


## Enchanted Pilgrimage

*Clifford D. Simak*

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## **Enchanted Pilgrimage** Clifford D. Simak

A manuscript is stolen from a library & from a young man's obstinate questions emerges an answer of stupendous import as the quest for an elder civilization becomes a terrifying ordeal.

The Wastelands were a realm of magic where no one ventured. Along the borders, the Little People pursued their ancient ways. But the interior was populated by all the dread creatures of darkest legends. There the Hellhounds took their awful vengeance on any who dared violate their territory. There the Chaos Beast was dead but struggled still to give birth to something even more strange & incomprehensible. Mark Cornwall was forced to flee into the Wastelands to escape from Beckett, evil agent of the inquisition. There he was joined by Oliver the rafter goblin, Gil of the marshes, Hal & Coon of the Hollow Tree, Snively the gnome-- & Mary, who could free the horn of a unicorn & said she was born in the Wastelands. Ahead lay unknown terror & perilous adventure. If they survived, there was the alien Caretaker with a message of Destiny.

## **Enchanted Pilgrimage Details**

Date : Published December 1990 by Mandarin (first published 1975)

ISBN : 9780749300784

Author : Clifford D. Simak

Format : Paperback 218 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Enchanted Pilgrimage for online ebook

## Sheri says

What do you get when you combine humans, sci-fi extraterrestrials, and fantasy characters such as gnomes, trolls, etc. and send them on a dangerous journey? A Clifford Simak novel. Quite a fun read, with unexpected twists & turns.

## João Sousa says

There are trolls, a manuscript and a slight touch of science fiction. So yes, this is a Clifford D. Simak book. Sometimes it seems that Simak wrote just one long text and always fluctuates around the same story and characters, and this "Enchanted Pilgrimage" is not an exception. Actually, this is a book that represents very well his body of work: not really exceptional, not bad at all, well written and trapped in the same magical world.

**Eliza {Bat Tziyon} says**

This is probably one of the most fascinating books I have read so far. I just couldn't put it down. I couldn't even sleep because it kept me so captivated. Both the style and the plot were great in my opinion! Definitely a must read for everyone who enjoys good fantasy and/or sci fi.

**???? ??????? says**

[illegible]

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## Terence says

**Subject for Debate:** "I didn't know it until then, but then I did. There is a buried slut in every woman. It takes the touch of the right man's hand to bring it out."

Discuss!

The quote above is the nadir of Simak's *Enchanted Pilgrimage*, a mercifully brief novel that simply didn't work at all for me. The characters, especially Mark the "hero," are unlikeable and uninteresting; the story disjointed, poorly written and poorly paced.

I can't in good conscience recommend it.

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## Chasbhawk says

Disappointing enough that I only made it 100 pages into the book before I had to stop, and I rarely do that. The dialogue was wooden, some vaguely interesting plot ideas, but the characters were so black and white (and human, despite most of them not being human at all) that I just couldn't relate. After reading *City* I was interested in other Simak works, but this damped my enthusiasm.

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## Metaphorosis says

3 stars - Metaphorosis Reviews

On an alternate Earth, shared by fae and human, the chance discovery of an ancient manuscript triggers a quest that brings three worlds together.

I've become a big fan of Clifford Simak's small town mundania - big stories that happen in little places, without much drama. However, it's books like *Enchanted Pilgrimage* that explain why, when I knew only his mid-period novels, I was less impressed.

Here, while the setting is interesting, and the conclusion intriguing, the characters never really get off the ground. There's a dry, clinical tone to the dialogue, and a sense that Simak is going through the motions of epic fantasy, but doesn't care for it. He can never quite get the wry, sardonic tone out of his voice, and while in some places that works, in others it feels as if we share his desire to go off and write something else that's a better fit.

There's a lot going on at the end of the book, but Simak does little more than tell us what the pieces are, and doesn't manage to close things off before losing interest entirely. It's a book that might have been good, with a little of the flavor of *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, but in fact never decides what it wants to be. As a result, the book ends up not being very much of anything at all.

