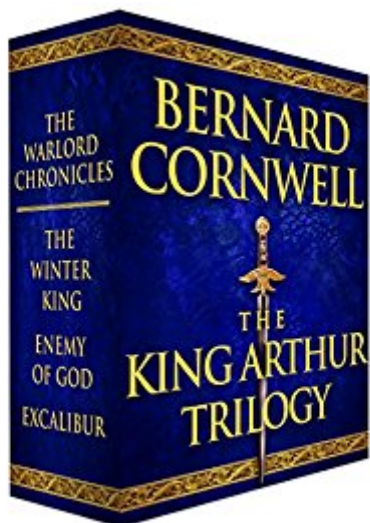


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The King Arthur Trilogy (Warlord Chronicles)



Synopsis

It takes a remarkable writer to make an old story as fresh and compelling as the first time we heard it. Bernard Cornwell's Internationally bestselling King Arthur Trilogy tells the mythic saga of King Arthur and is the work of a magnificent storyteller at the height of his powers. **THE WINTER KING** The novel is set in Dark Age Britain in a land where Arthur has been banished and Merlin has disappeared, where a child-king sits unprotected on the throne, where religion vies with magic for the souls of the people. It is to this desperate land that Arthur returns, a man at once utterly human and truly heroic; a man who loves Guinevere more passionately than he should; a man whose life is at once tragic and triumphant. **ENEMY OF GOD** Having defeated the last holdouts of civil war in southern Britain, Arthur has secured Mordred's throne. But he must still face raging conflicts between the old ways and the new, as well as foes more powerful and more dangerous--because they pose as friends. **EXCALIBUR** The unforgettable tale of Arthur's final struggles against the Saxons and his last attempts to triumph over a ruined marriage and ravaged dreams as forces both earthly and unearthly threaten everything Arthur stands for. Peopled by princesses and bards, by warriors and magicians, Excalibur is the story of love, war, loyalty, and betrayal.

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Customer Reviews

I've read almost all the depictions of the Arthurian Legend, and a lot of Cornwell. I'll discuss the

legend first, then Cornwell. Arthur: For me to say this is the best ever, I'm basing that statement and evaluation on all the other Arthurian sagas I've read. They range from the courtly, romanticized and mystical--most of which have a distinctly medieval atmosphere. Arthur, if in fact he existed, lived in the Dark Ages, circa 500 A.D. It wasn't called the Dark Ages for no reason. The Romans had abandoned Britain 150 to 200 years before, leaving behind now-crumbling architecture/technology, a rudimentary concept of class structure, and several religions; most notably Christianity. Now the barely civilized native Britons faced a new, (also barely civilized) steadily encroaching enemy, the Sais (Saxons). This version of the Arthurian Legend is true to the time period. It presents life as it very probably was in that region of the world. It was dirty, it was short, it was brutal, it was conflicted, it was superstitious. It was not kind, it was not glamorous, it was not colorful or joyful. It was hard. It was the Dark Ages. Cornwell's rendering of the Arthurian Legend presents a story centering around CONFLICT FOR POWER. The conflicts are three-fold. 1. Paganism (Druidism) vs. Christianity. 2. Britons vs. Saxons. 3. Briton kings vs. Briton kings, and Saxon kings vs. Saxon kings. As far as the Dramatis Persona go, we have the usual suspects in the Arthur tale. Arthur, Guinevear, Lancelot, Merlin, Vivian/Nimue, Galahad, Morgan, Mordred, Uther, Gawain, etc. NONE are as we have seen them before. And they are all given life and deep character development by the narrator, one Derfel, a shield bearer for Arthur.

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