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Adventurers Wanted, Book One: Slathbog's Gold



Synopsis

The sign is small, tucked into the corner of Mr. Clutter's bookshop window: *Adventurers Wanted. Apply Within.* No one but fifteen-year-old Alex Taylor even seems to notice it is there. And for Alex, who has wished for a change in his life, it is an irresistible invitation. Upon entering Mr. Clutter's shop, Alex is swept away to a faraway land filled with heroic warriors, mysterious elves, and hard-working dwarves. Alex becomes the eighth man in a band of adventurers seeking the lair of Slathbog the Red, an evil dragon with a legendary treasure. Along the way, Alex and his new friends must battle dangerous trolls and bandits, face undead wraiths, and seek the wisdom of the Oracle in her White Tower. Alex's adventure takes him to distant and exotic lands where he learns about courage, integrity, honor, and, most important, friendship.

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Customer Reviews

When Alex sees the sign “Adventurers Wanted: Apply Within” in a shop window, he can’t help but inquire. He is soon steamrolled into his first adventure by the shop owner, finding himself packed off to a fantasy world as the eighth member of a group going after the dragon Slathbog. This first novel plays out like a game of *Dungeons and Dragons*, with the reader in the role of Alex as he learns to play, making the story entertaining but disappointing in its lost potential. Nearly every genre cliché since Tolkien is present, yet Forman does nothing new with his cool premise; the quest and Alex himself are led through predictable paces. While Alex is an agreeable character, he is too perfect to be credible: after the umpteenth time praise is heaped upon him for

something that he did accidentally or much too easily, readers will be rolling their eyes. Still, the laws in the *Adventurer's Handbook* that govern the group are an entertaining remix of the laws that govern RPGs, and the camaraderie among the group members is a strong draw. For those looking for a straightforward, uncomplicated quest, this will do the trick, and the series potential is limitless. Grades 5-8. --Krista Hutley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When Alex Taylor enters a shop with a strange sign that seems to change every time he looks at it, he embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. Alex soon finds himself joining 7 other adventurers on a quest to slay an evil dragon and recover its hoard. Along the journey, he discovers amazing things about himself and forms incredible friendships. In classic epic fantasy form, this is a fantastic journey of a young man who comes to his own, while learning about the strange world around him. In a world of elves, dwarves, wizards, and other mystical creatures, magic is almost commonplace. And Alex is fascinated with it all. He is a likeable character and his companions even more so. The story reminded me a lot of *Eragon*, yet the reading is easier and quicker. Highly enjoyable, fast-paced, and full of adventure; *Adventurers Wanted: Slathbogs Gold* will definitely be making my list of top childrens books for 2009. Fantasy fans of all ages will enjoy this high fantasy romp. --Sci Fi Chick.com --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Well, this book definitely deserves points for originality. This book started out great. The characters weren't shallow, and my interest was piqued from the beginning. Then, it began to fall flat. While making the journey, the characters experience many long, boring events that are described in too much detail. However, there is a ton of action. So if you like that, and lots of it, this would be a great book for you. But if you want more balance between action and other events, this book lacks it. Also, another thing that annoyed me was the sudden change of writing style. When describing a setting or how something looked, the author would use regular language, like you would speak. However, when the CHARACTERS spoke, it sounded forced and unnatural. It was very distant and formal- they barely used contractions. One last thing is the too-fast acceptance of the main character. He is thrown into a magical world, and he spends little time pondering or questioning it. All in all, it is an ok book.

I dont know if I should give this book 4 stars or 3 stars...so I go with 3 stars.This book is a book mostly for kids and up to age 14.Its a good book, but at the same time its to much repeating of the

same sentences and to little description of the characters. In the fighting with the bandits f.example, the fight was over in no time. I really would have liked more action in the fighting, and some more exiting description of Alex and the sword, and how it started to glow... We never get to know much. And why does Alex just have to be so...bahh!! He really doubt his ability to be wizard or a warrior.And why are the people just bowing all the time. I mean they bow all the time!This book is something that younger people and kids really will enjoy. Not someone who is like 20 and older. Its gets kind off...boring, to little action.

Unbelievably exciting and well paced. As the adventure folds, we are provided insights into Alex and his fellow adventurers. Alex is an everyday boy who discovers more about himself than he could have ever imagined in his wildest dreams. The surprises keep coming until the very end. The reader's reflection at the end offers an opportunity to revisit the story and see how our thoughts about the motivations of the characters in the story and our own assumptions as we read the story.

Alex was tired of his humdrum daily life. He was ready for an adventure. Something exciting to do! He accidentally walked into his adventure and it changed his life..He went dragon hunting!Alex joined seven other adventurers and they traveled for a year and a half. He was put to a test and passed he became the person he wanted to be and even more was asked of himThis is a must read. A magnificent use of your imagination and the things that make us special

My son is 8 and a relatively advanced reader for his age, but has been resisting reading longer books. His elementary school uses the "accelerated reader" (AR) system where the kids read books for a number of points and need to reach a certain points goal per term. He's been mostly reading little 0.5 or 1.0 point short books. Until he started reading this book (15 AR points), and devoured it--reading extra time in his free time. We had to check his room to tell him to stop reading and go to bed multiple nights, and he finished it in two weeks and is now devouring book two. We've been waiting for this, and this book was the one!

I really liked this book. It was a good story and a great idea. I only have one issue with it. Alex, the fifteen year old hero, does not speak like a fifteen year old boy. He speaks like an adult from a hundred years ago. Also, I would have liked a bit more comic relief. I think comedy is important especially in books aimed at this age group. That being said, I've already purchased the other two in the series and can't wait to read them! The writing and story telling were absolutely fantastic!! I

loved the themes of the story. The author teaches great lessons but a younger reader wouldn't necessarily know they're being taught. Overall a really great story!!

The writing style is uncluttered, but still descriptive enough to be interesting. The characters show loyalty and honor, treating each other and those around them with respect. I would recommend for a tween or young adult. Over all, a fun read.

I think this was a great book with a great story line , I also think that maybe a bit short but other than that it was a great story. I would recommend this to any one who likes stories about fantasy and adventure. 4 stars.

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