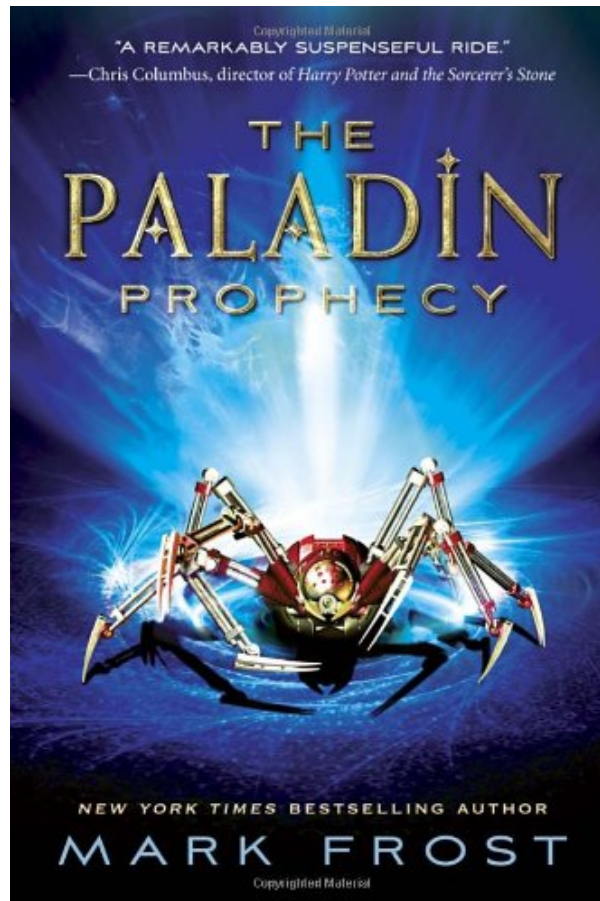
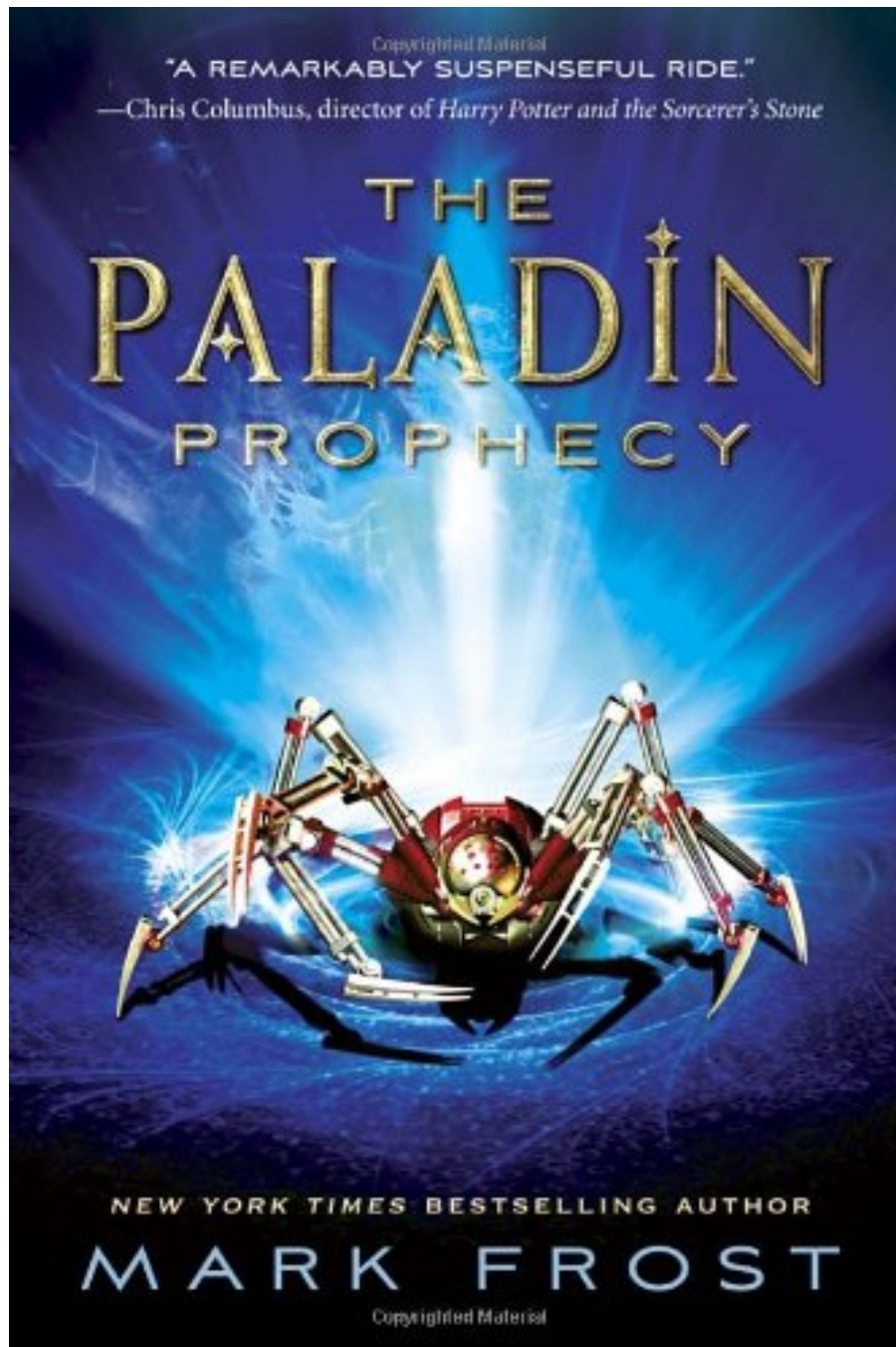


