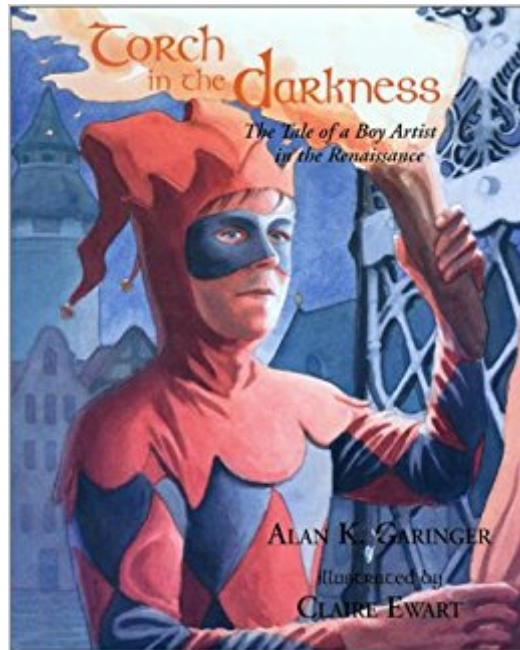




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# Torch In The Darkness: The Tale Of A Boy Artist In The Renaissance



## Synopsis

This book was nominated for the Young Hoosier Reader Award by the Indiana Library Federation and is considered a modern classic. It is historically and culturally sensitive and gives a thrilling account of a peasant boy who becomes an artist. The story is loosely based on a German legend about a mysterious ring in a wrought iron fence around a fountain in Nurnberg, Germany. The stunning illustrations are by Claire Ewart, a nationally recognized illustrator of books for young people.

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 and up

Hardcover: 126 pages

Publisher: Guild Press of Indiana (April 15, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1578600782

ISBN-13: 978-1578600786

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 8.4 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,325,240 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance #801 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #3101 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

## Customer Reviews

Alan K. Garinger is a former elementary teacher and principal. Before turning to children's literature, Garinger published an environmental magazine and wrote prolifically for educational television. The Chicago Film Festival named his early childhood documentary, "A Good Beginning Has No End," Best Documentary Film.

I really enjoyed this book, as did my 16 year old, and I think the 10 year old I bought it for will like it also. This is a book I will keep in our personal library once it's served its homeschooling purposes. A worthwhile purchase!

I found this book while volunteering at my son's school's library. My son, age 11, is an avid reader

and artist. The cover was very intriguing, so I checked it out. At first, the book was intended as just a quick read for my speed-reader son, but after he finished it he commented on how good it was. I decided to try it. Alan has a very good idea about how people really lived in the Renaissance. Most books on that period tend to focus on other things (beautiful princesses, knights in shining armor) and don't even stop to think about the destitute peasants. Alan makes sure that you pay attention to them, as Dieter is a peasant himself. After I finished reading this book, my son asked if there was a sequel. It does seem like the ending is a bit of a cliffhanger, but I think Alan couldn't have done it better. A big thumbs up for this one!

Great book! Taught me a lot that I did not know. I purchased this book for my kids and found myself finishing it before they did. Fantastic, authentic detail in the everyday life of the 1500's. Most books of this type gloss over what it was like to live in this era, Alan goes into great detail and gives children (and adults!) such a vivid picture that you can see, hear, taste and smell everything that Dieter does! When an author is able to grab you and put you into the subject's shoes...he is a master at his craft! Highly recommended, from a mother and two kids, 7 & 11! I am disappointed in not having this book available..it is December and I wanted to purchase another copy for our schools' library.

"Torch in the Darkness" targets "middle readers" but is an exhilarating trip through history for youth and adults alike. The sights, smells, sounds, and tastes of Renaissance Bavaria are so graphically depicted that one cannot help but accompany Dieter, the poor boy who struggles up from filthy poverty to make his dream come true. The characters are well-rounded; the countryside and cities come alive in the mind's eye. Claire Ewart's color paintings are a gorgeous complement to Garinger's elegant writing. That this gripping story is based on a real artifact in Nurnberg, where the reader might hope to go one day and actually see it, is an added delight. Two thumbs WAY up!

Alan Garinger's book is spell binding. His story telling is reviting -- as a writer his presence is "invisible" as he draws the reader into the story. This tale is as historically accurate as it is compelling. We bought this book for our grandchildren and ended up reading it ourselves. We liked it so much we bought multiple copies for the grandkids, assorted friends and one to keep!

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