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Rules For A Knight



Synopsis

From Ethan Hawke, four-time Academy Award nomineeâ€”twice for writing and twice for actingâ€”an unforgettable fable about a father's journey and a timeless guide to life's many questions.Â A knight, fearing he may not return from battle, writes a letter to his children in an attempt to leave a record of all he knows. In a series of ruminations on solitude, humility, forgiveness, honesty, courage, grace, pride, and patience, he draws on the ancient teachings of Eastern and Western philosophy, and on the great spiritual and political writings of our time. His intent: to give his children a compass for a journey they will have to make alone, a short guide to what gives life meaning and beauty.Â From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For a book small enough to fit in a hip or jacket pocket, thereâ€™s a lot here to like. With its gold leaf-embossed, kelly green clothbound cover and attached gold woven cloth bookmark, *_Rules For a Knight_* is readily portable and made for ease of use, and its contents are inspiring and entertaining enough that readers will want to keep it handy and return to it often. In the *âœEditorâ€™s Note*â€•, Hawke explains that the book is his own reconstruction and interpretation of a professorâ€™s literal translation (from Cornish) of a badly damaged letter, purportedly written by a

15th-century knight and Hawke ancestor to his children on the eve of his death in a historical battle, found in the Hawkesâ™ family farm basement in the early 1970s. Hawke clearly states that the authenticity of the letter has not been conclusively established and that, where he struggled to convey the knightâ™s thoughts, he borrowed from the writings and expressions of other âœknightsâ•, most of whom are 19th- and 20th-century authors, thinkers, leaders, and artists: Emily Dickinson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bob Dylan, Victor Hugo, Vince Lombardi, Nelson Mandela, Thich Nhat Hanh, Anais Nin, River Phoenix, and Mother Teresa, to name just a few. So the book makes no claim to originality or exclusivity. The book consists largely of 20 knightly rules, (if youâ™re interested, a numbered list of the rules follows this review below) each presented in its own chapter fronted by an elegant black-and-white line drawing (by Hawkeâ™s wife, Ryan) of an avian scene and supported by a pithy definition or explanation of how to apply the rule followed by a few pages of colorful narrative explaining how the meaning or importance of that rule was impressed upon the knight.

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