



## The Reluctant Knight

*Doug Glener*

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## **The Reluctant Knight** Doug Glener

Percival Adler always dreamed of going on a quest-until he stumbled into a real one. Now he's found himself entangled in an adventure with a Mongol warlord, an insane pharaoh, and the greatest samurai of 19th-century Japan. The cast of characters takes to Manhattan in search of a legendary relic that gives its wielder unimaginable power. Inside: lost civilizations, time-traveling warriors, suspicious parents, barbarous hordes, and one unforgettable ride.

## **The Reluctant Knight Details**

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ISBN : 9780988402805

Author : Doug Glener

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Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Adventure



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## From Reader Review The Reluctant Knight for online ebook

### Niffer says

Not the best book in the world, but not bad. The characters were a little two-dimensional and stereotypical but generally likeable. The story was definitely different and kept my interest. I will likely check out the next book in the series.

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### Janet Rice says

\*\*\* This book received free through Goodreads First Reads \*\*\*

I love books about knights, fantasy and adventure ... but this one is more. Just like the main character, I felt as if I had been drawn into the adventure itself, with plot twists and storytelling reminiscent of a well-honed History Channel documentary. You're hooked from the first chapter, and the weaving of the tale leaves you wondering ... is this fantasy, or could it be real? You be the judge. A must-read in my book, and one that I will definitely re-read in the years to come.

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### Tina says

For more reviews, visit The BookLanders  
Title: The Reluctant Knight

Author: Doug Glener

Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer: Jessica

Review:

"I have watched humanity for millennia, and have come to learn that, when people are endangered, they will act like an ostrich, a crow, or an eagle. Ostriches bury their head in the sand, thinking that they will be protected from a danger if they can't see it. Such a strategy, however, does not save them. Crows are social and intelligent, but they are also petty and ill-tempered. When trouble comes, they look to their own survival first, with no thought to the welfare of the flock. But eagles soar above the mayhem. They watch the world with keen eyes, and act at the perfect moment."~ The Reluctant Knight by Doug Glener.

Percival Adler, a young boy just in high school, has been the victim of bullying. While trying to escape from his tormentors one day, he stumbles upon a world, and a quest, that will change his life forever.

One of the main things I'd like to point out about this book is that it's very well written. Great choice words, good detailing, and little to no typos. The writing flowed very nicely, and that was lovely. However, I found the first half of the book to be very slow. I had trouble getting through it. I kept finding myself wanting to read something else. But once I got past the first half, it was great. All the action scenes I had been waiting for were there. And there was also humor, which was refreshing.

However, I couldn't get attached to any of the characters. They were all a bit too flat and underdeveloped for my taste. This is something that can really make or break a book for me, and in this instance, it broke it. I was expecting to read about deep; characters with a lot of character evolution but this book did not deliver that.

Nonetheless this was a nice little fantasy story, set in a interesting world. I love how the author deals with touchy subjects such as bullying, friendship, and morale. Personally I would've liked it the book to be longer with more character development, but that's probably because I enjoy reading books of a more mature nature. I would definitely recommend this book for middle graders, and perhaps some highschoolers and adults who don't mind reading books aimed at a younger audience.

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### **Kalpit says**

The Reluctant Knight, What an amazing piece of Children/Teen fantasy fiction novel this is.  
Just as I finish reading this book, I sit with a wide grin and a joyful smile mustered across my face.

Well, just as beautiful and gorgeous the cover art is, author Doug Glener has done a splendid art writing this Gem.

This novel summarizes with bullying that's an contemporary issue in school since long. But that's just a pinch of it. It takes you on an adventure through time traveling into a history that's a perfect blend of imagination and realism.

The well researched and developed characters sucked me in right from the very beginning and I could just look at the fantasy world with the eyes of characters.

Very few novels come out that have a perfect cast and character detailing that just feels right and resonates with our soul, and The Reluctant Knight is one of such book.

I can write and talk about the splendidly well developed characters all day long as I was highly intrigued by each and every character.

Whether they were real teenagers or the Samurais, knights or mongols warlords, they each seem highly convincing and ever appealing.

Doug Glener advertises the novel as Percival Alder (main character) stumbling onto a quest and Yes, He actually goes into a quest that's far larger and interesting than I ever thought.

The character casting was huge and It was intertwining every time a new Warlord or King or Knight was introduced. It was a perfect charade between Good vs Evil (that I'm a fan of).

I'm sad that I was a bit evasive picking up this novel at first (I'm in love with it now), since this is a novel Fantasy fans won't want to miss out.

