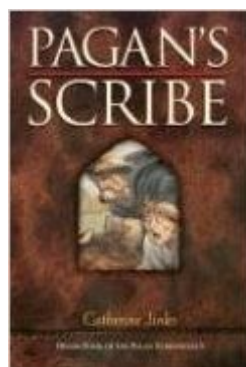


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Pagan's Scribe: Book Four Of The Pagan Chronicles



Synopsis

Pagan's final adventure finds our sarcastic hero a bit older and wiser as he leads his young scribe out of the world of books to brave the real-life dangers of a papal crusade. Impressed by the bookish Isidore, Pagan Kidrouk — now Archdeacon of Carcassonne — hires the boy as his scribe. Eager to flee a cloistered existence, naive Isidore quickly discovers that the real world isn't as the poets and philosophers claim. The year is 1209, and papal forces from the north are driving their bloody crusade against the Cathar heretics to Carcassonne. With the battle lines inching ever closer, the world of Father Pagan, Lord Roland, and Roland's mysterious brother grows more real to Isidore — and more terrifying — by the day. The last of four books in an acclaimed series, PAGAN'S SCRIBE casts the worldly, wise-cracking Pagan in an unexpected role as friend and mentor to a young soul in need.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600L (What's this?)

Series: Pagan Chronicles (Book 4)

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; First Edition edition (February 3, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076362022X

ISBN-13: 978-0763620226

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,776,576 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #202 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Epilepsy #347 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval #382 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I was a great lover of the first three Pagan books, and so I was overjoyed when I got my hands on this fourth one. It was all that I hoped for and more. This story takes place twenty years after "Pagan's Vows" and in it Pagan is the Archdeacon. Also, this book is told from the point of view of

Isidore, a suspicious and bitter youth who is also deeply religious. As usual, the author manages to incorporate many themes including heresy, war. The only bad thing about his story is that most of Pagan's wit and funny, clever remarks are lost. The author attempts to recreate this intelligence in Isidore, but the effect just isn't the same. This book is a real tearjerker, and I was up half the night after I finished reading just thinking about what I had just read. This story packs so many themes in one novel that the reader needs some time to digest all the information. I also particularly like the epilogue at the end. I'm still not sure that this story is true, but the epilogue certainly suggests it. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Middle Ages, especially the Crusades. It makes much more sense if you have already read the three others. You can still read it without this knowledge but it is much more confusing, since many characters and themes are resurrected from Book Two. I recommend the series to anyone who likes to read, though there is some strong language and a few themes that might not be appropriate for younger readers.

I bought this book 2 years ago, and I'm rereading it right now. This is, without a doubt, one of the best series I have ever read. The final book brings some pretty intense plot twists, but it's an amazing read. When I ordered this book, I remember waiting anxiously for it after having finished the first three. The book came quickly, and was totally worth the wait. Pagan rocks :)

The enemy. When will they come? What will they do? What does an army look like, encamped around a city? I've read so much, but I just can't imagine it. This final novel in the Pagan series is told by bookish and rather delicate Isadore, who leaves his home village, where books are so hard to come by, to become scribe to Pagan, now Archdeacon of Carcassonne. Isadore can hardly believe so irreverent a man could attain such a high position in the Church. But he soon learns Pagan's worth, not to mention how dangerous the world outside his little village is, for this is 1209, the year in which Papal forces from the north begin their bloody crusade against the Cathar heretics, and the battle line quickly moves closer to Carcassonne. From the quote with which I start this review, it can be seen that Catherine Jinks doesn't abandon the spare writing style she used for Pagan's voice in the rest of the series. However, readers are left in no doubt that the narrator's character and personality are nothing like those of Pagan. While Isadore has many endearing qualities, most readers will find him less appealing than Pagan. I personally missed Pagan's sarcastic and humorous comments but still found this book as fast-paced and engrossing as the previous three.

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