



Kringle

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Just in time for Christmas comes a fantasy epic from one of today's most popular writers for children. It is the story of a young orphan realizing his destiny -- to become the legendary Kris Kringle.

Unlike the traditional Santa Claus myth, KRINGLE is a coming-of-age story about an orphan who becomes a force for good in a dark and violent time. It is a tale of fantasy, of goblins, elves, and flying reindeer -- and of a boy from the humblest beginnings who fulfills his destiny.

Our tale begins in 500 A.D., when goblins kidnapped human children and set them to work in underground mines. Kringle is one such child.... until he discovers his mission - to free children from enslavement. His legend lives on today, as he travels the earth every Christmas Eve to quell the goblins once more.

Kringle Details

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Author : Tony Abbott , Greg Call (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Kringle for online ebook

Phoebe says

A unique story delving into the myths and legends surrounding Santa Claus. The book is set at a real time and in a real place. Kringle is a young boy listening to the story of his birth, in a cottage deep in the woods. His foster mother, Merwen, tells him the story for the umpteenth time, when the cottage is attacked by a horde of goblins and Merwen is taken away. So begins Kringle's journey to find her, to solve the mystery surrounding his birth, and to find his destiny. The goblins are horrific, Kringle himself is a loquacious, appealing youngster, and Abbott's writing is solid. Readers will enjoy the unfolding of the legend, particularly the magical elements that Abbott strives, successfully, to include and explain (how Santa Claus can go around the world in a single night, why he lives so far north, how the elves came to be his helpers, etc.); the Nativity is also included as a parallel issue that Abbott fits quite smoothly alongside Kringle's story. Very well done. Middle grade readers and up.

Megan says

I am reading this to my class of 3rd graders and they love every minute of it and beg me to read more whenever we have time. They remember every detail. I would definitely recommend this as a read-aloud because it is so action-packed and has lots of good cliff-hangers. The kids like to piece together what they know of Santa with the events of the story. Lots of good "a-ha" moments.

Steven R. McEvoy says

Kringle is an epic story, or really a series of epic stories woven together. We have Kringle and the Goblins, Kringle and the pirates, Kringle and the magic sled, Kringle and the elves, and Kringle and Saint Alban. But what we have most of all is story and story at its finest. Madeline L'Engle says about the power of story: "We are all strangers in a strange land, longing for home, but not quite knowing what or where home is. We glimpse it sometimes in our dreams, or as we turn a corner, and suddenly there is a strange, sweet familiarity that vanishes almost as soon as it comes. In literature the longing for home is found in the many stories of paradise, of the forgotten place where we once belonged." This longing is filled through story, and as such, story encourages and challenges all aspects of spirituality, and if we allow it all aspects of life. This story has that power.

Over the last six years I have read 22 books by Tony Abbott, spanning from young readers to some very good fiction. I have enjoyed many, reread a number with my children and loved a number of them. Yet even with saying all of that, his one is by far the best I have read yet. C.S. Lewis stated "It is very rarely that a middle-aged man finds an author who gives him, what he knew so often in his teens and twenties, the sense of having opened a new door." in *On Stories: And Other Essays on Literature*, and this book achieves that feat.

This is not your typical retelling of the story of Kringle, Pere Noel, Father Christmas, Father Frost, Father Christmas that has been taken over and obscured by popular culture. Nor is it the retelling of Nicholas of Myra or Bari depending on the legends you know. But it melds the legends, into story and the story into truth that will speak to our hearts.

This story is set in the early 400's as the Romans are pulling out of Britain , the pirates of Saxons were raiding aplenty, and hermits and holy men like Alban roamed the countryside. Into this time of darkness, the light of the elves is fading, and the darkness of the goblins rising. And into this battle is born one, an orphan from birth, named for the sound of a bell is Kringle. And the fate of all is wound with this young man, for by his faith and his determination he slowly figures out what is to be done and how to do it.

The goblins have been getting bolder as the Romans retreat; they have a plan to take over the whole realm. To do this they are kidnapping children, and forcing them into slavery first in mines and then working a great war beast. For there is a prophecy of a child who will defeat the Goblin king and as such he is trying to get all children. Kringle as has been said has many adventures, and with the aid of friends and creatures is working to stop the goblins and save the children.

