



Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2)

By Bernard Cornwell

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Bernard Cornwell, now available in paperback—the sequel to **THE ARCHER’S TALE** from *New York Times* bestseller Bernard Cornwell -- the spellbinding tale of a young man, a fearless archer, who sets out wanting to avenge his family’s honor and winds up on a quest for the Holy Grail.

In 1347, a year of conflict and unrest, Thomas of Hookton returns to England to pursue the Holy Grail. Among the flames of the Hundred Years War, a sinister enemy awaits the fabled archer and mercenary soldier: a bloodthirsty Dominican Inquisitor who also seeks Christendom's most holy relic. But neither the horrors of the battlefield nor sadistic torture at the Inquisitor's hands can turn Thomas from his sworn mission. And his thirst for vengeance will never be quenched while the villainous black rider who destroyed everything he loved still lives.

From internationally acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Bernard Cornwell comes the spellbinding second chapter in his Grail Quest—the majestic epic adventure of duty, war, and destiny that began with *The Archer's Tale*.

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Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2) By Bernard Cornwell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Vagabond, the second entry in Bernard Cornwell's Grail Quest series, has been eagerly anticipated by those who read the first book, and it doesn't disappoint. Thomas has managed to survive the battle of Crécy. Still nursing his wounds, he is dispatched by the king on a mission to look into the matter of his father's inheritance, which is obscurely connected to the Holy Grail. This most precious relic of the Christian faith is a much sought-after object, offering the power of total victory in war to its owner. But Thomas finds himself in the middle of a battle against an army invading the North of England, and other shadowy forces pursuing the grail are prepared to slaughter anyone who stands in their way. In the ruins of his birthplace, Thomas discovers more about his father, and a dangerous voyage to France brings him up against his cousin and arch-enemy, Count of Astarc Guy Vexville. The stage is set for a merciless showdown.

Thomas is a protagonist drawn quite as pithily as his much-loved predecessor, and the sheer verve of Cornwell's storytelling here is irresistible. We are plunged into a distant age: bloody, colourful and dangerous. Roll on, volume three! --*Barry Forshaw, Amazon.co.uk*

From Publishers Weekly

The Hundred Years War is the bloody backdrop to this second volume of Cornwell's new series about the search for the Holy Grail (after *The Archer's Tale*). Like its predecessor, the novel follows Thomas of Hookton, an archer in the English army in the 14th century. Thomas is the bastard son of a recently murdered priest whose family claims it once possessed the Holy Grail. No one is certain the Holy Grail actually exists, but many believe it does, and kings are waging war and committing murder in the search for it. Thomas has a book of his father's, written in Latin and Hebrew, which might reveal clues to the Grail's location, if only he could make head or tails of it. But others are aware of the book's existence, and Thomas's motley enemies and rivals—including Guy Vexille, the French cousin who murdered his father; Bernard de Taillebourg, a Dominican Inquisitor who loves his job; and Sir Geoffrey Carr, a treacherous English knight—are all hot on his trail. The beleaguered young hero must also fight mercenaries, Scots and Frenchmen in gruesome, long-drawn-out battles. Cornwell is meticulous about historical facts and period detail, and his descriptions of butchery with arrow, mace and battleaxe are nothing if not convincing. As expected, the book culminates with battlefield slaughter on an epic scale. Cornwell fans will eat this up.

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From Library Journal

In this sequel to *The Archer's Tale*, gifted archer Thomas of Hookton continues his quest to avenge his father's murder and to find the Holy Grail, which King Edward III believes will help England defeat the French. Thomas finds himself embroiled in a series of events beginning with the Battle of Neville's Cross (October 1346) and ending with the English victory at La Roche-Derrien (spring 1347). Accomplished historical novelist Cornwell, creator of the "Richard Sharpe" and "Nathaniel Starbuck" series, delivers plenty of action. From English and French battlefields to the high seas and the Inquisitor's torture chamber, we follow Thomas as he defends his king, pursues his enemies, and seeks the truth of the Grail. With its wealth of likable characters and historical detail, this enjoyable, fast-paced novel will probably generate renewed interest in the Grail and the Hundred Years' War. Highly recommended for most public libraries.

--*Jean Langlais, St. Charles P.L., IL*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Roger Everman:

This Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2) without we comprehend teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2) can bring when you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Vagabond (The Grail Quest, Book 2) having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Jill Williams:

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