



Searching for Arthur

Donna Hosie

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Legend tells of King Arthur, mortally wounded at the hand of the traitorous Mordred in the final battle of Camlann. Before he was taken to the magical Vale of Avalon, Arthur declared that one day he would return, when the kingdom of Logres was once more in need of his leadership.

That day has now come.

It is hard to make friends when you're constantly on the move. Seventeen-year-old Natasha Roth's father is a diplomat, and so her mother – who is paranoid about terrorists – has moved Natasha and her brother, Arthur, to their eighteenth house in seventeen years: Avalon Cottage, deep in the heart of a Welsh forest.

Yet the terrorists are closer than they realize.

While out running, Natasha falls into a hidden tomb and awakens the legendary knights of Camelot: young warriors who have been in an enchanted sleep for a thousand years. All have been waiting patiently for the return of Arthur from the mysterious land of Avalon.

And now the knights are awake, they intend to reclaim their king.

When Arthur goes missing, Natasha joins forces with his girlfriend, “Slurpy” Samantha, in order to look for him. Natasha believes Samantha has fewer brain cells than an amoeba; Samantha believes Natasha is a freak. Retracing Natasha's original steps to the hidden tomb, they bicker their way into a Welsh mountain and beyond, to the realm of Logres where the Knights of the Round Table are rallying once more.

Natasha falls in love with Sir Bedivere, the most loyal of knights to Arthur. He may be in dire need of a 21st Century razor, but he still possesses a set of lime-green eyes that can melt the soul. Yet just as Natasha starts to find confidence in this mystical land, Samantha deserts her. People who play by the rules are of no use to “Slurpy”. Samantha will take her own path to Arthur, aided and abetted by the dark arts which she willingly absorbs from a hot young stranger called Mordred.

A race across magical yet deadly lands is on. Natasha battles dwarf-riders, dragons, and eventually “Slurpy” to reach Camelot, where Arthur is held captive by the barbarian Saxon, Balvidore.

Natasha's woes become numerous. What will happen to her and Arthur when the knights realise the eighteen-year-old boy they thought was their king, is in fact a math student with appalling taste in girls? Can two people with a one thousand year age gap really have a relationship? And for the love of all things holy, how is a girl supposed to ride bareback in a pair of skinny jeans?

Searching for Arthur Details

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From Reader Review Searching for Arthur for online ebook

Lauren says

I was ordering a whole bunch of books when I noticed *Searching for Arthur* and decided to add it to my order on a whim. I haven't read any Arthurian books/literature so basically my entire interest was based on the TV show *Merlin* which I really love - despite its many obvious flaws. But this isn't about the TV show, this is about this book. As you can see from my rating, I didn't enjoy it in the slightest. But I will tell you why.

--> There will be spoilers.

1. Age Group. Its strange. I think this book should be marketed towards a younger age group than Young Adult as I felt it was too immature reading wise for me. Yet there is a lead in to a sex scene and its referenced afterwards, so not exactly appropriate. I think the age group needed to be thought out more clearly.

2. The Heroine. Natasha is not a very likeable protagonist. She comes across extremely immature for a 17 year old girl - to the point where I was questioning if I'd mistaken her age as she seemed like a 14 year old. She has a snarky voice that literally talks back at her in italics throughout the entire novel and is very confusing. Authors can use this as a device to make us readers reading the protags thoughts more interesting, though as events took place I suspect this voice is meant to point to the 'apparent' mental issues Natasha supposedly has. I say supposedly because though she does act erratic she seems pretty in control half the time for someone who is supposed to be unstable. If that wasn't the intention then thats even worse as the entire time this is how it reads.

Furthermore She is not reliable in the slightest. We spend the start of the book with her hating her brother's girlfriend because Sammy (said GF) calls her a freak. Yet Natasha has nicknamed Sammy both Slurpy (for how she kisses her brother - yes, a 17 year old made this nickname) and SS (meaning Slurpy Sammy but it doubles up with the much more terrible, and intentional on Natasha's part, named army under Hitler's regime). Yes, a character who we are supposed to feel sorry for for being a victim of bullying has named said bully after a god-damn Hitler reference.