This was an incredible read. Maybe the best fiction book I have read in a long, long time. The story is wonderful, the characters amazing and the attention to detail in the scenery and travels amazing. On a side note I tend not to read many physical books these days, and this has been in my to be read pile for a few years because it is only available in physical. But it is also a stunning book to hold and read. It has a full color hard back book, the pages are edged in golden gilding, there are a number of full page illustrations by Greg Call that would be amazing to have framed in my den. There are also numerous drawings throughout the book and Celtic knots across the top of each page.

This book is an incredible read and I highly recommend it!

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#) and reviews of other books by Tony. As well as an author profile and interview with Tony Abbott.

Leigha says

This is a beautiful looking book, no doubt about that. The story could be an amazing one. Who doesn't think it is cool to have a Santa origin story with goblins, elves and pirates? Yes, please. To me it sounds like The Lord of The Rings with Frodo being Santa or something.

The truth is that I could not get past how random the story seemed to be. It was honestly annoying how Kringle talked out loud to himself so much about everything, as if he had an audience listening. It might have been believable if he were thinking some of the stuff to himself, but nope. I know it is realistic that there are some people who have conversations with themselves, but it felt like this aspect of Kringle was just an excuse to do nothing but telling and not showing. I felt bored.

The writing style is fine, there is nothing wrong with it per say. I just don't think it is for me at this time. It might be a mood thing; maybe I am not as into the holiday spirit as I thought. I will try to read this again at a later date.

The premise of the story really does make me want to finish it and see how it plays out. I guess only time will tell.

Patricia Kaniasty says

This was by far the best story of how Santa Clause came to be that I have ever read. It combines elements of

christianity, paganism, myth and folklore. And it works. It totally makes sense. A great read for the upcoming holidays.

Renee Wallace says

At first, I worried that the beautiful book cover would turn out to be just so much eye candy, with nothing to back it up; I was wrong!

This story ties together much of the folklore of Christmas, and, most important to me, not only does not omit the Nativity, but accentuates its importance, without coming across as overly-pious or preachy. The eternal struggle between good and evil is well defined here. The crass commercialism of "Santa Claus" seems even more offensive after reading KRINGLE, and I consider that a Good Thing.

Another bonus about this book is, boys can enjoy it as well as girls. In my job as a children's librarian, one struggle is to find "boy books." With his Droon series, Mr. Abbott is practiced at bridging that gap, and he does it again with KRINGLE. I am delighted to see this hard-cover, beautifully illustrated book published in time for the holidays. I hope we see more like this from this author, though he does a pretty good job, at the end, in declaring it was something along the lines of "just one of those things." I hope there are more ideas like this lurking in his imagination!

Sha says

I got this book sometime in elementary school through the Scholastic book pamphlets. You know, the ones teachers distribute and you take home to your family like, "Hey, hi, I want this book and this book and that book," and if you're lucky you get *one* and THIS was the one I got and to this day, no regrets. Kringle is an orphaned young boy, raised by Merwen (family acquaintance) in around 500 AD. (Don't worry too much about the date, you basically just need "a long, long time ago.") At this time, goblins roam the lands snatching children for some devious unknown purpose and Kringle and Merwen are attacked and separated.

Kringle is only twelve years old (and this is a middle grade novel) but the world-building is so strong that young adult readers will more than comfortably dig into his quest to reunite with Merwen. Kringle's determination grows as his journey progresses, slowly making him into a completely believable "Santa Claus" (that name is never used in this book though) by its end. Also, I prefer his origin story and Kris Kringle-esque feel than the normal Santa Claus pitch -- and if you're a high fantasy fan, you will adore this as well.

A huuuge holiday favourite of mine and a perfect Christmas read. I would recommend to anyone looking for a book with a Christmas twist, fans of fantasy, or for parents with kids who are losing their taste for holiday magic. Kringle shows the light of the holidays through an unexpected fantasy flair sure to have Santa non-believers giving second guesses.

