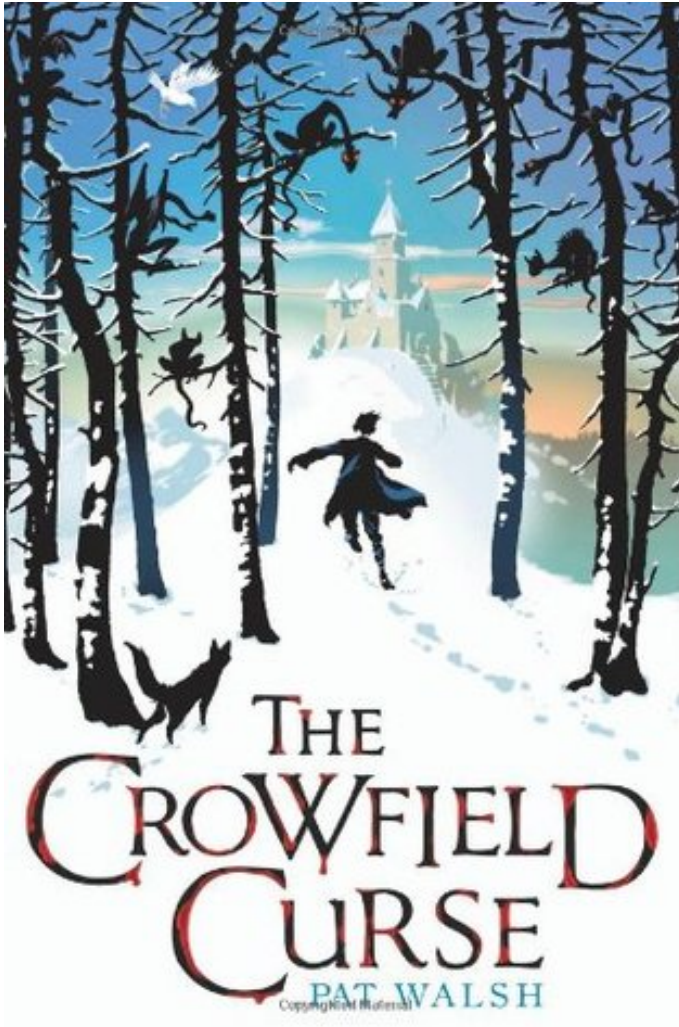

Pat Walsh

The Crowfield Curse (Crowfield Abbey #1)



Title: The Crowfield Curse (Crowfield Abbey #1)

Author: Pat Walsh

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Description

An angel is buried behind the abbey! It's 1347, and Will, an orphan boy, lives and works as an apprentice of the Crowfield monks. Sent into the forest to gather firewood, he stumbles across a trapped, wounded creature no bigger than a cat. The little goblin shares a terrible secret: Buried deep in the snow behind the monastery is an angel. But, Will wonders, how can an angel die? And what does this angel have to do with the history of Crowfield? When two cloaked strangers show up and start asking questions, Will is drawn into a dangerous world of Old Magic.

Insightful reviews

Jenny / Wondrous Reads: Pat Walsh's atmospheric debut offering is a historical fantasy with a magical twist. Gone are the expected swords and battles, and in their place are mysterious angels and loveable hobs.

A hob is a fay creature, with similar physical attributes to that of a fox. They can hold conversations as well as the next human, and prove quite useful when unravelling age-old mysteries of angels buried in nearby forests. Brother Walter is a lovely little guy, and due to my enthusiasm for tiny creatures, I fell in love with him straight away. He was by far my favourite character, though Brother Snail came a close second. I had a bit of trouble connecting with William, just because he didn't present himself as a particularly endearing character. I liked him more as I got to know him, but he didn't leave a strong impression on me.

The setting of *The Crowfield Curse* is fairly unusual for a YA book, and isn't something I remember coming across before. An isolated abbey makes for an intriguing place of residence for the monks, and provides a sense of isolation that makes the story seem that much more ominous.

The arrival of two strangers sees life at Crowfield Abbey take a turn for the creepy, and William uncovers a local legend of sorts. With the help of Brother Walter and Brother Snail, a fascinating history unfolds, and that's when the story really finds its feet. Up until that point, things move along at a fairly slow pace, while Walsh sets everything up with the utmost attention to detail.

