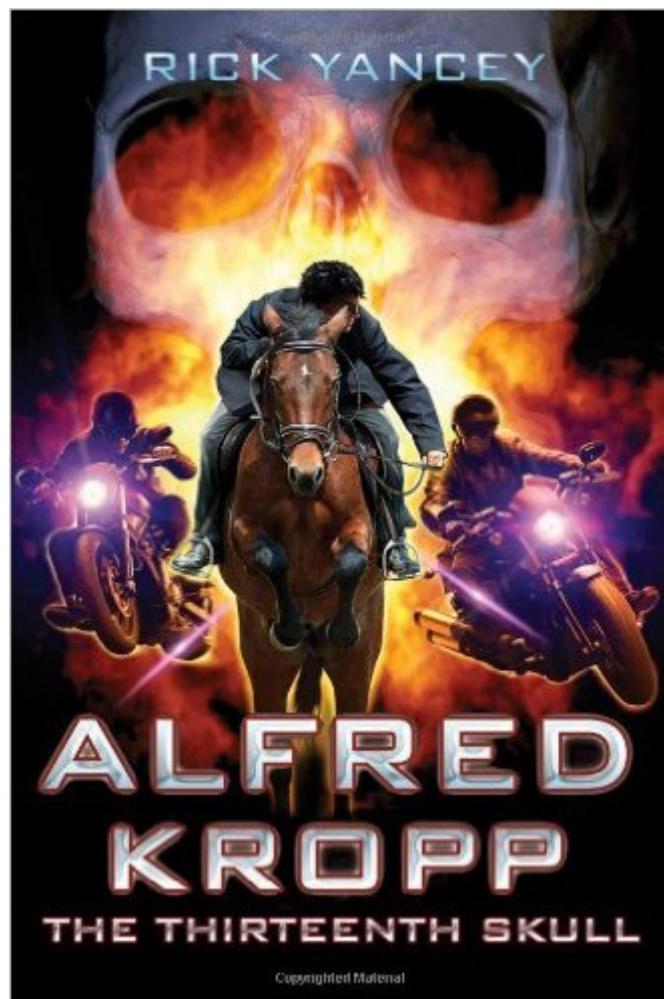


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Alfred Kropp: The Thirteenth Skull



Synopsis

First Alfred Kropp lost-and found-the legendary sword Excalibur. Then he defeated King Paimon, arguably the nastiest of demons ever to roam the earth. What could possibly be in store for him now? Plenty, it turns out. Not only is a dangerous new enemy tracking Alfred's every move, even the people who have sworn to protect him no longer seem trustworthy. Who, or what, is Sofia, and is there a connection between Sofia and the mysterious Thirteenth Skull? As Alfred struggles to hold his enemies at bay and keep his friends in even closer sight, trust and betrayal begin to clash in terrifying ways, and the reluctant hero who has always narrowly avoided death may not be getting out of this adventure alive... Just right for fans of Alex Rider and Stephen King, the third installment in this acclaimed series is a compulsive page-turner readers won't soon forget.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Alfred Kropp

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; 1st edition (July 1, 2008)

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Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #956,751 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #141 inÂ Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Arthurian #165 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #2718 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Meeting Alfred Kropp in THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ALFRED KROPP really was extraordinary! Then I eagerly read THE SEAL OF SOLOMON, wondering what could surpass the thrill of Alfred first stealing, then losing, and then recovering Excalibur, King Arthur's sword. The author, Rick Yancey, didn't let the reader down. Alfred was forced to fight demons! So, naturally, I

couldn't wait to read THE THIRTEENTH SKULL! I've rated this book Grades 6+, as I have his first two titles, but with a caveat. Mr. Yancey pulls no punches when describing the violence and clear danger Alfred faces. I do not doubt that younger readers will devour the Alfred Kropp books, but parents will want to use their discretion. Mr. Yancey doesn't even let the reader get good and comfy in their favorite reading chair before relentlessly yanking them to the proverbial edge of their seat. The first chapter starts with a bang - literally. A truck blows up beneath Alfred's new penthouse suite window, on the 30th floor of Samson Towers. In short order, one man is shot and Alfred is fighting for his life with his attacker. Soon the two are racing to the ground floor, one by express elevator, the other by parachute. And Mr. Yancey's not done yet. There's still a police car to commandeer, complete with the surprised officer at the wheel, a car chase through city streets, and yet another explosion. Once again Alfred is sucked back into the OIPEP. But can he trust the new Operative Nine? What about the beautiful new field agent? And who is trying to kill Alfred, and more importantly, why? First it was Excalibur, then the Seal of Solomon. Both times he nearly lost his life. Now it's the Thirteenth Skull. Alfred knows that this time it will be different.

I've read and thoroughly enjoyed all three books in the action-adventure series Alfred Kropp. No other book series ever excited me more than this one. From retrieving Excalibur from dark, modern-day knights, to taking on millions of demons at once, the action has never stopped, and neither have the crazy plot twists. However, all three books have their own flavor. Extraordinary Adventures was more about just the events that took place involving the Excalibur (and it's not one you've heard before) and the whole concept of a loser kid with a save-the-world responsibility, while the second one was slightly less focused on action and more about what went on inside Alfred's head (though it still had plenty of thrills). This new book pumps up the action sky-high. In a few mere minutes of reading, the book immediately explodes in a fireball of over-the-top action. You can read more about how that happens in the review from TeensReadToo.com, but if you don't want to have the surprise spoiled for you, I'd avoid reading that review. Anyway, this book is even more thrilling than the first two combined, with impossible life-or-death scenarios at every turn. With all of this, I'd say this would actually make for the best movie out of all of them. But as has been said, there's also a lot of violence so BE CAREFUL. There's beheadings in this book, and more too. As for the plot, one thing you'll really want to do is definitely read the other books in the series before you check out this one. Even if you've read them before, read them again. There's so many references to them in The Thirteenth Skull that if you don't do this, you'll be struggling to recall the events of the prequels just about every five or ten minutes.

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