There is a scene early on where Natasha lets slip this nickname and Sammy, in a justified bout of rage, storms off at the offensive nickname. And Natasha doesn't even feel bad. What a terrible, terrible person. Not someone I want to be in the head of for an entire 300 pages.

3. Arthur. This one confuses me a little as I am not sure whether the author intended for readers to like Arthur or not. As far as I'm concerned I felt I shouldn't like him and only did on the preference that I hated everybody else. Coming from Natasha's point of view though, I think he's ridiculous. They are described as being extremely close and protective of one another yet he never ever listens to Natasha's issues about Sammy. Even at the end of the book when he over hears Sammy calling Natasha a freak he gets a bit angry and says he is sick of them bickering at each other and they better cut it out. **What. A. D-bag.** This girl you call your girlfriend just called your slightly mental (literally) sister a freak. *And you did not dump her then and there?!* I can't stand Natasha and even I thought this was ridiculous.

Are any of these characters supposed to be likeable? I actually didn't mind Mordred (which shows how waaaaa off this book was for me).

4. Instalove. That is the quickest instalove I have witnessed in a long time. The minute Natasha started describing his light green eyes I knew where this was going. What makes it worse is this is obviously based in Arthurian times, and Natasha takes merely days to fall into the hay (literally) with Bedivere. Two things reeeeeeally bothered me with this relationship.

a) Said hay falling which occurs after... wait for it... 6 days. **SIX. DAYS.** And is immediately followed by declarations of 'my love!' not only by the old school knight Sir Bedivere but also our protagonist, she of the modern times Natasha!

Oh Lord.

b) We find out Bedivere is engaged and Natasha loses her mind. Understandable, actually commendable. The first likeable thing she did in my opinion. And then she ruined it by finding out Bedivere was planning to break it off because he loves her. Umm... he didn't tell you in the first place when you were having intense make out sessions (when they were supposed to be keeping watch for the rest of the regiment, mind you. But whatever. Unprofessional acting knights can qualify for the round table, apparently).

Why is it ok because he now plans to break up with her?! No! No, no, no, he didn't tell you in the first place! On another side note Natasha has named said rival Lady Puke, even though she has never met her and even finds out it was an arranged engagement FROM BIRTH. Once again, we are supposed to support this protagonist AND this relationship?

5. The Layout & Writing. The actual layout of the book and its writing also bothered me. The layout is just a personal preference and obviously author is allowed to write it however she likes. I just prefer more traditional layouts.

The writing bothered me along the lines of description. We get character descriptions (E.G green eyes, black glossy hair, freckles) but not once do we get a description of the country-side. The modern day world and Camelot could be exactly the same for all we know. I don't have an internal image of anything. The world-building was just zero.

Others have enjoyed this book and you might too. But sadly, it isn't the thing for me.

Rena says

I really enjoyed this. Review soon to come on the blog! About to download the next in the series and start it right away!

Ingrid Seymour says

"Searching For Arthur" is an excellent read. It was funny and intense at the same time. The main character, Natasha, had a sarcastic sense of humor perfect for the YA crowd. The jokes flowed effortlessly and made me laugh out loud several times. Mrs. Hosie certainly has talent for the humorous. No one can be bored reading this book!

What pleased me the most was the author's ability to switch between light, funny scenes and very intense

ones, packed with action and emotion.

I enjoyed this read very much and wish only that, at the end, Natasha had shown some growth as a character and that we had gotten a better sense of Bedivere's personality. He is the handsome knight with a romantic interest in Natasha, but beyond that it is hard to tell more. However, I suspect the next book will offer us a better glance of him. If you're looking for a fun, yet emotional ride, this is your book.

Susana says

2.5 stars

The fiction around the Arthurian legends was one of my favorite reading themes while growing up. Let's be honest, everything is more interesting than...analytical geometry and trigonometry!

