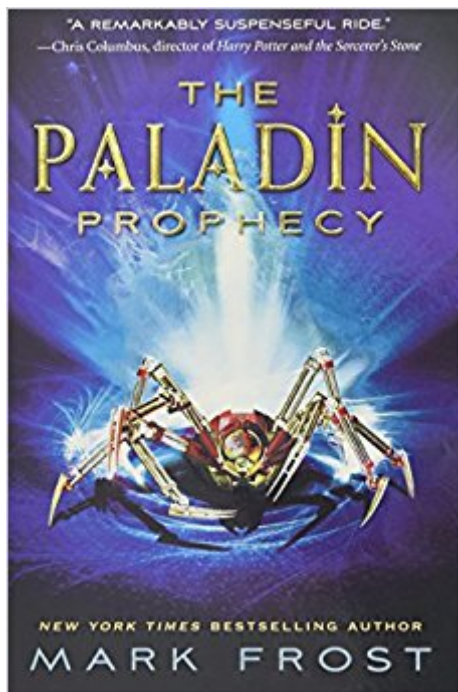


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The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1



Synopsis

From the co-creator of the groundbreaking television show *Twin Peaks* comes an exciting adventure series with a unique combination of mystery, heart-pounding action, and the supernatural. Meet your new action-adventure addiction! Will West is careful to live life under the radar. At his parents' insistence, he's made sure to get mediocre grades and to stay in the middle of the pack on his cross-country team. Then Will slips up, accidentally scoring off the charts on a nationwide exam. Now Will is being courted by an exclusive prep school . . . and followed by men driving black sedans. When Will suddenly loses his parents, he must flee to the school. There he begins to explore all that he's capable of--physical and mental feats that should be impossible--and learns that his abilities are connected to a struggle between titanic forces that has lasted for millennia.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL700L (What's this?)

Series: The Paladin Prophecy

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 411 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,465 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in *Books > Teens >*

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Adventure > Fantasy #939 in *Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy >*

Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Exclusive: Mark Frost's Top Eleven Television Shows by Decade A Highly Personal Inventory, Chosen Mostly for Personal Reasons 1960s: The Andy Griffith Show • I visited the set at age ten and met Andy and Ron, who showed me the jail

cell—its secret back escape route. The Man from U.N.C.L.E.—inspired my first (unpublished and unpublishable) novel, written when I was eleven. The Prisoner—which blew my mind and taught me (foreshadowing) that a TV show didn't have to follow the rules. . . . 1970s: Mister Rogers—because I worked my way through college on the production crew (with a young stand-up named Michael Keaton), and because Fred Rogers was and is the best human being I've ever been privileged to know. The Six Million Dollar Man—because it was my first professional WGA gig, three weeks out of college, which soon led to . . . 1980s: Hill Street Blues—where for three years I learned from the best: my boss, Steven Bochco, and my senior colleague David Milch. I went to work every day unable to imagine a better job. Hill Street Blues was a hugely influential show that is now almost absurdly underappreciated. The "Showtime" Lakers—no one made better television than those guys. 1990s: Twin Peaks—because my buddy Dave and I just went for it, and had more fun than humans should be allowed to have. Seinfeld—because my dad played George (almost) father-in-law, and because nothing ever made me laugh more until . . . 2000s: Curb Your Enthusiasm—funniest show ever, and . . . The Sopranos—the most important TV drama ever. Period. The end. 2010s: Not officially on the list yet because the decade is young, and so is the show, but getting closer . . . Boardwalk Empire.

Honorable Mentions: ABC's Wide World of Sports, SportsCenter (with Dan and Keith), The Larry Sanders Show, The Tonight Show (with Johnny Carson), BBC's new Sherlock, and Downton Abbey. "Fantasy, Mythology, and Metaphor"—An Essay by Mark Frost Relax. I'm not referring to anything you might have covered—or been bored to petrification by—in English class. I'm talking about stories that grab you by the eyeballs, bury their fangs in your forehead, and won't let you go until the last words are graven onto your sated, saturated brain. The kinds of stories that keep you up at night because you're in a reading fever and physically can't put them down. Those stories, the ones you'll never forget, that put a spiritual brand on you you'll wear for the rest of your life. When I was a kid, fantasy was scorned as a literary ghetto, a refuge for lunatics and sweatshop hacks. Conan, Doc Savage, even Tarzan got the treatment back then. Almost exclusively paperbacks, they had lurid covers that pandered to the furtive and sensational; in other words, the perfect food for the teenage audience in the 1960s—anything that smacked of rebellion, breaking our suburban shackles and taking a big fat bite of escape. We have another word for those books now. Classics. And that homely little twisted Rumpelstiltskin of a genre is now the nuclear reactor powering the entire entertainment-industrial complex. The first time I saw Gandalf and Frodo on-screen in The