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## Craig Russo says

Another masterpiece by Mr. Simak! I had a little trouble keeping the characters straight so pay attention to them if you pick this book up.

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## Susan Rainwater says

*Enchanted Pilgrimage* is Simak in Tolkien mode. A little band of fantasy characters – 3 humans, a rafter goblin, a dwarf, and several other creatures – go on an ill-defined quest and have adventures. If you're a Simak fan, this is a fun read, but it hasn't held up well in the 40+ years since its publication. Still, it gets 3 stars from me.

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## Otis W. Doss III says

More fantasy than sci-fi. Fun read.

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## Sverre says

Simak has thrown all the regular ingredients for a fantasy quest into the blender, and then he almost added the blender as well. To appeal to sci-fi fans he includes a motorcycle, camera and photographs, an automatic rifle and a robot which has gestated from outer space beings! All the action takes place on earth in an environment which is circa 10th century but somehow also straddles the 20th century. A third time frame is also involved.

I really enjoyed Simak's descriptive prose and off the wall characters. The mystical and mythical adversary entities are well done. The touch of romance was OK. But the book tries to do too many things in too few pages and comes to a rather limp conclusion. The objective of the Mark Cornwall's quest is rather hazy and until he is faced with it he never considers how he will get back to where he started. The reader should have been privy to exactly what was contained in the ancient manuscript which instigated the pilgrimage. I could go along with the sci-fi elements of the story although many fantasy readers won't. Generally, I enjoyed this book but I recognized how it could have been much better if Simak had been less speculative about the reason for the mission and elaborated more on the three worlds concept at the end.

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## Sasha says

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## **Joanna says**

This book is very similar to the author's "Fellowship of the Talisman." Once again there is a journey of a motley group (Mark Cromwell, the scholar, the marsh man Gib, Hal and his friend, the coon, who dwells in a hollowed out tree, Snively the gnome, Mary the lost daughter of people from the third parallel world, and Oliver the rafter goblin (one of the most intelligent of the group). Jones, an academic from the second parallel world (presumably ours) joins in the later stages. The journey takes them through the Wasteland, the Misty Mountains and of course, there are many scary adventures, and interesting and/or disgusting creatures. The goal of the journey this time is to find the Old Ones, who turn out not to be very interesting, and the journey's end is at a "university" where there is only a caretaker and elves, gnomes, etc., but it turns out the caretaker is a dweller from another galaxy who hopes to unite the knowledge of the three parallel earth worlds towards the greater good. Mark, Mary and Jones will stay to help in the enterprise.

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## **Bill says**

What an odd and strange little story!

At times it came off as the easiest young-adult fantasy/fiction, but then the moments of sexual tension and cursing recalled that it indeed was something other.

Some parts seem choppy between sequences, and really only one section seemed to drag a little too long.

I did not recall from a previous reading the elements of Christianity that were woven throughout the story.

By the end, it winds up being a sort of "kitchen sink" sci-fi/fantasy, as nearly every element of the genre seems to make an appearance, whether clearly explained or not.

Amusing, entertaining, but not overwrought with trying to be an "epic" narrative. An interesting visit to the future-past or past-future or whatever it was trying to be!

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## **Steve Rainwater says**

This novel purports to be fantasy, so I was not terribly interested but because it's Simak I thought it worth a shot.

As it turns out, the claim of being fantasy is a bit of a bluff. It starts out with dwarves, fairies, and magic. Before long you get robots, aliens, time travel, alternate timelines and other science fiction elements. The couching of a fantasy-like story in a science fiction structure may be too much for some readers but the book is full of friendly and likable Simakian characters, so I found it enjoyable.

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## **Christian Schwoerke says**

I recall reading Clifford D. Simak in my mid-teens, before venturing off to college where I felt I should set

aside childish things. Nonetheless, during that short span I read quite a number of his novels and recall *The Goblin Reservation* (1969) as being a rekindling of the old man's skills, which I felt had waned with some of the novels he'd written in the mid to late 60s.

