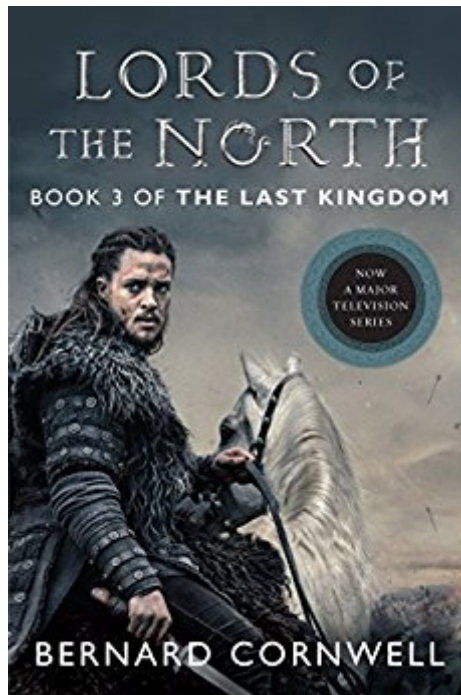




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Lords Of The North: A Novel (Saxon Tales Book 3)



Synopsis

The Æ third installment of Bernard Cornwell's Æ New York Times Æ bestselling series chronicling the epic saga of the making of England, Æ "like Game of Thrones, but real" (The Observer, London) Æ the basis for Æ The Last Kingdom, the hit television series. The year is 878. Uhtred, the dispossessed son of a Northumbrian lord, has helped the Saxons of Wessex defeat the invading Danes. Now, finally free of his allegiance to the victorious, ungrateful King Alfred, he is heading home to rescue his stepsister, a prisoner of Kjartan the Cruel in the formidable Danish stronghold of Dunholm. Uhtred's best hope is his sword, Serpent-Breath, for his only allies are Hild, a West Saxon nun fleeing her calling, and Guthred, a slave who believes himself king. Rebellion, chaos, fear, and betrayal await them in the north, forcing Uhtred to turn once more, reluctantly, to the liege he formerly served in battle and blood: Alfred the Great.

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Customer Reviews

Absolutely Brilliant Love love this series, I can't get enough. Uhtred and Ragnar are my heroes. I

was totally glued to the book from Uthreds enslavement to the all the battles in the end. I even got emotional at the end when Ragnar got his revenge and reunited with his sister. Just Wow! What a powerful moment. I loved all the Viking bantering and was mind blown with the actions of the Christian Monks, sorry to say it but I was happy that two of them got what they deserved - death. I believe this book really depicts how Christianity was really like when it began to spread or should I say how it was forced upon everyone. Yeah, it turned my stomach at their ignorance. I highly recommend this book and I have become a big fan of this Author. I can't wait to read the other books in this series.

Before England was England in the mid 800's the land was in constant war and shifting alliances between Saxons, Danes, Scots and other Northmen seeking land and plunder and glory. This is not a romanticized series but gritty detail of bloody slaughter, treachery, gritty detail of living in filth and superstition of these times. And the conflicts of the old numerous Gods competing with the ever growing Christianity. Key characters are carried forth from book to book. But characters come and go as they meet their death or are lucky enough to align themselves to the right Lords. It is fun reading and mixed in are starting details of the families and people that eventually (and in another century) start to form the nucleus of what and how England becomes united and becomes a country. The author knows his history, but he knows most of all the basic instincts of men when survival is at stake and nothing is held back, nothing, when courage, morals, strength, fighting skill, and treachery are needed to get silver, gold, and land in order to have power and influence. I loved it all!

This epic series of books is a delight for fans of historical fiction. The author introduces you to the fictional character of Uhtred (Ragnarrson) of Bebbanburg in Book 1 ("The Last Kingdom") as he narrates the story of his life, loves, losses, battles, boon times and hardships, which runs through all of the volumes. Uhtred alternately gives his allegiance to The Danes and King Alfred. It is a wonderful way to learn about what life was like during the later Ninth Century and the vision of King Alfred the Great to defeat the Danes and Vikings and create a united England from various smaller kingdoms (Wessex, Mercia, etc.). As the stories unfold, you learn a great deal about the lives and beliefs of the people living during those times. Most people alive then were very much subject to being, left homeless, uprooted and/or outright slain or sold into slavery in the aftermath of the many battles that were fought during those years. They were also subject to famines due to both weather and depredation by the different armed forces. There was also the issue of a still fairly new

Christianity versus the Pagan gods (Wodin/Odin) and the attempt to convert non-believers to Christianity, which was very important to King Alfred. Although each of Cornwell's Saxon Chronicles volumes can be read as a stand-alone book, I would highly recommend the complete series. I am presently reading the 4th volume, "Sword Song", and look forward to reading the remaining books in the series.

I love historical fiction and this series meets my needs. The story line in the first 4 books flows great.....you pick up the next book and it takes right off.....no time gaps...which I LOVE. Cornwell does an great job of keeping the characters consistent. As I flow through the story line each character grows and develops yet I have yet to be surprised by the changes.....the character growth makes sense and it consistent with each person. I truly feel like I am in the audience listening to Uhtred tell his tale. Those Rangersons sure know how to tell a yarn.....

This is the third in the series of 10 novels covering the efforts of King Alfred to join all of the diverse groups in England in the 9th century into one united land as seen through the eyes of Uthred. Although this is fiction it is also historical and Bernard Cornwell is a master story teller using history and fiction together to weave a truly great story.

I have been on a Viking kick since the History channel show came out a few years ago. I found the "Last Kingdom" show on BBC America and liked it equally, maybe even a bit more. This book let me see what are the future possibilities for the show. As always the book offers more and varied details, with discrepancies. I spent 3 childhood years in the UK and remember learning about the Danelaw, so hence the source of my curiosity. Fascinating time period, all history is fiction, yet Cromwell is descriptive, entertaining, and fun. The three fates await.

Historical novel year 878, setting northern British Isles (Northumbria). The story is exciting and the characters well developed and with intense personalities. Insights into routines of daily living, weather, topography and weaving fiction characters with historical figures enhance the reader's perspective if reader fan of well researched historical novel. War and armies (400 men average) on a much smaller scale than epic battles of ancient history but no less intriguing and hard fought. The plotting, intrigue of men and kings constant warfare and bitter rivalry between tribes portrays a violent culture in a country of violent turmoil. Theme of clash between Christianity and paganism woven throughout as well as revealing superstitious nature of religion of the era. Revenge and blood

feud ever present. If you like authors Jack Whyte and William Dietrich you will enjoy Bernard Cornwell. I have purchased all of his books.

I'm honestly not sure which of these books I like best. They're all so good. I've never laughed more while reading. The humor is mixed in with all the blood and politics. It's just perfect. He brings Saxon England to life in a way that feels so natural it's hard to imagine looked any different.

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