



An Earthly Knight

By Janet McNaughton

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A cloud has descended over the household of Lady Jeanette Avenel.

THE year is 1162. Sixteen-year-old Jenny has always enjoyed her freedom as second daughter of a Norman nobleman in Teviotdale, Scotland. But when Jenny's sister, Isabel, disgraces the family by running away with a dangerous suitor, Jenny is thrust reluctantly into the role of elder daughter. While Jenny worries about her sister's future, her father's attention turns keenly toward Jenny, and finding her a worthy suitor.

When Jenny is chosen as a potential bride for William de Warenne, brother of the king of Scotland and heir to the crown, redemption of her family's name seems within reach. Amid formal banquets and jousting tournaments, she struggles to impress the aloof Earl William. At the same time, however, she finds herself drawn to Tam Lin, a mysterious young man. Rumored to have been kidnapped by fairies, Tam harbors a dark secret from his past that threatens everyone close to him . . . including Jenny.

Glimmering with exquisite detail, Janet McNaughton's beautifully woven story transports readers to a magical medieval world where one young woman navigates the forceful tides of tradition and the ancient power of fairies to define her own destiny.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up--Love and religious and political intrigue abound in this retelling of the legend of Tam Lin set in 12th-century Scotland. When her older sister, Isabel, disgraces the family, it is up to 16-year-old Jenny to save her father's reputation and prosperity. Then, she meets Tam Lin in the forest and befriends him. Stories of his insanity and odd behavior fuel the locals' fear of him, so Jenny keeps their relationship a secret. When she is brought to the royal court as a potential bride for the king's womanizing brother William, she takes an instant dislike to him. She also realizes that she is in love with Tam Lin, and, after a hazily described night of passion, she becomes pregnant. The betrothal ceremony for Jenny and William is set against her wishes, but a last second burst of courage allows her to reveal her secret. Following the ancient legend, the teen braves the fairy queen to rescue Tam from his enchantment, and the young lovers are reunited. The author does an excellent job of interweaving legend and history to create an exciting and engaging tale. A side story about Isabel is equally well developed. The women, though bound by tradition and societal standing, show gumption and fortitude, and the role of the early church in politics and daily life is interestingly explored.

Fans of Elizabeth Marie Pope's *The Perilous Gard* (Houghton, 2001), also a retelling of Tam Lin, will enjoy this novel as well.--*Cheri Dobbs, Detroit Country Day Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. Sixteen-year-old Jenny, a high-born lass in medieval Scotland, "loves the dark and wild heart of the forest." In her wanderings she meets Tam Lin, an enchanted young lord with whom she forges a love pure enough to shatter a powerful curse. This is ancient, elemental stuff, culled from the ballad of a Scottish knight whose mortal lover rescues him from an evil fairy queen. McNaughton hits the tale's main points, including Jenny's pregnancy (the result of a euphemistically described night of passion), but invented conflicts give the story its forward momentum. Jenny finds herself earmarked for an advantageous betrothal and, in a subplot inspired by a different ballad, helps her sister recover from a traumatic encounter with an unscrupulous knight. In fact, McNaughton evokes the social and political landscape so vividly that readers may find the periodic swerves into high fantasy somewhat jarring. Even so, fans of historical fiction will find much to admire in this story of a spirited heroine and ecstatic young love. *Jennifer Mattson*

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About the Author

Janet McNaughton has a Ph.D. in folklore and is the award-winning writer of novels for young readers. She lives in St. John's, Newfoundland, with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ernie Swisher:

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Looking at a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information particularly this An Earthly Knight book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no

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Charles Trask:

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