Themes as loyalty, companionship, and above all, honour, were always able to catch my interest. Due to that, i read quite a few books regarding Arthur and his Knights. Some told from his companions pov (for instance, Patrick McCormack's Albion duology, or Bernard Cornwell "The Arthur Books"), others from Guinevere's pov (like Rosalind Miles trilogy).

Ironically neither of them was as teen (or better yet, new adult) oriented as this one, now that my teen years are long gone...
...Thank God! (I mean, the teen years..)

I don't know if this is the author's first work, but she do knows how to captivate her reader.
The story started out really strong.
A little dark, it promised such an incredible story!
It definitely kept me guessing where it was going.

Normally, books that involve time travel, are hit's or misses for me.
The junction of the contemporary elements with mythology, can either be done seamlessly, or in such an abhorrent way that one doesn't even where to turn, much like hearing fingernails on a chalkboard....
Donna Hosie did it perfectly.

Our main character, who is a seventeen year old girl named Natasha begins her journey into the unknown, when her brother Arthur (one year older) goes missing.
Like i said: This had such a strong beginning.

Natasha started out as an interesting character, but i'm afraid that in the author's attempt to develop her by opposition to another character (we will get to there in a minute), she ended up falling in the role of other stereotyped characters.

I liked that the author tried to pass the message that friendship comes first than boys.
Unfortunately it was short lived, and as such doesn't count!
Because _____ dragon!!

And, what was with that public declaration : MY LOVE!! (They knew each other for what...three, four days?)

O_O The thing could have been taken from a soap opera!

So friendship before boys....

Unfortunately it also got trampled by insta love, bouts of jealousy that involved screaming out aloud about: Pigs!

And boys *knights* clutching their family...jewels....

It was strange, and too much!! And all of a sudden an interesting story disappeared beneath all that mush...and crazy hormones.

When i read the synopsis of this story, i thought that two characters that hated each other would be forced to bound, in order to discover Arthur whereabouts. Girl power! Friendship!

My imagination got the better of me...

So we have Natasha and Samantha, respectively Arthur's sister and his girlfriend...

For me this was one of the story's weakest points.

It's impossible to see Natasha as a grown up, when she's constantly referring to Sammy as Slurpy!

Yes, she and Samantha never got along...because *Arthur Jealousy*, but it was stupid!

I also didn't like how Samantha ended being called and written as whorish, because she was pretty, with curves, and took advantage of cleavages...

Two modern day girls find themselves in another time period, and instead of sticking together, Samantha goes of into the unknown, because *stereotypes* and because, someone has to be the ~evil dude/dudette?~

A "bad guy/girl" needs so much more in terms of characterization, than what this girl got...

Sticking her tongue in Arthur's mouth, and apparently using his face as an ice cream, doesn't turn a person into evil material....

The sex...

Oh boy...

As if insta love wasn't enough!

She's in another time period!! With a guy she met a couple days ago, and she's having sex, because it's obvious they're soul mates!!! O_o WTF?

And she judges Samantha/Aka M.? (yes, i'm being obscure on propose!)

Of course there's no contemplation of what may happen...~diseases~ pregnancy~ no health care~

How can i see this girl as intelligent and mature?

Also, there was a tragic event in the siblings past. However the way the author decided to "explain" how she dealt with it, was not good...

By this time, the story was a complete wreck of bouncing hormones...

Bottom Line:

A promising story that could have been so much more, if it wasn't for the full throttle romance.

Younger readers will probably devour it.

Oh, and i'm not even going to start with the fact of Natasha being able to pick up a sword...and using it!!
Unless it was a prop, _and unless she had the Hulk's strength _ c'mon....

Even so, i'm curious about the next volumes o_O

Sue Norreys says

I am speechless (which is unusual!) I LOVED IT! If you don't read it you are seriously missing out!

Tay says

There are really no words to explain how much I enjoyed Searching for Arthur.

I'd been waiting months and months to finally read this and thankfully it has been all worth it.

Okay, firstly I am a huge Merlin fan. Anything about Merlin, Arthur and Camelot and the story world has me excited already. Like did anybody really ever get over The Adventures of Meriln?

So, anyway when I found this series I knew I needed it.