The most beautiful thing about the book is the writing style, language and specially the spunk of author. No explicit language and no typos to get mad at. Doug, although he worked hard to write the novel, I feel it's just his natural ability to swathe the beautiful words into a priceless craft that makes me attend some vocabulary sessions/tuition.

Great idiolect and superb choice of words.

Where most of the new authors are arduous on their writing, Doug clearly wins the game when it comes to the most transparent yet wacky, intriguing, spunky, adorning and enticing writing style. Doug clearly made the whole writing appear effortless. Salute!

There were many short lines in the book that were catchy and just stick with the deepest part of heart as they are morally right and highly inspiring/motivating.

Personally, I've noted many of the inspiring lines in my personal journal)

Specially the old, "Ostrich/Crow/Eagle" moral theme was the thing most of the decisions Percival (our hero) made through out the adventure.

It makes me pause and think "Am I really living like an Eagle? I surely don't want to be Ostrich, Crow is not my nature, but I'm neither an Eagle."

Percival, though a teenager, often stumbles to guide his life and decisions to be an Eagle and live with courage (With Eagle, I mean the attitude and courage of eagle).

We get to learn the about, Decisions, what is it to appear to do right or to actually do right at the eyes of Percival. Salute!

A good point noted :- Courage does not mean one not being afraid. BUT, It means doing the right thing even though one is afraid.

Coming to the story line, It's a happy ending and Dungeon and Dragons is the main theme the story is based upon.

It's full of surprises and intrigue as more than half of the novel finishes and still we are deserted from what the quest Percival might be stumbling into? Will it be happy ending? Will he finally defeat the dark and rise good again? Will he save the world? Will his friends support and be alive? Lots of questions that remain suspenseful through out the very end.

Just as we are invited to join the adventure into the time traveling, realm of history starts kicking in. Percival is taken many many years back in timeline through a portal where he meets the bravest and greatest Japanese swords man of all time "Teshu". Lord Arwain was one of the most suspenseful character (won't give away spoiler, but he plays a major role at the ending).

It's Lord Arwain vs Raeben (good vs evil).

Teshu being in Lord Arwain team and Cambyses being in Raeben's team were the main characters in the play.

The innocent Percival jeopardizes between the two and he has to decide what would be his choice of life. To be Ostrich~Crow~Eagle .

Would he be fearless and give his best to save the world?

Would he end the quest to manifest the best for humanity and world?

Will the friendship between the three musketeers finally continue?

Another inciting thing that kept me hooked to the novel was,

Unlike all the other fantasy novels which usually takes place in History or In space/other planet or other world,

The Reluctant Knight takes place in our today's current world.

The plot is set in New York/New Jersey and a short brief in Manhattan.

Rather than the quest taking place in some unfathomable time, and Percival traveling into some uncharted territory,

It's the mongol warlords, Samurai, Warriors, Knights and Kings who travel to our world, straight to New York/New Jersey through the portal.

That's what makes the novel so much interesting as it's a concept less common to fantasy books.

Doug smartly crafted the story and keep the suspense enclosed till the very end which unfolded with alluring surprise and plastered a wide smile on my face, which shall surely return every time I think of it.

At first the cover art looks just a beautiful piece of art, but once I read the story, I see it with much more deeper point of view. This cover art is one of the most well designed art that speaks of the entire clue/key to the quest.

Well, you won't know unless you read the novel and specially the end.

Apart from it's fantasy/fiction story, This novel also teaches a lot about Morale and friendship. It doesn't only changes the life of the characters in the book, but will surely change the life of readers as well.

I might be goggling over the internet searching for the characters and the described history if it has any sort of existence. Yes, I'm highly impressed by the overall writing style, History, Characters and specially, the best part for me, Vocabulary and choice of words.

Finally, This is a Novel that I highly recommend you to read at some part of your life.

Although this novel is intended to 10 plus, I believe it shall interest and surprise even teens and adults.

Thumbs UP!!!

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## **Taylor says**

I received a copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads.

The Reluctant Knight was somewhere between a decent first novel and a that particular brand of fan fiction which combines fantasy and autobiography.

The premise of the book is intriguing - some of the coolest figures in historical fiction erupt through a portal and into "just a regular teenager's" modern world. Medieval knights, samurai, crazed pharaohs, Viking giants, witches of Greek myth, mysterious wizards, and vicious barbarians are all encountered by the young hero and his posse.