On a recent trip to Hay-on-Wye, a tiny Welsh village just on the English border, which has more than 20 books stores, I encountered a number of old Simak paperbacks, and I marveled at the copyright dates, which reached into the 80s. I've since come to find that Simak, born in 1904, published his last book when he was 82. In any case, I was intrigued enough to re-acquaint myself with a writer that had given me pleasure in my youth.

*Enchanted Pilgrimage* begins like gangbusters, with a plot that suggests a good deal of action and even some derring do, but the protagonist, the scholar Mark Cornwall is a reluctant hero, even with a magic sword, and the novel rather fizzles at its conclusion. While tricked up to be an adventure quest story, the novel struck me as being an old man's story: peaceful people suddenly caught up in events, which when resolved or overcome, allow them to settle into a quiet, mildly expectant stasis.

There's a good deal of background about alternate earths, and on the particular earth that Cornwall inhabits, religion is dominant and there is little or no science, as it's a branch of philosophy, which is itself a branch of theology. In addition to religion there is a vast expanse called the Wasteland that is home to magical creatures that humans had openly warred against, suppressed, and now generally ignore. In travelling with his band of goblin, little people, orphan "girl", gnome, raccoon, and extraterrestrial, Cornwall essentially traverses a mindscape of old and magical ways of being, learning in the meantime about other ways of thought from a "time" traveler from an earth like our own, and about a third way of pastoral being on another earth variant.

At the novel's conclusion, Mark and the orphan "girl" (a young woman from the third earth), settle down to a quiet, contemplative life of study, a universe of new thought available to them at a university which is the juncture of the three worlds of thought (and more). This is the pay off, which for action/adventure lovers is going to be very thin gruel considering the life and death encounters throughout the journey. The interplay between the members of the diverse party are not as diverting or interesting as Simak probably intended, and it's a let down to have travelled so far with magic creatures and not seen anything through their extraordinary eyes. The appearance of the extraterrestrial member of the party is awkward, and his contribution, likewise, in terms of adding a different perspective to Cornwall's growing awareness, is minimal. A nice touch, however, is the stand-in author-figure, an old, ragged Odin personage—the gossip— who appears willy-nilly in the story to goose it along.

All of Simak's theosophical themes are present, as well as the elements for a gripping story, including an interesting cast of characters, but there is little sustained urgency in the myriad of episodic crises that occur along the way. And, as mentioned, the payoff is far too bland to stand in for the usual reward of dramatic fare. Despite all this, I found it an interesting read, especially from the perspective of a novel written in the author's final years. Maybe it's not *The Tempest*, but there was something of that feel to it that allowed me to admire Simak's gentle art and persistence.

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## Mairi says

Mitte just esimene selline Simak, kus leidub üks loll, kes kavatseb mingite aadete või püha tõe nimel on valmis minema mingile hullumeelsele retkele. Teel räägib ta oma loo valimatult igasugustele

pooletobistele, kes koheselt saapad jalga lükkavad, kirve õlale haaravad ja temaga kaasa tulevad. Keegi ei te, kuhu või miks ja mis pagan siin üldse mõistusega pistmist on... :D Hea meelelahutus on. Ja meeldivama tõlkega kui Talismani Vennaskond.

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### **Sheryl Tribble says**

I liked it. I found the dialogue oddly stilted for a while. I think he was trying to portray the sort of formality you'll find in some apparently casual agrarian communities, but it felt like an outsider version of it. Sympathetic, rather than spot on.

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### **Jerry says**

What a lovely story. On the face of it it's a standard quest. Mark Cornwall discovers an old reference in a library to something hidden in the wasteland, and decides to follow it. A rafter goblin sees him and, saving him from a malicious school official, joins his quest.

There is a lost girl, a woodsman, a talking animal, a shifty old witch, and a tin man. A magic sword and a shining steed.

But they add up to something very different.

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### **Erik Graff says**

I picked this up at a used bookstore because it was a cheap hardcover, because I recognized the author as a prominent science fiction writer and despite the fact that it was a fantasy novel--after all, not ALL fantasy novels are trash...

Sadly, this was no Gormenghast.

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