Donna Hoise has done such an amazing job in retelling our beloved story. It was fast paced for sure, with enough romance to have me grinning from ear to ear. Her interpretation of Camelot was spot on, everything about the world was just incredible.

Her characters were likable and Natasha had some of the best reactions ever. I loved all the knights in their own little ways but to be honest there wasn't a huge lot of character development, which is expected since the story line was more of the focus. The romance between Tash and Sir Bedivere was very quick for me, like bloody hell it was like love at first kiss sort of thing but nevertheless it was cute. Arthur has always been a heart throb for me and lived up to it thankfully with his kindness towards his sister and his will to lead the knights.

Everything was just sheer brilliance and that ending!!

Anyway, if your a fan of anything Merlin and Arthur then I completely recommend it.

Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

This book sucked me in and took me on a journey through time to find King Arthur (something I have always wanted to do!). It is funny, fast-paced and sometimes violent but always in a way that is meaningful and part of the story.

The story builds up as it goes along, with layer upon layer skillfully added to it that enriches the whole thing. The characters themselves are fantastic and I think that I've fallen in love with 2 or 3 of them in this book. There are some laugh out loud moment, sadness, death and action.

Absolutely brilliant for a debut novel and I immediately went to put the other two on my wishlist. These are keepers for sure.

Molly says

I'm a sucker for time-travel books that involve well-known fictional characters. This did not disappoint for me!

Rebecca Schuster says

Finally got some time to write my review.

Where to start? Well, best of with the positive things. The idea is great. I think, a fresh version of the Arthurian myth will be very appealing to a lot of (younger) readers. References are well done and the story told in a way that you are drawn into it and can't put the book (eReader) aside before you have finished it.

However, I do have a couple of things that I did not really like about the book. If it was a draft, I would suggest some editing before trying to publish it as hard copy.

Here they are:

1) When I started reading the book, I actually thought it was written for a younger audience, like twelve plus. The main character seemed so immature in her thinking and behavior and also so much younger than her (not so much)older brother, who acts like a surrogate father. That is why I was surprised that she is already 17, which made me wonder if it was a wise decision to have a young teenager having to identify with a young adult.

Only later in the story it became apparent that the story was written for an older audience, especially by the depiction of graphic violence. Unfortunately, the main character stayed somewhat immature throughout the story, which is most apparent in her coming up with silly nicknames like "Slurpy" and "Lady Puke".

Well, maybe teenagers of 17 are really like that, I don't know. I just couldn't relate and didn't like it.

2) The main character is basically the major flaw of the book.

As I said, she is very immature. She becomes more violent (and used to violent ongoing) as the story moves on, but otherwise she does not really change at all.

The constant screaming was just as annoying. She screams and screams. I know I am a little "infested" by my emancipated upbringing by my mother, but I consider that a good thing. Women should make the most of their emancipation and keep working on it. We don't need other (literature) drawbacks such as recent examples (Twilight, Shades of Grey ...). As a young woman at the verge of adulthood I would look for strong female role models - in reality and in fiction. That means, no cliches and no old stereotypes.

Unfortunately, our narrator is not a woman to look up to (neither are any of the other female characters; they are all either deprived of the compacity to love, or are deceitful and spiteful).

In addition she is rather bratty (not naughty, but more Juliette Lewis-esque), especially in this one scene: "I threw myself into Bedivere's arms and spread my mouth across his warm lips". Arthur wasn't the only one choking about this image, which is obviously only intended to get back at her brother for making her watch making out with his girlfriend.

Another minor thing about the narrator is that she keeps calling the knights "boys". They might not be that old, that's right, but then in the middle ages, when most people didn't get much older than 40, an 18 year old

is already a full-grown man. "Boy" sounds really weird! On the other hand we only have the POV of a late pubescent girl, so I guess this minor flaw is negligible.

3) The atmosphere. While the author describes many of the character's attires and looks in great detail, she neglects landscape and atmosphere, which appear too pale for my taste. At some points during the story I was surprised that the characters had moved on to a different place, because it did not differ from the previous. A more colorful depiction of a mythical land would have been a nice touch to create more Arthurian atmosphere.