However, there's something ever-so-slightly off about them: some characters have been given names we know out of other works. The Graeae of Greek myth are borrowed by name, with their good pall Halfdan Ragnarsson (who has been imagined here as a giant). The protagonists know this because they do an online search for the characters they encounter, providing an expository badge of authenticity. Other characters - Lord Arwain and King Alfred - are given generic names evocative of fantasy standbys - Gawain and Arthur, perhaps. In fact, King Alfred has to correct the awestruck Dungeons & Dragons fanboys when they mistake him for Merlin's famous protege.

Speaking of Dungeons & Dragons... well, that in itself is a major plot device. Real-world examples of

science fiction and fantasy form the basis of Percival's desire to go on a quest (a desire that dissolves when he finally gets the opportunity and spends the rest of the book fretting about his fearful instinct to bury his head in the sand). These examples, like the fantastical characters, are a hodge-podge of real and imagined works: The Lord of the Rings, the legend of the Fisher King, Dungeons & Dragons... and several Disney characters (!?) are all referenced multiple times - along with something called The Elfin Chronicles, a series which doesn't seem to exist but has nevertheless been assigned a number of specific titles within The Reluctant Knight.

With so many fourth wall shattering references peppered throughout, including the name of the author's New Jersey high school, you get the sense that you're reading fan fiction about the author's epic quest through high school daydreams. The frequent use of esoteric terms in italics (a personal pet peeve) further distances the reader from the narrative. The author clearly expects us to know martial arts terms such as *gi*, *sensei*, and "*ki-ai*," because he doesn't explain them. He nevertheless emphasizes them throughout as words that are probably foreign to you.

Overall, young readers who are fans of epic quests and vaguely medieval fantasy could do worse than The Reluctant Knight. The variety of characters and time periods is admittedly ambitious, and the format of the quest featuring a reluctant hero is familiar enough to be relatable. Adult readers will likely find the haphazard inclusion of existing legends and references in an original plotline to be jarring - an effect exacerbated by frequently redundant or inconsistent prose.

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### **Gary Blair says**

great book throws you into action of book right away. great group of characters each with their own personality the only disappointing thing is they didn't leave anything for a sequel at least their wasn't a hing t of one

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### **Ash Rowe says**

As an adult I thought it was okay. I liked the Mythology and the historical fiction that played into it. The overall message was nice for the kids. My boys loved it. They liked the action and they are a fan of ninjas and knights so of course this was a hit for them. It was a nice read out loud bed time story for them and it gave us things to look up later and learn about.

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### **Brittney says**

I was given a copy of this book to review by the author through Goodreads First Reads.

When I first read the book description, I was excited. And expecting lots of action, cool battle scenes, an epic journey. Well, maybe my expectations weren't *that* unbelievably Lord of the Rings high, but they were raised due to the little blurb. Unfortunately, this book didn't meet them. It took me almost a week to get through the first chapters, and almost a month for the first half. The second half I finished in a matter of hours, that's where my action scenes were waiting! The very end felt somewhat flat and out of sync with the rest. (view spoiler) I can't say this was a completely bad book, just don't come into it with high hopes because of how

good the blurb sounds.

Percival (named after King Arthur's famed Knight) is a 'loser' nerd. He gets beat up/picked on by bullies frequently. The highlight of his week is D&D night when his friends Dillon and Chaz come over and they get lost in their campaigns. That all changes when he accidentally comes across a door in the woods behind the school while running from Huey, Dewey, & Louie, the school bullies. Going through the door he meets Arwain, and his 'knight' Tesshu. Because of this meeting, he not only involves himself(view spoiler) in a plot to stop the destruction of the world by the evil Raeben.

Percival's personal change that happens over this week period is somewhat realistic. He doesn't all of a sudden become an eagle after being an ostrich. After quite a bit of soul searching, and a couple life or death situations, he finds his backbone and develops his character. The rest of the motley crew, are less so. I'm still trying to figure out at what point Chaz decided he could stand up to the bullies(view spoiler), or why Dillon (even with the proof before his eyes) become the steadfast sidekick. (view spoiler) And just what the heck is going on with Moebius?

Personally, I would have liked the book to be a little longer with some more character development going on. This book might have appeal to a younger audience, I don't have anyone to test this theory on.

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### **Brandi says**

I won this book from the Goodreads website.

