



The Horn of Moran

M.L. Forman

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The land of Norsland is on the brink of war as two men have each claimed the throne. Only the true king can sound the Horn of Moran and prove his nobility. But the horn has been lost for years. If it is not found—and soon—it could mean the destruction of an entire nation. Young Alexander Taylor joins a band of seasoned adventurers who have been called up to retrieve the legendary Horn of Moran. Their journey to the mysterious Tower of the Moon will take them through an enchanted forest, into battle against a goblin army, past the watchful eyes of griffin guards, and face-to-face with a sphinx and her deadly riddles. With his sword, Moon Slayer, and the wise counsel from his wizard mentor, Whalen Vankin, Alex must use all his wizard and warrior skills to slay a darkness that may consume them all.

- The perfect series for boys of all ages.
- Teaches moral lessons.
- A clean adventure for the whole family.

The Horn of Moran Details

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From Reader Review The Horn of Moran for online ebook

Lisa Nocita says

In book 2 of this series we find our young wizard in training acclimating quite well to his new found identity and studying in earnest to improve his talent and skill. Six months have passed and Alex has contented himself with a distance education course in wizardry from the esteemed Whalen Vankin. Now 16, Alex is eager for another adventure. He soon finds himself joining up with his former adventure leader who is leading a rather personal quest to recover the long lost horn of Moran for his beleaguered cousin, disputed King. Many of the former adventurers join the new adventure along with a couple of new faces. Other adventurers make appearances and references to characters from the first book abound. The fantasy worlds are growing complex and I would personally find a map on the end papers helpful to track the places traveled. I also may need to keep a list of names and identities for future reference if I am to keep reading. I liked the story equally as well as the first but have the same reservations too. Master Alex develops his wizarding talents with ease and aplomb. No task is too difficult, including taking on a horde of menacing goblins singlehandedly or evil incarnate. And he has a very Polly Anna-ish kind of personality which is sweet and possibly heroic, but hard to completely accept and like. Even Harry Potter and Frodo had their dark moments of the soul which made them fallible and thus more "human" and, ultimately, heroic. I think there is something here but it hasn't quite developed its full potential yet. I think the author is still finding his voice. Sometimes he tells too much rather than shows and Alex's narrative voice changes when he passes from Clutter's bookshop into the fantasy worlds to a more stilted and archaic voice, very formal and a tad affected. I am unclear what time period his modern non-wizard self lives in. Probably not 2011. However, as I said before, I think Forman will be one to one to watch. He has a rich imagination and with tighter plotting, richer rising action, and stronger character development, his books will be sure to please young fantasy readers.

Matt Hayes says

I didn't think it would be better than Book 1, but, boy, was I wrong! THE HORN OF MORAN delivers action, suspense, and great storytelling! I couldn't put it down, and I read it in a day!

Jackson Porter says

I don't much remember the first one, but I remember I really liked it, and I really liked this one, to. It is a simple, fast read that is fully entertaining and will have you laughing in every chapter. This book doesn't reach much of a climax like the last one did. The main "battle" happens more towards the middle, and from then on it's a fantastic tale about their return.

One of my father's queries about the first book was how come it took them so long to travel to their destination but not as long to travel back. Well, for the most obvious reason, it was because they had reached their goal and it didn't need to focus on their return. Well, this hook thought it had to. It took them about just as long to travel back as it did to travel there. I liked that, a lot.

Forman has created a world that I wish I could live in. It is complex yet simple enough that you can keep

track of most things unlike Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time which, if you wanted to keep track of, you'd have to take thorough notes.

The book did annoy me at points, though. The characters seem real enough to me, but the only thing that makes them more unreal than real is the fact that they don't have many flaws. Alex's only flaw is the fact that he is short tempered. Most everyone they come across is very nice and kind and I just can't see everyone being like that. Of course, there is the exception of Oso. Hahahahahaha!

One of my other complaints was the use of the word "honor". Forman used that word like commas. I swear I read it at least every other page. 'It is our honor.' 'It will be our honor.' 'We are honor-bound to do so.' 'Your honor will grow.' 'Honor, honor, honor, honor.' it was put in there way too much, especially around the middle. Alex's companions on his quest kept telling him he was so generous and his honor has grown much. And it explains that being kind and generous will help your honor grow, and I couldn't help but wonder, "Everyone's honor must be huge, then, because almost everyone is super kind and super generous." I just found that a little unrealistic. Then again, it is only a middle grade book.

And my last and final complaint is the dialogue. Whenever someone would invite them to stay at their home for supper and to spend the night, or whenever they would have to pay somebody the dialogue seemed repetitive and rehearsed. At some points I found myself guessing what the character was going to say next.

I found myself surprised at the end of the book. It was a simple, amazing story of 6 adventurers who went on a quest to retrieve a magical object. The characters were likable, the humor was plentiful, and the action was exciting!

It is so worth reading!