Fellowship of the Ring, I burst into tears. At last, I thought, at last, it's all come to pass. Why? How did it happen? Because fantasy and mythology speak to us and for us, in the deepest possible ways. They're our inner life made manifest, the lifeblood of the human animal. From cave paintings to multiplexes, they are our life, our history, our spirit, our DNA. They are the freedom and imagination and the power of dreams that make life worth living. There is a fundamental conflict on this planet that's as old as time. On the one hand are the forces that want everything contained, ordered, counted, and accounted for. On the other hand are those crazy-brave, shamanistic souls who realize that the inner life is the field where everything in creation, including you, is connected to everything else is the only thing that matters. You have a choice in this life. Sign up with that first bunch, and sign away your ability to make life an adventure. Oh, sure, you might make a whopping pile of scratch and get more than your share of "things," but the beating heart of your spirit will spend its life in a cage of gold, wondering what it's like out there where the wild things run free. Take the second route, and what you'll find out there is yourself. The "you" no one else can shake, rattle, or roll. That's where metaphor comes in: all useful, powerful art is a metaphor for the journey you have to make. No one can take it in your place. But, lucky for you, you can rely on the words of all those who made the trip before you and lived large enough and long enough to write about it. Fantasy and mythology are the gateway to your individualized adventure. Don't listen to anybody who tries to tell you different; they're playing for the other side. They want you in a cubicle, playing it safe, making them money. Get started today. Open that book and dream. Keep searching until you find the metaphor that works for you. That's your map. Your territory is waiting for you. What are you waiting for? Art is a set of wings to carry you out of your own entanglement. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr 7 Up-Will West has tried to obscure his special abilities all his life, at his parents' request. He makes a point of getting average grades, and he is careful to hold back when running cross country. However, when he gets a phenomenally high score on a standardized test, he finds himself running from strangers in black sedans who have abducted his parents and are targeting him for some reason. His only hope is to make his way to the Center for Integrated Learning, which has contacted him after finding out about his test score. Once there, Will can unleash his hidden physical and psychic abilities, but he and his new friends must also contend with school bullies who are part of a group connected to otherworldly beings from the Never Was. There is nothing terribly original here. The story is long on action and high-tech gadgetry, but short on plausibility, even for a sci-fi/fantasy

novel; for example, the taxi driver who has just met Will smuggles him past a police roadblock, gives him an untraceable cell phone, and subsequently carries out complex espionage missions for him. Much of the plot, including the mysterious Paladin Prophecy, is unclear, though this may be cleared up in the next volume. While this title might appeal to readers of Pittacus Lore's *I Am Number Four* (HarperCollins, 2010), its length may prove discouraging to reluctant readers. A film version is due out in 2014.-Kathleen E. Gruver, Burlington County Library, Westampton, NJÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Paladin Prophecy totally awed me. I almost passed up the opportunity to read it because the plot summary wasn't grabbing me. But on a whim, I figured "Why not" and dove right in. I'm so glad I did! For me, this book was right on par with *Insignia*, both in style/story and in how much I loved it. The Paladin Prophecy is like Harry Potter style school/fantasy, meets "kids save the world" Percy Jackson, meets insanely awesome mind-blowing "OHMYGOD I WANT THAT" technology, meets the page-turning awe that is Dan Brown conspiracy/history-brought-to-life/secret society. Put it all together and you get this incredibly original story that will suck you in and won't let you go. The first thing I have to talk about is the characters, because wow, the characters are really what make this book absolutely freakin' incredible. Every single character in this book is so alive and filled with amazing personality. I actually didn't fully appreciate Will's character until maybe 100+ pages into the book. The first part of the book is largely Will on his own, running from danger, and maybe interacting with one or two people here and there. But when Will settles into his new group of friends, he really comes alive! He has this cocky, witty personality that really shines when he's stepping up to bullies. He doesn't take any crap from them and he makes that so obvious. IT'S AWESOME!!! Like, wow. The other characters in the book are equally amazing. They're all hilarious and quirky in their own ways and had me cracking up. I want to be friends with these people! Seriously! Where can I find them?? Why aren't my friends that cool?? "I happen to be sitting on the sickest, most awesome idea for a social network site ever. [...] I take all the best parts of YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook, and combine them into a whole new service called... YouTwit-face."--ARC of The Paladin Prophecy, Page 173 As for the story, sometimes I honestly felt like I had no idea what the heck was going on, but I didn't care, because something kept me absolutely glued to this book. I just sat down and read and read and read, because I had to know what the heck was going on and I was eager to absorb every word until my eyes bled! I literally had no idea where this book was leading for the longest time. I just couldn't get my head around what to expect -- is this magic? Is