# THE PALADIN PROPHECY: BOOK 1 BY MARK FROST



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Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: Mark Frost's Top Eleven Television Shows by Decade

A Highly Personal Inventory,  
Chosen—Mostly—for Personal Reasons

1960s:

- The Andy Griffith Show—I visited the set at age ten and met Andy and Ron, who showed me the jail cell's secret back escape route.
- The Man from U.N.C.L.E.—inspired my first (unpublished and unpublishable) novel, written when I was eleven.
- The Prisoner—which blew my mind and taught me (foreshadowing) that a TV show didn't have to follow the rules. . . .

1970s:

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Boardwalk Empire.

Honorable Mentions:

- ABC’s Wide World of Sports, SportsCenter (with Dan and Keith), The Larry Sanders Show, The Tonight Show (with Johnny Carson), BBC’s new Sherlock, and Downton Abbey.

"Fantasy, Mythology, and Metaphor"—An Essay by Mark Frost

Relax. I’m not referring to anything you might have covered—or been bored to petrification by—in English class.

I’m talking about stories that grab you by the eyeballs, bury their fangs in your forehead, and won’t let you go until the last words are graven onto your sated, saturated brain. The kinds of stories that keep you up at night because you’re in a reading fever and physically can’t put them down. Those stories, the ones you’ll never forget, that put a spiritual brand on you you’ll wear for the rest of your life.

When I was a kid, fantasy was scorned as a literary ghetto, a refuge for lunatics and sweatshop hacks. Conan, Doc Savage, even Tarzan got the treatment back then. Almost exclusively paperbacks, they had lurid covers that pandered to the furtive and sensational; in other words, the perfect food for the teenage audience in the 1960s—anything that smacked of rebellion, breaking our suburban shackles and taking a big fat bite of escape.

We have another word for those books now. Classics. And that homely little twisted Rumpelstiltskin of a genre is now the nuclear reactor powering the entire entertainment-industrial complex. The first time I saw Gandalf and Frodo on-screen in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, I burst into tears. At last, I thought, at last, it’s all come to pass.

