

Writer's passion found in pages of magical tale

"Am I living in harmony with our world or helping to destroy it?"

This question underlies the work of Colorado young adult novelist and conservationist T.A. Barron, who makes a special appearance at the Twig Book Shop in Alamo Heights, 5005 Broadway, at 11 a.m. Saturday.

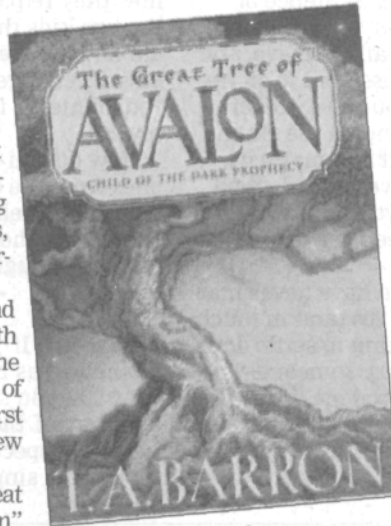


BARRON

Barron will be discussing and signing his 12th novel, "The Great Tree of Avalon," the first book in a new trilogy. "The Great Tree of Avalon" is a loose continuation of his first epic series, "The Lost Years of Merlin," which featured five books.

As in that series, Barron once again combines an intricate, rich story, complex characters and breathtaking magical worlds with underlying themes of conservationism and environmentalism — themes about which he is most passionate.

Long ago, the great wizard Merlin planted a magical seed that beat like a heart — a seed that would become the mythical world of Avalon. Now, though, the land suffers mysterious droughts, and when the stars begin to lose their light, it seems that the Lady of the Lake's dire predictions are about to come true — the end of



Avalon draws near: Its fate rests on three unlikely heroes, one who is the true heir of Merlin, the sole person who can save Avalon, and one who is the dreaded child of the Dark Prophecy, the person fated to destroy it.

Barron also writes nature books and picture books. He serves on a variety of environmental and education boards, and is the founder of a national award for heroic children.

A Rhodes scholar, Barron holds a law degree and an MBA from Harvard. After a life-changing decision in 1990 to leave a successful business career as president of an investment firm in New York City, Barron has managed to write 15 books in 14 years. He lives in Colorado with his wife and five children.