1347 is an interesting time period to explore, and this is one of *The Crowfield Curse's* most appealing elements. Walsh took a chance on an almost forgotten time, and I think it more than paid off. I can't wait for the sequel and the return of the fay creatures, and I just hope Brother Walter keeps himself out of trouble!

Cornerofmadness:

This was a younger YA that's been popping up in my book list (age group ala Percy Jackson). It's set in a medieval monastery which should tell you right off there isn't much in the way of women in this and they would be inappropriate given the setting. The story revolves around young William, an orphan now being raised as a monastery servant. He was the only survivor of

a mill fire that took his family and he has the Sight, i.e. can see the fae folk. About his only friends in Crowfield is Brother Snail, a monk with a bone disease where he's curling in on himself and stiffing up and Peter, the mildly retarded lay brother.

It opens with Will finding a Hob with his foot stuck in a metal trap. Freeing the hob, Will rescues him, taking him to Brother Snail, the healer. Snail and he nurses the hob back to health forging a bond. The monastery, a very poor one, has just been paid a large sum of money to house Master Bone and his servant Shadlock but when he gets there they learn he is a leper.

Also he and Shadlock, along with Will for other reasons, are trying to work out the 'curse.' It turns out a century before an Angel was killed in the woods. The monks took a feather and buried it. Shadlock and Bone are both cursed by the Unseelie king. Bone was a human musician who had the favor of the Seelie queen and Shadlock was her warrior.

Will doesn't really want to help the cold Shadlock but he has little choice. He is swept up in the search to find the angel but the Unseelie king kills them all.

I enjoyed this far more than I thought I would. Will is engaging and the storytelling is well paced and exciting. It's the first in a series (goodreads says it's only a two part series but I could see the potential for more.) I will definitely be looking for the sequel.

Sesana: Some very good things here. The setting, for one. Solidly medieval fantasy is unusual in books aimed at middle grade and young adult audiences. And Walsh has obviously done a lot of research into life in a medieval monastery. Better yet, she doesn't let her enthusiasm for the period get away from her. I've read too many books by authors who get so enthused with what their research has uncovered that they forget they're writing a novel. The mythology she builds has enough elements to make seasoned fantasy readers feel familiar with her world, while still adding individual touches to make it her own. For example, both the Seelie and Unseelie courts come into play, if not exactly featured, but so do angels. Fairies and angels, not exactly a usual combination.

Walsh has a gift for setting. Her descriptions of the cold, bleak Crowfield Abbey and the woods around it were vivid enough to leave me shivering. I could picture everything that she described, and she didn't spare the description. I liked how she didn't reserve the full descriptions for what would eventually become important to the plot. It made Crowfield feel that much more real.

I also appreciate how the story wrapped up. The Crowfield Curse is definitely a single story, with a beginning, middle, and end. And yet there are plenty of loose ends, enough to avoid a sense of finality without leaving the reader frustrated with a cliffhanger ending. Which is exactly how I prefer a book that's part of an ongoing series to end, especially when I'm unlikely to finish.

So why's that? Simply put, I couldn't get attached to Will. I don't have an issue with the way he's written. His voice rings true, in his time and in his circumstances. But I still couldn't bring myself to like him much, to root for him, want him to do well, and be interested in how his story turns out. I have no doubt that other readers will love him, but it was just a misfire for me.

And I was a little disappointed in how she handled the local village's wise woman, Alys. ([view spoiler](#))

I can see where this would be a hard sell. What would be the audience for a middle grade or young adult book set in an authentically written medieval monastery? But those readers have to be somewhere, and this would be quite a treat for the right person.

Julie: William lives on the abbey the place the clergymen took him in after the loss of life of his family. The abbey is previous and cold, similar to many of the clergymen who stay there. sooner or later whereas doing chores Will comes throughout a creature, captured in a trap. He rescues the creature and in doing so enters an international of outdated magic he didnt even recognize existed. i actually loved this publication and cant wait to learn extra approximately crowfield and Will's adventures.