Jessica says

Huh. So. This is the story of . . . a kid named Kringle . . . who lived in England in the time when the Romans were leaving. Also, this boy's parents have been killed by goblins. And his guardian, Merwen, and all the children in England with the exception of Kringle have been kidnapped by goblins. Also, Kringle meets a Christian priest having doubts. And some vikings. And there are elves who repair shoes in the night. And

Kringle wants to rescue Merwen, and the children, and help the elves find a better life, or something. . .

Yes, this book was totally baffling! There were fifty thousand subplots! It has nothing to do with Christmas until the last twenty pages! The reindeer are possessed by the spirits of the dead! I figured since this book was a) called Kringle and b) written by the author of the Secrets of Droon books, it would be a cute Christmas book to read aloud to the kids during December.

Well, aside from the last twenty pages, this was a sort of Christian fantasy novel for kids of probably ten and up, leaving my five-year-old totally mystified by most of it, and scared during others. I actually wanted to stop reading it to him, but he wanted to know what happened (to make sure Kringle didn't die). I would have enjoyed it much more if I'd just read it myself, rather than parceling it out a chapter at a time and having to skip some of the wordier passages and gloss over the scarier bits.

Abigail says

Tony Abbott's first foray into longer fiction, this fantasy follows the adventures of the eponymous Kringle, a young boy living in Britain at the time of the Roman withdrawal in 410 C.E. As order recedes with the departing Romans, danger and darkness grow, and Kringle finds himself adrift in a hostile world. Eventually involved in the struggle against the goblin hordes who threaten the land, he finds himself the unexpected leader of a crusade to free some enslaved children, and rid the land of darkness...

Abbott's melding of the traditional religious aspects of Christmas with the more pagan folkloric elements of the Santa Claus legend is admirable as a model of tolerance, but not always successful as a narrative. The story sometimes seems like a jumbled hodge-podge, with various disparate elements thrown together almost at random. Kringle becomes years older in a matter of months, with no apparent explanation, other than the expedience of such a plot device.

Note: Other fantasy retellings of the St. Nick legend include: [The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus](#) by L. Frank Baum, [Nickolai of the North](#) by Lucy Daniel Raby, and [The Legend of Holly Claus](#) by Brittney Ryan.

Tausha says

I am not much of a "goblin" story lover but this is my second time through this one. :) I have read it with my boy when he was 10 and now just made it through it with my 10 year old daughter. Fun adventurous read that was perfect for Christmas time. It is full of adventure and action, yet is clean and not too graphic and I love how the author threw in the true meaning of Christmas. I will probably dig it out in 3yrs when my next one hits 10. ;)

Erin says

I feel like this book did not deliver what I was expecting. It's a Santa coming of age story with goblins and pirates and elves and reindeer and magic and basically anything you can possibly think of. This is a poorly seasoned gumbo of fantasy lore. The very first issue I have is with the main character's name. Obviously, his name is Kringle, as the title implies, but his name comes about based on the sound a bell makes. A special bell rang on the morning he was born and his mom, who was dying, said something like, "That sound will be

his name...Kringle...". I feel like Kringle's name would have been more acceptable without that little back story. Kringle is an orphan who was raised by this woman named Merwen whose cabin Kringle's mom stumbled into during a storm and just in time to give birth to Kringle. In the first few chapters, Kringle and Merwen's home was attacked by goblins and Merwen shoved Kringle out into the snow and told him to save himself while she used her old limbs to fight off the evil creatures. I assumed Merwen was dead, but a few chapters later, Kringle was saying to himself (as he said so very many things to himself) that she was out there and his mission was to find her.

On his way, he's rescued from freezing by elves. The elves have assigned themselves the task of going around to the all the Roman strongholds and retrieving boots that need repair. So they start off as the shoemaker's elves, which is kind of cool, before they become the Christmas elves that we know today. Then Kringle goes out on a boot journey with the elves and he saves a pirate's child from goblins. The pirate father saves both Kringle and his son and pulls them both aboard his ship. The pirates in this book are not very pirate-y. The captain is quite a nice man who has no hesitation at all in taking orders from Kringle.