I thought this book was just cute, kind of like a child's fantasy. It was well-written and easy to follow. The characters were engaging and unique. The book kind of reads like a daydream that may be going through the mind of a young person as they are reading fantasy novels, as it melds together character-types from a variety of different themes, such as pharaohs, samurais, witches and giants. I believe any young person with a strong interest in the fantasy genre would enjoy this book and I would not hesitate to purchase any further additions to this book (sequels) or other works by Doug Glener.

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### **William Doonan says**

This is adorable. The adventure is engaging enough for a younger reader, yet complex enough for an adult. Adding to the fun are the fascinating historical characters woven into the narrative. Makes me want to play Dungeons & Dragons again, maybe for an hour or so.

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### **Nikki Sojkowski says**

This book was given to me in exchange for an honest review.

\*This review can also be found on my blog Love at First Write\*

My actual rating is a 3.5/5

My overall impression of this book was that it was quirky and new. The concept really had a lot of potential.

The book is about ninth grader Percival Adler and his adventure in the course of a week. He gets bullied by Huey, Dewey, and Louie, but the author never really says anything about them. Someone just tells them that it's pathetic to pick on a freshman, implying that the bullies are older I suppose. The book seems a bit underdeveloped as a whole that I'll get into later, but it also showed great potential.

It starts off with Percival running into the woods behind the school to escape his torturers where he comes across a door, which of course he goes through. This scene immediately reminded me of The Chronicles of Narnia when Eustace and Jill run through a strange door into Narnia in their attempt to escape bullies. Maybe that scene was inspiration? Or just a really suspicious coincidence... I hope it's a tribute because I enjoyed that parallelism.

Through the door, Percival meets Lord Arwain and his 7 knights. The knights each knelt before a reflecting pool and whispered words of hope to people. They're basically all the angel of the conscience (you know, the stereotypical angel/devil on the shoulder?). On the other side of the coin is Raeben and his 7 followers. They each sat next to a pool of polluted water and encourage people to do bad things. In my comparison they are clearly the devil on one's shoulder.

Percival, with the help of his two friends Chaz and Dillon, his older sister Guinevere, and a badass samurai (named Tesshu) must stop Raeben's goonies from the dead and his plan to destroy... well the tri-state area really, though he'll probably expand his vision eventually. I don't want to say too much about the plot because pretty much everything is a spoiler, but I do want to say that I thought the historical figures and weapons were researched well enough. The characters were satisfactorily described (though I'm pretty sure Tesshu's sword was never specified which was odd considering the author wrote the specific clothes that Tesshu was wearing. So I just assumed a Katana?) Anyways, King Alfred, Raeben's minions and the myth of Raeben's old home was really well gone and extremely enjoyable. The plot itself was absolutely great but the writing could have been more developed, which I hope will improve in the future :)

There were cons to the book though. As mentioned above, the main characters didn't really develop. Sure they learn to band together and Guinevere actually stands up for her brother, but they seemed very flat and unrealistic. How are things really supposed to go back to normal after a week adventure like that? And Guys/her phone can't seriously be the most important things to Guinevere, what kind of girl is she?? The kids just seemed pretty 2-dimensional and forgettable when could have been so much more. The fact that Percival's parents just happen to take him out of school for the week but don't confront the school about his bullies- Not very realistic. On top of that these "high schoolers" acted extremely childish and came across to me as elementary students at the oldest. Even the cover makes Percival look like a 5th grader. I mean, I know guys were immature in school, but no one was THAT bad in high school. The way their age group acts doesn't seem realistic at all.

Just one more thing that really ticked me off, the fact that Percival daydreamed about vanquishing the bullies to win the affections of the prettiest girl in class. She doesn't even come back into the book, so it's not even that big of a deal, but why "prettiest"? That's demeaning! She couldn't have been the funniest? Smartest? Anything that has to do with personality or talent instead of something you can't control like looks? I mean, the whole point of THIS BOOK was that Percival wasn't the hero type and certainly didn't look like a hero yet he gets his adventure to prove himself. Yet he's shallow enough to think like this about others?

In summary though, I enjoyed this book's plot and the concept was just great. Obviously I nit-picked at this a lot but these little things honestly bugged me almost the entire book. However, the Pros definitely outweighed the Cons and I hope to see more in the future from Doug Glener.

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**Olivia Wilkes says**

I loved it

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**Jamie says**

Big thanks to Goodreads giveaways for me owning this book! Signed by the author even.

This was a good book. My only problem was being a little old for it. It reads like others I had read back in middle school. That said, once I got into that type of writing again, I became immersed in Percival's world, eagerly moving to the end of the book. I wouldn't be surprised or upset to see a sequel.

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