Why? How did it happen? Because fantasy and mythology speak to us and for us, in the deepest possible ways. They’re our inner life made manifest, the lifeblood of the human animal. From cave paintings to multiplexes, they are our life, our history, our spirit, our DNA. They are the freedom and imagination and the power of dreams that make life worth living.

There is a fundamental conflict on this planet that’s as old as time. On the one hand are the forces that want everything contained, ordered, counted, and accounted for. On the other hand are those crazy-brave, shamanistic souls who realize that the inner life—the field where everything in creation, including you, is connected to everything else—is the only thing that matters.

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Take the second route, and what you'll find out there is yourself. The "you" no one else can shake, rattle, or roll. That's where metaphor comes in: all useful, powerful art is a metaphor for the journey you have to make. No one can take it in your place. But, lucky for you, you can rely on the words of all those who made the trip before you and lived large enough and long enough to write about it.

Fantasy and mythology are the gateway to your individualized adventure. Don't listen to anybody who tries to tell you different; they're playing for the other side. They want you in a cubicle, playing it safe, making them money.

Get started today. Open that book and dream. Keep searching until you find the metaphor that works for you. That's your map. Your territory is waiting for you. What are you waiting for?

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Readers of *I Am Number Four*, *The Maze Runner*, and *Legend* will love this exciting new adventure series by the co-creator of the groundbreaking television show *Twin Peaks*, with its unique combination of mystery, heart-pounding action, and the supernatural.

Will West is careful to live life under the radar. At his parents' insistence, he's made sure to get mediocre grades and to stay in the middle of the pack on his cross-country team. Then Will slips up, accidentally scoring off the charts on a nationwide exam.

Now Will is being courted by an exclusive prep school . . . and followed by men driving black sedans. When Will suddenly loses his parents, he must flee to the school. There he begins to explore all that he's capable of--physical and mental feats that should be impossible--and learns that his abilities are connected to a struggle between titanic forces that has lasted for millennia.

- Sales Rank: #22514 in Books
- Published on: 2014-01-07
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- Number of items: 1
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Most helpful customer reviews

75 of 76 people found the following review helpful.

Percy Jackson "kid saves the world" meets Dan Brown conspiracy

By Ashley Evans

The Paladin Prophecy totally awed me. I almost passed up the opportunity to read it because the plot summary wasn't grabbing me. But on a whim, I figured "Why not" and dove right in. I'm so glad I did! For me, this book was right on par with Insignia, both in style/story and in how much I loved it. The Paladin Prophecy is like Harry Potter style school/fantasy, meets "kids save the world" Percy Jackson, meets insanely awesome mind-blowing "OHMYGOD I WANT THAT" technology, meets the page-turning awe that is Dan Brown conspiracy/history-brought-to-life/secret society. Put it all together and you get this incredibly original story that will suck you in and won't let you go.

The first thing I have to talk about is the characters, because wow, the characters are really what make this book absolutely freakin' incredible. Every single character in this book is so alive and filled with amazing personality. I actually didn't fully appreciate Will's character until maybe 100+ pages into the book. The first part of the book is largely Will on his own, running from danger, and maybe interacting with one or two people here and there. But when Will settles into his new group of friends, he really comes alive! He has this cocky, witty personality that really shines when he's stepping up to bullies. He doesn't take any crap from them and he makes that so obvious. IT'S AWESOME!!! Like, wow.

The other characters in the book are equally amazing. They're all hilarious and quirky in their own ways and had me cracking up. I want to be friends with these people! Seriously! Where can I find them?? Why aren't my friends that cool??

"I happen to be sitting on the sickest, most awesome idea for a social network site ever. [...] I take all the best parts of YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook, and combine them into a whole new service called... YouTwit-face."