The next issue I have is with the story of Christmas being woven into the greater narrative. It's very, very poorly done. The writer claims that "Christ" means "the chosen one", which is doesn't, and then later calls Kringle "the chosen one". If I were a child, I would assume that this implies that Kringle IS the Christ child. Kringle is also called "the child of light" just like the Christ child is. This could be quite confusing for a child. I don't see why the story even needed to be told because it had no effect whatsoever on the narrative and each time it was brought up, I felt like it just got increasingly awkward.

Kringle as a character seems to lack depth and he just seems to magically be able to come up with a solution and the means of carrying it out whenever a problem presents itself. Basically the only redeeming quality of the book is that it gives an interesting theory for how "Santa" is able to accomplish his work every Christmas Eve. I won't say what that is here in case you feel like you need to read this book. On the whole I just felt like there was way too much trying to be accomplished within the short space of this book, which left little time to flesh out the characters suitably. And since we all know how this story would eventually turn out, I was hoping that the action in the book would make up for the fact that the reader knows the ending must be a happy one. Wrong again. I wouldn't recommend this novel to anyone in the middle-grade audience for which it is intended, nor to any adult who is looking for a bit of Christmas fun. The Yuletide season is too short to waste on this book.

Bren says

I bought this book intended to give to my daughter, Maranda (9) to read. She loves to read. The synopsis of it caught my eye. It's a book about the beging of Santa Claus. It includes Elves (good), magic (good), goblins (what?), and pirates (PIRATES?!). That caught my eye, so I ordered it.

It's over 300 pages and I decided to read it out of nothing but curiosity due to the characters listed.

I'm having trouble with my short term memory, so reading is difficult. This book, though, was so well written, caught my attention immediately, had me hooked, that I actually REMEMBERED everything I was reading!

I could not put this down. I moaned when I had to. It was THAT good.

It is a children's book, bought through Scholastic at school, but my gosh. It's a beautiful, beautiful book. If you believe in Santa (I still do and always will), then you need to read this.

It's full of magic, wonder, wars, saddness, fright, happiness, love, everything. It's so well written, so well told, I fell in love with this book.

Since I just finished it and it's now Christmas Eve, I have decided to put it in a special place and I will start to read it to my children next year before Christmas. Being 300+ pages I will probably start early December. It's THAT good I'm willing to read a book that long to my children.

I haven't read anything this beautiful in a long time. I am so grateful I bought it. So grateful curiosity got to me and I decided to read it.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who believes in Santa.

It does have a Lord of the Rings feel, though I've never read nor watched it, only what I know and describing it to my husband he said that's what it sounds like. I do not like that type of book/movie, yet this pulled me in. He's even going to read it now.

Merry Christmas to you all!

BookishStitcher says

I'm now full of the magic of Christmas spirit! :D

This fantastic middle grade novel is an epic take on the origin story of Santa. A boy in this story named Kringle who encounters goblins, elves, Romans, pirates, priests, and reindeer in his quest to end goblin control of the long winter night and bring joy to push out the fear in children's hearts.

I absolutely loved this elements of fantasy, fairy tales, and religion all brought together in just such a fun book. I'm surprised that it isn't a children's modern classic Christmas book. I enjoyed it so much, and will definitely be rereading it during future Christmases.

Alex says

I love fantasy, childrens fiction and christmas so when I saw this for only \$1.69 at the christmas tree shop i thought I hit big. This may be one of the worst books i've ever read. It's the authors first attempt at something like this, and really he should keep trying. there are a lot of badly done LOTR elements and a lot of things that just dont make sense. he tried way too hard to make things magical and adventurous and mystical and much of it is very rushed. I really wanted to like this and hoped it would be a good christmastime book, maybe even start a traditional reading of it in december, but no way.

Spencer says

This book is called Kringle and is written by Tony Abbott. This book is about Santa when he is young and growing up as Kringle. It tells the story of when the Romans left and the humans and the elvs were left to fight for themselves against each other and the goblins. It takes place in places like The Bottoms, Cragtop, and Elvenwald and many other places.

I liked the fight scenes and when he was traveling to all the different places and the characters that Kringle meets. There was really nothing that I disliked about this book.