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

Check out more reviews @ Perspective of a Writer...

Alex, our wizard in training, has been back in the real world for a year and boy is it different than the respect he commands while adventuring. When he is called back on an adventure he is excited to continue his travels as he and his band quest to find the lost Horn of Moran and return it to Norsland before the nation erupts in war. They battle a goblin army, navigate an enchanted forest, and solve the sphinx's riddle... but will they make it in time?!

The short review...

I quite loved Slathbog's Gold, the first book in the series, so it was a no brainer to continue! I was excited to see how Alex would grow as a wizard and how his magic would change... I was NOT disappointed in this. The tower in particular was super fun to me... I love the conclusions he came to and how he worked out what he needed to do. My brother quite LOVES and adores this series and I think it speaks to boys who want to feel different from the crowd. So while some readers may call out a Gary Stu personality and an certain upbeateness to the plot i say that it teaches some lessons that are lacking in father absent homes. This is one of those series you give it a go and if it isn't for you then move along and don't stress, it's written for a

particular reader in mind.

This book certainly builds on the first as we are sent on the new adventure without the magic of learning how it all works that was in the first one. That made the start a little slow... because while attempts were made to make it fun, it just didn't measure up to the first adventure. This was complicated by the fact I didn't connect to the new band as much as I did the original one. While we met many of the old band members I miss the camaraderie that made the journey fun. The strength of this book is definitely the plot! Forman knows how to put Alex through his paces as a boy and as a wizard in training! Yes, he has adults he can rely on but he is the star of the book and is the character who grows a little more at the end of each adventure.

Cover & Title grade -> A-

The titles and covers have been really consistent in the series. I think this is one of the most communicative cover of all though. We meet Alex and see what the story is about. Each adventure is evident in the name too. I think a boy who read the first book or even one who is new to the series will certainly want to pick the book up and see what "adventurer's wanted" means and will be seduced by the premise!

As a Writer...

As a writer (sometimes) I feel like some readers are too critical of the writing aspect of a book. Reading reviews of book #1 on Goodreads I found it to be true. It makes me sad that readers write such debilitating criticism (if I were this author and read some of the 1 and 2 star reviews I would fall into a depression and probably stop writing for a time...) It's not that a reader shouldn't have their own opinions and nor should they "force" themselves to be positive. I think everyone has the right to believe whatever they want no matter if its foolish or wise.

Okay? Okay.

But since when do readers want to CRUSH THE VERY LIFE from a writer so they don't even want to write a second series?! And we are talking about a debut here (the criticism was about book #1)! This is only the second book this author HAS EVER WRITTEN! And the reason why only a limited number of adult readers typically read middle grade is because they aren't held to the standards of even YA. Yes, there are some extremely excellent middle grade and on the cusp of YA books! That's wonderful but there are writers out there who can become better too... given some constructive criticism.

Some writers write for the wrong reasons and when they aren't wildly successful they end up going back to their day job... very naturally without fanfare. Those writers who clearly want to entertain a young person... those writers deserve a little respect for even finishing their book!

Hahaha, no offense intended! Rant over.

The Adventurer's Wanted series is about a good boy who is allowed to grow up in a world that treats him with respect no matter his age. He is given goals to meet and obstacles to overcome and grows from each one. He's surrounded by grown ups who listen to his ideas and allow him the space to put them into action. Is this idealistic? Hell yeah! But I love it anyway. The Horan of Moran is a great second book in the series and I look forward to book #3!

? ??? Authentication
? ? ??? Writing Style
????? Plot & Pacing
? ??? World Building

BOTTOM LINE: A great second installation in a stellar adventurer series for the wanderers hearted!

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my special perspective at the bottom of my reviews under the typewriter...

Mindy says

If you liked the first one you'll find this more of the same. Same plot formula, same strangely formal dialogue. It's nice that they are very polite and respectful, it just seems like a bit much, forced, a little more reality wouldn't hurt. Lots of talk about honor and some strange rules about it as well. Everyone but the main character are just shells of characters, but even if it's meant for a younger audience I think they could use some fleshing out... They could handle that.

Mikayla Haven says

For this round of reading, I chose to read the sequel to Slathbog's Gold, Adventurers Wanted: The Horn of Moran, by M.L Forman. This book, just like Slathbog's Gold, was a birthday present from my mother. The Horn of Moran is about Alex's next adventure, to Norsland in order to find the legendary Horn of Moran, which was lost by a foolish prince somewhere near the Tower of the Moon. On this adventure, Alex meets various magical creatures, many of which are quite friendly, and some, whom of which Alex has already unknowingly encountered, are not.