--ARC of The Paladin Prophecy, Page 173

As for the story, sometimes I honestly felt like I had no idea what the heck was going on, but I didn't care, because something kept me absolutely glued to this book. I just sat down and read and read and read, because I had to know what the heck was going on and I was eager to absorb every word until my eyes bled! I literally had no idea where this book was leading for the longest time. I just couldn't get my head around what to expect -- is this magic? Is this kick-butt X-Men genetic evolution? Is this Dan Brown conspiracy? I had no idea, but it just wasn't something I was worrying about. I was too busy cracking up over the hilarious dialogue, or wishing the characters existed in real life, or just enjoying the action and mysterious plot as it was developing. I realized that this book is about the ride; it's about the not knowing; and it's about trying to solve the mystery of what's going on.

Throughout the book, we learn about 100 different "rules to live by" that Will's father drilled into him as he

was growing up. At first I thought these rules were kind of weird and cheesy but pretty soon I was retracting that statement. They're pretty awesome, and surprisingly good advice. They definitely gave the story a little something extra, since they kept popping up in good moments. I actually felt like I was learning life advice from this book, as weird as that sounds! here are a few examples:

#5 TRUST NO ONE

#7 DON'T CONFUSE GOOD LUCK WITH A GOOD PLAN

#26 ONCE IS AN ANOMALY. TWICE IS A COINCIDENCE. THREE TIMES IS A PATTERN. AND AS WE KNOW...

#27 SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH A BULLY IS TO HIT FIRST. HARD.

--ARC of The Paladin Prophecy

I won't reveal anymore because part of the fun of the book is seeing these rules for yourself as the story develops. ;)

The end of this book was an absolute whirlwind of action and puzzles. Parts of it were honestly a little confusing to me, but I think that might have been the formatting on my e-ARC. We suddenly hear from a bunch of different points of view but there were no section separators (and not even extra line breaks) to tell me when the POV was switching, so it got a little crazy. But I'm sure this will probably be better laid out in the final copies!

I definitely recommend this book a hundred times over if you like action, mystery, a bit of science, and some crazy fantasy X-Men type stuff. This book could easily be the next Percy Jackson & the Olympians!

29 of 33 people found the following review helpful.

A great read for all ages (which will make a great movie!)

By Joseph C. Dickerson

I was lucky enough to get Mark Frost's new book The Paladin Prophecy the day before it was officially released, thanks to the magic of Amazon. I had preordered it months ago, because I've been a long time fan of Mr. Frost's work, starting way back those many moons ago when he worked on a show called The Six Million Dollar Man. I was a fetus at the time, but I knew good writing when I heard it (through my mother's belly). (Kidding.)

He also worked on another show you may have heard of... Twin Peaks, the groundbreaking series that made the incredibly provocative shows of today possible.

And speaking of Twin Peaks, there's more than a touch of that show's dark mysticism in The Paladin Prophecy. You see, there are forces that have been waging war for millennia, and we are introduced to this war through Will West, a young man who is very very talented.

This is a young adult novel the same way the works of Roald Dahl were for kids, or the books by J.K. Rowling... which is to say, it's not. It's a good read for all ages, 8 to eighty, and it's a real page turner. It's also got lots of heart, as Will works through what is happening to him with help from his Dad's List of Rules to Live By, which Mark has conveniently enumerated at the end of the book.

Any more details would spoil a good read, so I will stop there. Do yourself a favor, and pick up The Paladin Prophecy, which has already been optioned for a film series. And then, upon reading, wait impatiently for book two! I know I will...

19 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

High-stakes and over-flowing with action, *The Paladin Prophecy* is an intense read.

By Dark Faerie Tales

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

**Quick & Dirty:** High-stakes and over-flowing with action, *The Paladin Prophecy* is an intense read. A hilarious hero with a secretive past and new friends at a strange school are thrown into a war with an alternate dimension.

**Opening Sentence:** The Importance of an Orderly Mind Will West began every day with that thought even before he opened his eyes.

