has a few adventures of his own.

A good way of learning some history (although Hannibal is already a hero of mine) at the same time as having a good read.

Of course the adventures, especially the implausibly easy escapes, stretch many points. Henty will not object to me giving him only 4 stars as he departed almost 100 years ago, leaving behind him many fine books like this to be read by young lads like myself. :-)

Lynn says

This book was intended for boys and a young adult book from the late 19th century. I read it because I love reading about Hannibal but it was far too old fashioned for me. I read classic books but this is more classic popular fiction of the time. I found the language too bombastic and overly dramatic. It was a good example of writing for the time but for me very boring!

Rebecca says

This excellent read chronicles the adventures of a young carthaginian as he marches with Hannibal on the way to attack Rome during the second Punic war. The descriptions are rich in detail and lend a feeling of being on the battlefield. Henty always does a fine job of pulling the reader into the story.

Aristae Henricus says

The Young Carthaginian by G.A. Henty is a book about the struggle between Carthage and Rome. The main character Malchus, is the cousin of Hannibal and fights with him in the battles. Throughout this book we see Malchus as young boy trying to save the sinking city of Carthage and later fighting for its survival. Detailed accounts of Hannibal's conquests constantly meet the reader's eye. This is a well written story and I highly recommend this book to anyone that loves reading.

The_Flaming_Roach says

This is a terrible book, do not read this book, trust me you will hate it.