4) Basically, one incident follows the next, each gorier than the one before. Which wouldn't be so terrible, if the actual final battle against Baldivore and Mordred wasn't rather anti-climatic in comparison.

Even though this was a long thrashing, I still think that the story itself is promising and the Arthurian and Arthurian literature ("The Once and Future King") references well done (I loved the bearded squirrel!!). I am eager to see how the story unfolds in the second volume.

Jenn Bragg says

I rated this book yesterday; however, I was on my Kindle Fire and wanted to wait until I could sit quietly and type to post the review.

This book is, to sum it up in one word, WONDERFUL! At the very beginning I was worried. The start of the book was somewhat similar to the recent Disney Channel movie "Avalon High". By the end of the first chapter I was very pleased to be wrong. There is action, mystery, romance, intrigue. There are knights, insanity - though I've yet to determine whether said insanity is factual or perceived by the sufferer - , dragon attacks, and time travel. The pacing is such that I can easily see even the reluctant readers among us having no problems keeping the pages turning. The characters are well-developed, and the fact that the author manages to allow the reader to feel as if they know the character without bogging them down with drawn out back stories is quite enjoyable. To put it simply? I felt that I got to know the characters much as I would had I met them in real life, adding a "chapter" - so to speak - every time a new kernel of information was granted.

I was also delighted to find that this book deviated from one of my pet peeves of stereotypical self-published works - rampant grammatical errors. There were some questionable spellings; however, that could be attributed to the book being written from a Welsh perspective, rather than an English or American one. As much as I sang the praises of Ms. Hosie's unique method of character development in the last paragraph, I found myself feeling a bit empty in regards to the heroine's character. I just wanted to feel a little closer to her, I think. Perhaps have been given a bit more insight into what makes her tick.

All in all this book is a must buy, worth much more than the paltry \$3.99 price on it. Immediately after finishing it I purchased the second book in the series and am now a little over the halfway point with it. I now find myself hoping that the wait for the third book isn't very long - I'm not sure I could bear it!

Katherine Amabel says

A note on context: this review comes straight from my blog, (Hand Me A Longbow And Call Me A Wench -

Review of Donna Hosie's *SEARCHING FOR ARTHUR*), hence the references to being an aspiring writer. Enjoy!

The reason I couldn't wait to review this book is because it changed me. Not in a 'grab a sword, declare yourself a knight and run off to fight wolf-riding dwarves' kind of way, (although if that meant hooking up with any of the lead characters then hand me a longbow and call me a wench). It changed me because for a while I forgot I was an aspiring author who beats myself up if I don't achieve a certain amount of writing each day... For a while I found that every time I opened my laptop to get some work done I would simply stare at the screen, yearning for my kindle, until I gave up and permitted myself one more chapter. (Or two. Or ten).

It's not my fault the characters are so well done. Sure I probably laughed out loud a little too much, and swooned far more than was healthy, but I can't be held accountable. Nor can you blame me for adoring the vivid settings and the way they constantly changed to keep the action fast and entertaining. I admit that sometimes the descriptions were told where they could have been shown, but the end result was still a rich, textured, real world and I loved every minute I was there.

The plot sucked me in and kept me captive, with just the right amount of epic external conflict and deep, relatable internal conflict. And with an immensely satisfying ending and a lovely hint of what's to come, I'm absolutely gagging for the next installment. My only regret (and notice I say regret instead of complaint) is that I feel that with a bit more editing it could have been superb. The fact is, however, that it didn't interrupt from my enjoyment of the story for one second. Passive voice may normally be my mortal enemy, and my head might normally explode at the use of two adjectives where one (or none) would do, but reading this I honestly didn't care, I just thought it was a shame they hadn't been picked up. Overall I commend Donna for creating something so downright entertaining and I cannot wait to see what's coming next.

Overall score: 4.5/5

Jodi says

So this should be 3 and a half stars by the way..

