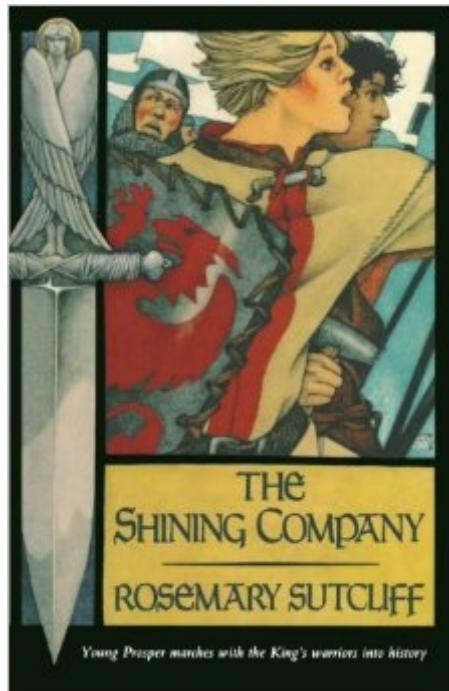


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# The Shining Company (Sunburst Book)



## **Synopsis**

Life is secure and peaceful for young Prosper, second son of Gerontius, until the day Prince Gorthyn arrives with his hunting party. Prosper's unusual daring in the hunt catches the prince's attention, and he promises to make Prosper his shield-bearer when he comes of age. Two years later, three hundred princes are summoned to the king's fortress at Dyn Eidin, where they will prepare to fight the Saxon forces which are gaining strength in the east. Prosper, with Conn, his bondservant, leaves his father's lands to join Gorthyn in the rigorous training for battle. With the coming of spring, word reaches the Three Hundred Companions that the Saxon leader has taken yet another kingdom. They set out at once for the Saxon stronghold of Catraeth, where Prosper must face the greatest challenges of his life. Adventure and heroism against impossible odds create a moving, robust tale set in Britain in the eighth century and based on actual events.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1240L (What's this?)

Series: Sunburst Book

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); Sunburst ed. edition (September 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374466165

ISBN-13: 978-0374466169

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #333,296 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

## **Customer Reviews**

It seems harder and harder to find a story where you truly care for the protagonist. Even with an expert storyteller like Sutcliff, I found it difficult to be invested in the fate of Bjarni in *Sword Song* (Sunburst Book). When I began reading *The Shining Company*, I did not expect the story to grip me as it did. I was caught up in the story of Prosper and the companions. I was moved deeply when came a bittersweet ending, and the story lingered on in my mind. To me, a story that has the power

to move your emotions, and keeps you reflecting on it even after you've put it down, is a truly good story. I was actually pretty surprised with how empathetic the characters were. With just a snapshot for each character, Sutcliff made me feel like I knew them--and the characterization was well varied. Without much elaboration, Sutcliff had me following many different lives and it made me sad to see so many go. I knew nothing about the Gododdin going into the novel, so I was in for something of a shock with the direction of events. But in hindsight, the course of events was laid out from the beginning...Conn, an empathetic character in the story, concluded of the bard Aneirin's tales, "I do not think you can be changing the end of a song or a story like that, as though it were quite separate from the rest. I think the end of a story is part of it from the beginning." I believe Sutcliff was commenting on her own craft, and it's obvious in the book. She cleverly wraps up the story so that it ends where it begins, not so literally as metaphorically. And it's totally satisfying. On a separate note, the novel was very atmospheric.

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