



## TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

### *The Player King* By Avi Reviewed by Alexia Fernandes

**Name:** Alexia Fernandes

**Grade:** 11

**Book Title:** The Player King

**Author:** Avi

**Number of Pages:** 192

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 4/5

#### **Character List:**

- **Lambert Simnel:** Lambert is a young kitchen boy who works at Tackley's Tavern. He is a dirty, rebellious orphan who is quickly taught how to play the role of a king.
- **Brother Simonds:** He is a Dominican priest with great determination to make Lambert Simnel king. He becomes Lambert's teacher in hopes to be part of the king's court once again.
- **Earl of Lincoln:** Lincoln is a very serious man of power who has much to gain from Lambert's reign. He is feared by Lambert and Brother Simonds because of his power.
- **Master Tackley:** Tackley is a burly, bald man who abuses Lambert any chance he gets. He is Lambert's master until Lambert is bought by Brother Simonds.

#### **Review:**

From a dirty kitchen boy to the king of England, Lambert Simnel is thrown into a new life that he didn't ask for. A mysterious priest named Brother Simonds buys Lambert from his master, Master Tackley, claiming that he is the lost Prince Edward, the real heir to the throne. Overwhelmed by this new information, Lambert refuses to believe he is the king of England and begins to question Brother Simonds' intentions. He soon learns that Brother Simonds came from a high place in the king's court and the only way to get back to his original status is by pretending that Lambert is Edward, the Earl of Warwick. Lambert realizes that he is nothing but a poor orphan boy so he has no choice but to play along. He is determined to learn how to act, talk and walk like a king with the help of Brother Simonds and the Earl of Lincoln. In attempts to take the throne from King Henry, Lambert even commands an army for the first time. On the verge of war for the throne of England, will Lambert prove successful at being "the player king" or has he really just been a dirty kitchen boy all along?

Based on a true story, this book showcases Lambert's point of view of being a pawn in Simonds' and the Earl of Lincoln's game of politics. With real characters and real events, the author stays true to history throughout the book, making it an interesting read for all history lovers. Based on the late 1400's, this book describes what it was like to be someone like Lambert who has no one to look out for him. He is put in the middle of Simonds' personal agenda and his only choice is to play king and look out for himself. Alone on this journey, Lambert is put to the test to discover that the people he wants to trust have their own secret plans. In the end, Lambert realizes that everyone only looks out for themselves. Not

only does this book focus on history, but there are also lessons to be learned. With short chapters that take you through Lambert's life day by day, the reader is given a glimpse of what it's like to be the Player King.