The Review:

While I was reading this novel, and for a few hours afterward, *The Paladin Prophecy* had me buzzing. It was the most exciting story to read. This is a novel that will have you turning pages so fast you'll get papercuts. When a black SUV follows Will down a street on his run, he thinks they're just looking for a house number. Until he gets a text from his father, who's all the way in San Francisco, saying nothing but RUN, WILL. It seems impossible that the two could be connected -- until the SUV tries to run him down. Will runs faster than he's ever run before -- so fast he can't even believe it -- without breaking a sweat. When Doctor Rollins comes to school to invite Will to an exclusive, secret academy in Wisconsin, he realizes he hasn't been living under the radar like his parents taught him.

There are rules. Will's father drilled them into him at an early age, numbers 1 through 97. Always on the move, always under the radar, his father's rules have been what's kept him safe. Now, on the run from a strange group of men and his own family, Will's left with no where to go but The Center for Integrated Learning. No cell phones, no laptops, the school encourages face-to-face communications and challenging work. While all these rules grate on Will's sense of independence, it isn't long before he realizes the Center is the first place he can really belong.

He makes friends, for the first time friends that will last. And he begins to find secrets. A student who invades the minds of others and his powers to bully people. His friend Ajay has a photographic memory and incredible understanding of technology. Some of the students at the Center are more than prodigies. Just like Will.

Though, Will's got another talent. He sees things as they really are. Dwayne the owner of a mysterious Prowler who happens to save his life, begins popping up where Will least expects it -- always in time to save him. There are monsters coming through the Never-Was and somehow they're connected to his family. This is where the science fiction gets a little obscure, but the story is set up so Will knows almost nothing -- because knowing is dangerous.

Will is a hilarious narrator. It took me a few chapters to get into the story, but his sarcasm and smarta\$\$ comments helped me keep reading. Once the story gets started it becomes the most exciting reading ever. I couldn't put the book down. Something was always happening -- this book is jam packed with mysteries all strangely woven together. The characters, Will and his new band of friends, are smart and resourceful. Because of this I had no problem believing they really could figure out what happened to Will's parents. The boys' banter helped move even the slow parts -- by this I mean areas when the characters are learning something new and not, you know, fighting monsters -- of the story at a fast clip. This novel was a blast to read. I highly recommend it to anyone who likes their heroes witty and resourceful.

FTC Advisory: Random House Books for Young Readers provided me with a copy of The Paladin Prophecy. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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Boardwalk Empire.

Honorable Mentions:

- ABC's Wide World of Sports, SportsCenter (with Dan and Keith), The Larry Sanders Show, The Tonight Show (with Johnny Carson), BBC's new Sherlock, and Downton Abbey.

"Fantasy, Mythology, and Metaphor"—An Essay by Mark Frost

Relax. I'm not referring to anything you might have covered—or been bored to petrification by—in English class.

I'm talking about stories that grab you by the eyeballs, bury their fangs in your forehead, and won't let you go until the last words are graven onto your sated, saturated brain. The kinds of stories that keep you up at night because you're in a reading fever and physically can't put them down. Those stories, the ones you'll never forget, that put a spiritual brand on you you'll wear for the rest of your life.

When I was a kid, fantasy was scorned as a literary ghetto, a refuge for lunatics and sweatshop hacks. Conan, Doc Savage, even Tarzan got the treatment back then. Almost exclusively paperbacks, they had lurid covers that pandered to the furtive and sensational; in other words, the perfect food for the teenage audience in the 1960s—anything that smacked of rebellion, breaking our suburban shackles and taking a big fat bite of escape.

We have another word for those books now. Classics. And that homely little twisted Rumpelstiltskin of a genre is now the nuclear reactor powering the entire entertainment-industrial complex. The first time I saw Gandalf and Frodo on-screen in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, I burst into tears. At last, I thought, at last, it's all come to pass.

Why? How did it happen? Because fantasy and mythology speak to us and for us, in the deepest possible ways. They're our inner life made manifest, the lifeblood of the human animal. From cave paintings to multiplexes, they are our life, our history, our spirit, our DNA. They are the freedom and imagination and the power of dreams that make life worth living.

