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Mammoth Boy



Synopsis

Three days he travelled, in a relentless line towards the mountains, never coming nearer, till late in the third afternoon the light changed as though after rain and the air grew transparent. His eager eyes could see snow on the summits and shoulders of the vast range, but what excited him most were the streaks of ice, huge glaciers, reaching down the valleys. Land of ice even in the summer time. Old Motherâ€™s girlhood homeland. She who had drawn him a mammoth. Itâ€™s around 15,000â€“12,000 BC, the Late Stone Age, and an orphan boy is surviving on the fringes of a huntersâ€™ camp. Aâ€™ passion to find mammoths has been ignited in him by Oldâ€™ Mother, the ancient crone who guards the camp fire and cares for him. In his travels to find the mammoths, he is adopted by a mysterious hunchback, Agaratz, who lives alone in a cave and is perhaps the last of a vanished people. Urrell learns survival and instinct as a stone-age hunter as well as gaining insight into the meaning of the cave paintings of deer, bison, mammoths and other creatures. The story culminates in a long journey to the Great Meet of the Clan Groups where rites de passage are held in caves, goods traded and mates secured. Time sometimes slips, and when the powers that Agaratz holds are transferred to Urrell, they will be a match for those of the leader of the rites, the horned shaman and his acolytes. But who will win? Mammoth Boy recreates the semi-magical world of the cave paintings seen through the mind of a boy growing into manhood. It was inspired by an archaeological course in Spain and will appeal to young adults interested in archaeology and recreative pre-historical fiction.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy John Hart's books; however, this one was poorly written, full of misspellings, and ungrammatical. Besides hardly having a plot and no real conclusion. My conclusion is that this must have been Mr. Hart's first ever published novel.

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This was an unexpected read for me. Although the structure and flow of the book was very correct, I oft felt the words used to be too strange to English. I love to read Hart's books, but this one was so different, I could put this book down for a couple of days. Then, I'd remember, "Oh, I need to finish that book." His other books, I couldn't put down.

All of John Hart's books are amazing. I had this one put on my Kindle because I thought it probably would not be as much to my liking as his other books. I was pleasantly surprised and really enjoyed it, though it was totally different than his other novels.

I give this book a 5 star, I enjoyed the historical value as well as the story spun. It was an excellent read! Awesome story I wish there was a sequel, I would love to read the adventures of the boy now a married man!Margaret

It was my fault, I really like the AMERICAN author John Hart. Did not realize this man was from England. I felt after 2 chapters this was a middle school book not an adult book. My husband didn't care for it either.

I thought it was pretty predictable and redundant. I enjoyed the first half but felt there was a lot of repeat experiences. Could be just not my cup of tea!

I know this is a fantasy, but a very realistic fantasy. I very seldom enjoy a book as much as I enjoyed this one. I normally scoff at the term page turner. Not since Harry Potter have I enjoyed a book this much.

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