

*Heir of the Forgotten Realm*

Michael J. Svingel

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Lukas Stanton is the last son of the Stanton house whose parents were killed by a fire when he was just an infant. He was taken in by the king of Trallia, of the Lundin house. Now a young adult, Lukas had fallen in love with Princess Lilia. Upon the night of his proposal to the princess, a large, menacing dragon, Haarlok, attacks the castle and kidnaps Lilia; Lukas had been by her side, but fled from the line of danger. King Lundin, Lilia's father, decided to allow Lukas to embark on a quest to save Lilia from Haarlok in order to regain his permission of marriage to his daughter. According to legend, in order to defeat Haarlok, one needed four pieces of sacred armor that had been scattered all over. However, in order to obtain these four pieces, it took a lot more than simply carrying through with the quest. Lukas needed overcome his deepest fears and pass tests of courage, integrity, and wisdom. With the help from an unlikely old seer, Lukas carried through the quest, discovered his true self, and gave him a brand new future.

*Heir of the Forgotten Realm* is a fantasy story suitable for middle school students. This simple tale had very little I disliked about it. One thing that I had a little trouble with was the use of unique names for the different characters. The kings, lords, and nobles were difficult to keep separate as different people; the names were foreign and sounded rather alike in their style. This was a very minor detail that distracted me while reading, though.

The aspects of this story that captivated me were overwhelming. The intense start throws the reader directly into the middle of an internal conflict with Lukas. It really caught my attention and kept me reading for hours until I finished; I wanted to find out what exactly the conflict was and how he eventually solved it. Another aspect I admired of the story was the lessons taught by the end of the book. Though the lessons were ones parents are most likely to teach to their children, I feel that lessons taught and enforced by books are more likely to be retained. On the whole, I really enjoyed reading *Heir of the Forgotten Realm*. I would definitely purchase this book for my middle school friends to read.