I really had to give this book time before I could review it in a way that wasn't cranky and crabby. First off let me say I did like this book. My biggest issue was it wasn't an unwavering "like" I had for it. I went in super excited, nervous because of how much I love Arthurian legend (I also super love BBC's *Merlin*) and was worried it would somehow insult or make a fool of the characters I love so much. Thankfully it didn't do that.. well except it made me dislike Arthur here and there, but overall I was content with what was done with him.

While keeping in mind that I really did like this book, the longer it went the more I hated the main character Natasha. The biggest thing that bugged me about her was she deemed herself a better person than Morgana and Mordred in this knowing what she'd done to her little brother, Patrick. It wasn't what happened to him that made me hate her but it bugged me that the guilt didn't get to her very much. It seemed to at times bug her, but not eat at her like I felt like it should any normal person with a conscience. Half the time I just wanted to punch her because she was just super annoying besides that.. I kept having to remind myself that she wasn't twelve because her thoughts just were... very twelve-year-old-ish..

I did like Bedivere (even though I kept getting confused when they were talking about Bad-..whatever the bad guy's name was) but the "MY LOVE!" KILLED ME. I love cheesiness and I can handle my dairy but that was a lot of queso... Also I REALLY badly wish the love story there took more time. Not only did it just seem to take moments for Natasha and Bedivere to decide they were madly in love, which bugged me, I also didn't have the time to fall in love with Bedivere. It's those little moments.. the almost touches/kisses, the wanting to say something but not.. those are what are just so fantastic about a love story.. the leading up to the "My love"s and it started out great, when she instantly noticed Bedivere's green eyes, and when she rode on his horse with him I was getting excited, my stomach ready to unleash the butterflies and then when Bedivere swore to protect her I was thinking, "yeah he's a knight that's what knights do.. alright, still good." And then even the kiss I was alright with, it showed Natasha was spontaneous, but after that, it just got way too carried away way too quickly, at least for my liking.

Pushing past some of the faults with the story itself, Donna Hosie has quite an expanded vocabulary she's ready to use and I really liked her word choices a lot, I only wish everything else followed suit.

Cassidy says

Sweet Baby Jesus!! It's books like this that just make me wonder if I was born in the right time or not. I thought I'd never read something as amazing as The Torrent of Time series again, but I'm so glad I'm wrong, as this book was just as amazing and investing and satisfying to read. And Bedivere, my god, where can I find me a Bedivere? I love guys with green eyes and especially ones who are Knights. I will definitely read the next book in the series, even if I have to scrounge for some money to add to my kindle (update: I was successful) . I DEFINITELY RECOMMEND THIS. GO AND READ IT RIGHT NOW!!! There's cool as knights and sweet and caring brothers and Bedivere and Arthur.

Vaishnavi says

Why I read it:

- Magic
- Arturian Legend
- Next book had Merlin in the title
- the synopsis sounded promising
- no one rated it less than 4/5 here. (that's a feat for any book here)

What wasn't there:

- Love triangle (and I'm so grateful for that)

Rating: 4.3/5. [because i wasn't floating in heavens for some reason)

What it had:

Magic

Classy Leads

Great action scenarios

Nicely thought Plot

No over chaotic execution

Realistic emotions
Romance
Amazing Characterization
All characters had equal emphasis

In length:

I really loved reading this book, especially after the My Merlin series, which tore me apart. So this was like a balm to that wound. Though there was no Merlin, directly involved in this book, it had all the elements of Arthurian legends minus the sadness and tragedy ;)

So it was exactly what i was looking for. It was a breezy read too.

I couldn't put it down once i started with it. It was gripping and you just wanted to reach the end as soon as possible, because you just can't wait. The action scenes were very well thought through and even classically executed. I could really imagine the fights with words used like a diamond formation or a magnetic safe shield around the table. It gives you scope for clear imagination. You can keep up with the Author's thoughts. There was good amount of Romance too, though i really thought Bedivere would not really kiss that much, but turns out i was happily wrong ;) I loved the whole gang. Esp Talan and David :D

SO, go ahead, give it a try, I'm sure you'll like it too :D

Margaly says

Freaking fantastic. Such a quick read and such a great story. Gotta love Arthurian stories.
