

Crispin: The End of Time

Avi

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This novel is the final book of the trilogy about Crispin, an English ex-serf. The setting is in medieval times, where the manor system still existed. Crispin has managed to escape from his manor in the first book of the trilogy, and in the second book he encounters friends and loses his best friend and mentor, Bear. In the second book, Crispin hears from Bear about a country called Iceland, where everyone is free from oppression. So in this book, Crispin travels with his friend Troth to go find Iceland. Since they do not know where it is, they travel north until they cannot go any further because of exhaustion and hunger. They finally come across a Catholic convent, where nuns feed the two children and give them shelter. They learn that many of the nuns are ill, and Troth is able to help them with her knowledge of herbs. She is so good with the medicine that she is invited to stay at the convent, and she accepts.

Now Crispin is alone, and he goes north again. He meets a group of musicians who let him in their group. Their intentions are not nice, and they turn out to be thieves who want to use Crispin as bait. His voyage to Iceland continues, as he has to escape from a walled city with enemy French soldiers everywhere.

I did not like the ending of this book very much because it ended in a very awkward part of the plot. Crispin never steps foot into Iceland in the book, and the whereabouts of Troth and the thieves are never mentioned. However, I liked the whole plot from book one to three. I would recommend this for middle school students, and I would recommend this trilogy as a gift.

For readers who enjoy this book, I would recommend other historical fiction and other works by Avi.