this kick-butt X-Men genetic evolution? Is this Dan Brown conspiracy? I had no idea, but it just wasn't something I was worrying about. I was too busy cracking up over the hilarious dialogue, or wishing the characters existed in real life, or just enjoying the action and mysterious plot as it was developing. I realized that this book is about the ride; it's about the not knowing; and it's about trying to solve the mystery of what's going on. Throughout the book, we learn about 100 different "rules to live by" that Will's father drilled into him as he was growing up. At first I thought these rules were kind of weird and cheesy but pretty soon I was retracting that statement. They're pretty awesome, and surprisingly good advice. They definitely gave the story a little something extra, since they kept popping up in good moments. I actually felt like I was learning life advice from this book, as weird as that sounds! here are a few examples: #5 TRUST NO ONE #7 DON'T CONFUSE GOOD LUCK WITH A GOOD PLAN #26 ONCE IS AN ANOMALY. TWICE IS A COINCIDENCE. THREE TIMES IS A PATTERN. AND AS WE KNOW... #27 SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH A BULLY IS TO HIT FIRST. HARD. --ARC of The Paladin Prophecy I won't reveal anymore because part of the fun of the book is seeing these rules for yourself as the story develops. ;) The end of this book was an absolute whirlwind of action and puzzles. Parts of it were honestly a little confusing to me, but I think that might have been the formatting on my e-ARC. We suddenly hear from a bunch of different points of view but there were no section separators (and not even extra line breaks) to tell me when the POV was switching, so it got a little crazy. But I'm sure this will probably be better laid out in the final copies! I definitely recommend this book a hundred times over if you like action, mystery, a bit of science, and some crazy fantasy X-Men type stuff. This book could easily be the next Percy Jackson & the Olympians!

From the very first chapter until the last this book will grab you and bring you in for the kill. I could hardly wait for the second book to come out and now that I've read that, I want the third book now! This story begins with a young kid who doesn't realize who he is, what he is, or even what he'll be once he reaches his full potential. The drama doesn't start and the thrills never end. The good thing about all of this is it never stops. I hate books that make me want to finish them in a day, I didn't, but it wasn't for lack of effort. I love these new characters, funny, witty, tough, intelligent and their special abilities that begin to manifest throughout the book. You'll love the character of DAVE, but Will is your central hero, one you will like Will a whole lot. Monsters, weird whatchamacallits keep showing up throughout the plot. I couldn't get enough and if you think this book is great, which you will trust me, the second book really keeps you at the edge of your seat trying to figure out "What the hell is going on!"

I have known author Mark Frost since I read the galley for "The List of 7" in August 1993. I was intrigued by the premise that before Arthur Conan Doyle wrote "A Study in Scarlet," he had experienced some strange events in his own life. "The Paladin Prophecy" is Mr. Frost's first YA novel, and I am really enjoying it. Piggybacking on the Harry Potter novels with a twist of X-Men First Class, he has created the first book in a brand new series. Before young Will West of Ojai, California gets kidnapped, he is whisked away to The Center. It's a high school academy in Wisconsin (of all places) where he meets other exceptional youngsters. Don't be fooled by the tranquil setting of The Center, danger still lurks within and without. I had only one problem with the story: the dialogue between the young characters. I'm around high-school-aged students every day, and none of them sounds quite like those at the Center. The words seemed a bit contrived to me. If "The Paladin Prophecy" is a fun read for someone who is 61*, I'm sure younger adults will enjoy it as well.

WOW. Good read. Yes this would be a good read for teens. It moved along very well and very well written. This book would be a hit at the movie box office. If you like a mix of fantasy, science and kids finding refuge in a specialized school. Go for it. Cannot wait to read the second book. Find Mark Frost an excellent story teller.

This was a fresh new novel in the young adult genre. The characters are likeable. The complication is interesting. The details are doled out just regularly enough to keep you interested, without making things boring or predictable. I loved the idea of inserting 'Dad's Rules' to live by into situations, as it showed the influences on Will as he grew up, and also tantalised you with the understanding that, clearly, Will is no ordinary boy. You should definitely read this book if you are a teen, you teach teens, or you were a teen.

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