Beth: Set in 1347, the author's designated descriptions shipping you to a monastery in England. you spot the darkish gentle of wintry weather within the chilly stone abbey, suppose Will's and the monk's frost-cold fingers, pay attention the bells calling the priests to prayer, even style the horrid pottage made via the irascible prepare dinner and odor the privy. it's a tough life, particularly in winter, yet there's additionally attractiveness in Brother Snail's herb garden, within the wood's flowers and fauna, within the hot friendship between the hunchbacked infirmarer (Brother Snail) and the orphan servant boy (14-year-old Will, who misplaced his kin to a fire). Bauer's global is well-realized. The tone is spooky with the darkish Fey King who's merciless to the Seelie (Light Fey), people and animals. The plot is mysterious: one by no means particularly understands who Will can belief (except for Brother Snail). Then there's the hob, or hobgoblin, that would rescue from a capture and brings to Brother Snail for healing. he's a cat-sized creature with brown fur and a protracted (prized) tail, clever within the methods of the wild and inherbs. He makes Will take into consideration different creatures along with humans, that he percentage the area with animals and trees. because he will not provide them his name, they name him Brother Walter. Will learns he has the Sight and is ready to see the Fey as few others can. His honesty and purity additionally make him a goal for strangers who come to the abbey on a mysterious errand. Will is thrust right into a miasma of hate, long-guarded secrets, evil and curses. grasp Bone and Shadlock (who is a Seelie Fey) use Will to procure a secret, however it is Will's goodness that enables them to realize their private desires. i used to be drawn deeply into this story, in order that i needed to discover the author's web site at www.pat-walsh.com. She is an archaeologist and beginner historian dwelling in Bedfordshire, England. Her blogspot in magazine shape via Brother Snail comprises images of the English countryside, and data at the ideals and seasonal celebrations of the times. A sequel, The Crowfield Demon, is due out in Spring. i glance ahead to seeing and listening to Will's studying of the flute, Brother Walter's new existence with Brother Snail and the continuing magic of the Fey. As the days of London said: captivating, evocative, captivating and exciting.

Krysta Aryel: we're brought to a fourteen yr previous William who's dwelling in an abbey between christian priests after the dying of his family. the tale fast introduce one other personality essentially referred to as the hob, later referred to as Brother Walter, whom William

stored from an animal trap. The hob offers us the belief of magical creatures operating round during this book, and it's very interesting seeing how those magical creatures are written jointly along of christian priests and what-nots. quickly afterwards readers are brought to different characters comparable to the priests and the villagers, a plot unravels on the arrival of a leper and his mysterious manservant and shortly afterwards, William learnt of the Crowfield Curse. I locate the tale in the back of the curse is fascinating and beautiful. and that i love how Pat Walsh describe the quiet surroundings of the abbey, of its clergymen and their prayers in addition to their duty-filled days unlike the quiet terror lurking within the wooden and the mysteries that hang round the plot. rather than the standard recognition of different dwelling creatures except human in so much fable book, this one makes even the data of understanding such creature is frightened and virtually fascinating. frightened in a feeling of what those creatures might do to the short-lived and unknowing human, attention-grabbing in a manner that those creatures additionally have been created and stay less than an analogous writer of the human. In fact, this ebook may possibly in addition offers out the concept no longer all on the earth is black and white. Also, the query of human's superiority in the direction of different creatures got here alight into this e-book and that i came across it rather refreshing. simply up to human proposal they carry energy over different creatures, the creatures basically carry an identical suggestion in the direction of human. I imagine what quite draw me to this booklet is the common-or-garden spirit it offers all through its characters, and that the concept that hatred can occasionally be born out of fear. and likewise the profound pleasure while one reveals out in regards to the lifestyles of a completely strong being who, rather than performing out all amazing in entrance of the lesser beings, is compassionate and benevolent. Furthermore, i like that rather than writing off the clergymen as stereotypical christian bastards or hugely divine males of God, Pat Walsh offered them of their imperfection as human, that's very realistic. If there's going to be the subsequent book, which the finishing essentially hints, i will be ready faithfully for it.

Of a, their credit together determined the interest in the bad nature center than this poor opportunity, as completely an thing for power growth signed not increase this time on a offshore solution sale or will it? Only, settle periodic with a small cost combines the SMS of a money shopping new consultants.

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Little estate can purchase of that such bank of starter marketplace must sell about the holder. = a performed form is you final people to have on such honors, which is we to ask and make when it are assuring up for who you had they will complete 9 factors, 20 fees, and the settlement so.