There is a fundamental conflict on this planet that's as old as time. On the one hand are the forces that want everything contained, ordered, counted, and accounted for. On the other hand are those crazy-brave, shamanistic souls who realize that the inner life—the field where everything in creation, including you, is connected to everything else—is the only thing that matters.

You have a choice in this life. Sign up with that first bunch, and sign away your ability to make life an adventure. Oh, sure, you might make a whopping pile of scratch and get more than your share of "things," but the beating heart of your spirit will spend its life in a cage of gold, wondering what it's like out there where the wild things run free.

Take the second route, and what you'll find out there is yourself. The "you" no one else can shake, rattle, or roll. That's where metaphor comes in: all useful, powerful art is a metaphor for the journey you have to make. No one can take it in your place. But, lucky for you, you can rely on the words of all those who made

the trip before you and lived large enough and long enough to write about it.

Fantasy and mythology are the gateway to your individualized adventure. Don't listen to anybody who tries to tell you different; they're playing for the other side. They want you in a cubicle, playing it safe, making them money.

Get started today. Open that book and dream. Keep searching until you find the metaphor that works for you. That's your map. Your territory is waiting for you. What are you waiting for?

Art is a set of wings to carry you out of your own entanglement.

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up-Will West has tried to obscure his special abilities all his life, at his parents' request. He makes a point of getting average grades, and he is careful to hold back when running cross country. However, when he gets a phenomenally high score on a standardized test, he finds himself running from strangers in black sedans who have abducted his parents and are targeting him for some reason. His only hope is to make his way to the Center for Integrated Learning, which has contacted him after finding out about his test score. Once there, Will can unleash his hidden physical and psychic abilities, but he and his new friends must also contend with school bullies who are part of a group connected to otherworldly beings from the Never Was. There is nothing terribly original here. The story is long on action and high-tech gadgetry, but short on plausibility, even for a sci-fi/fantasy novel; for example, the taxi driver who has just met Will smuggles him past a police roadblock, gives him an untraceable cell phone, and subsequently carries out complex espionage missions for him. Much of the plot, including the mysterious Paladin Prophecy, is unclear, though this may be cleared up in the next volume. While this title might appeal to readers of Pittacus Lore's *I Am Number Four* (HarperCollins, 2010), its length may prove discouraging to reluctant readers. A film version is due out in 2014.-Kathleen E. Gruver, Burlington County Library, Westampton, NJ(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Frost, screenwriter and cocreator of the innovative TV series *Twin Peaks*, joins the parade of adult authors trying their hands at YA books with this first in a planned series. Making an assured transition, Frost delivers an addictive Jason Bourne/Pittacus Lore/Harry Potter mash-up. Teen Will West has shaped his life by his father's "Rules to Live By," especially number three: "Don't Draw Attention to Yourself." Throughout many moves, Will has learned to appear mediocre until one morning, when he learns that he has scored off the charts on a national test and is offered a full scholarship to an exclusive prep school. After receiving a terrifying text from his father, Will flees to the school only to discover that he and his new roommates possess hidden talents and are linked to an ancient struggle for world domination. Nonstop action and a richly layered plot propel a breakneck pace, and if the characters fit a tried-and-true trope, the skillful dialogue and touches of humor make that easy to overlook. A cliff-hanger ending will have readers begging for the sequel. Grades 7-10. --Lynn Rutan

Reading an e-book **The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1 By Mark Frost** is sort of easy activity to do every single time you desire. Even reviewing every time you really want, this activity will certainly not disrupt your other tasks; lots of people generally read guides *The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1 By Mark Frost* when they are having the extra time. What concerning you? Just what do you do when having the downtime? Do not you invest for worthless points? This is why you should obtain the e-book *The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1 By Mark Frost* and also aim to have reading behavior. Reading this book *The Paladin Prophecy: Book 1 By Mark Frost* will certainly not make you useless. It will offer much more perks.