I find it sad to say that I am, again, giving a book in this series a four out of five rating. While the story does offer the same expected amount of silly conversations and serious discussions, the story offers very little in the terms of new and creative ideas. The lack of female characters in this series is made especially obvious in this book, even when compared to Slathbog's Gold. The only woman that shows up and is given a proper name and personality is Tara, who is given no description except for "not quite human" and "incredibly sad," and she is present in the book even less than The Oracle of the White Tower. The descriptions in the Horn of Moran, or lackthereof, are even worse. The only descriptions we get in this book is, again, a vague feeling that Alex has and the person's race, sometimes not even that. The only exception to this is Val, who is described as extremely thin. A good example of the lack of descriptions in this book is Sindar, an old feeling elf.... this is literally the only thing Forman uses to describe him, and we are not even told that Sindar is an elf when we first meet him. Of course you would probably assume that he is because he speaks to Alex about Calysto, but for all we know, he could actually be a satyr. I am also still imagining all of the elves as silver haired Legolas's.... and I am also still not enjoying that fact.

While I have named more than a few flaws for this book, I would still recommend it to my fellow fantasy lovers who enjoy experiencing the journey alongside Alex and his friends. Still, I cannot, in good faith, recommend this to my female protagonist loving brethren, as there are still none to be found.

Kelsey Pugh says

I really like it is a good book. It is about a 15 year old kid named Alex, and he lives with his stepdad. He goes on adventures with other people. In this book he went on an adventure to find the Horn of Moran and he becomes a wizard. With his sword Moon Slayer he goes to the Moon tower to get the Horn of Moran.

Ashley says

Despite what I am about to say, I really did like this book, I am just being picky.

It was still great, but maybe the fact that I read the acknowledgments at the beginning of the book made the book seem forced. It seemed a bit more that Forman was just flat out telling you what was happening in the story that you very well should have been able to figure out for yourself. It also seemed a bit predictable like *****SPOILER***** when he introduces Val, he makes him out to be a bit... shifty (?), so later on, something he does isn't very surprising.

I would recommend having Slathbog's Gold fresh on your mind because there are a lot of things in the book that directly mention things from the first book that, unless you either have excellent memory or you just read it, you wouldn't remember.

It was still very good, though it is directed a bit more at a younger audience.

I'm sorry, I'm making this book out to be not very great but, believe me, it was worth reading it. I really did like it is exciting to watch as Alex's power as a Wizard in training grows and he is able to more fully master it. And of course, there are twists on the road that make it a lot more interesting and *****SPOILER***** another journey to the wall.

It was a very good read despite what I have said.

Heather says

A lovely sequel to Slothbag's Gold. While at times it feels, again, like you've heard some of these plots before, it's still a fun read. We meet some of the characters from the first book and are introduced to several new ones. We learn a bit more about the lands and peoples.

I love Alex, the main character. He is kind, generous and always, always does what is right. Sometimes with a little help.

This is a series I'd gladly hand to my boys to read or read out loud to them. While there is action and violence, it's not graphic or scary.

Mukund says

Another great read for me as it was a continuation from the first book and I really liked it. Again I felt as though this was a binge read as I would read this book for a long amount of time till I felt tired. In this book, I felt the story line was a bit slower to read as it's a more complex story compared to the first book. But overall I really liked this book. Again, I recommend this book to anyone who wants to read adventure/fantasy related books.

Bill Tillman says

Wow another action packed adventure, Alex just keeps getting deeper into being a Wizard, in fact the best wizard in a thousand years. Of course this does come with a price but Alex is will to pay. Magic, evil, danger, long quests are all part of the adventure. Alex finds he is on his way to becoming a billionaire. I cannot in good conscience reveal even a small bit of this adventure as I want you to read it for yourself. Enjoy.

Samantha wickedshizuku Tolleson says

Good... Good...

Interesting.

Hoping that 16 year old Alex will eventually stop sniveling. He seems overly humble and it seems like insincerity. I mean is this what I have to look forward to when my kid's go into the teenage years? The 'tween years' are pissing me off, and driving me...

I loved how many magical creatures were included in this installment. Much of the other characters are interesting, but the adventure has seemed a little too structured for my taste. If this was a story written for adults instead of children, I most likely would have given this five stars.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay...second book in this YA (emphasis on the "Y" somewhat I admit) series and I like it.

Why?

It's fun. If you ever played D&D this book will make you feel like you need to go get your box of dice and play along.

A young man has fallen into an adventuring universe where he travels through what are called. "the known lands". Getting back with some friends from an earlier adventure and some new friends he (we're) now off on a quest to make sure the rightful king ends up on the throne. In a land of magic swords, wizards and

fantasy creatures...enjoy!

What more can I say? I really enjoyed these books, I look forward to the next.

Oh, and if I need to say it...pure brain candy.

:)

Johnny Bennett says

ML Forman has an interesting writing style. Horn of Moran carries on the adventure from Slathbog's Gold and leaves one wanting more. The characters continue to grow, though some will complain Alex is growing too fast, too strong. A great teen adventure with nothing grotesque about it, unless you are opposed to conceptual magic.

Cami says

This book has wizards and goblins and all the other stuff
