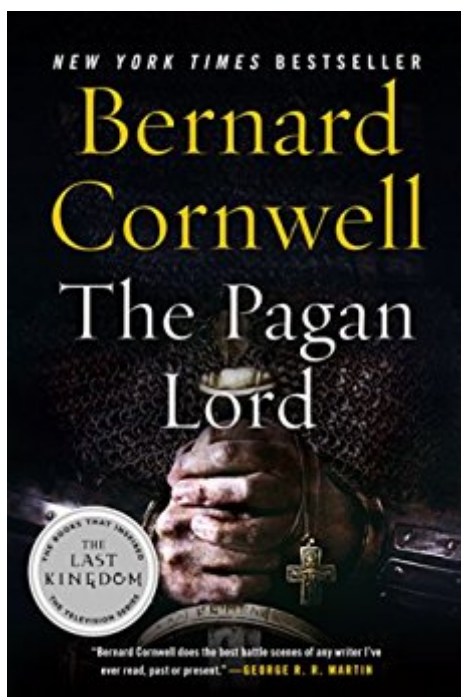


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The Pagan Lord: A Novel (Saxon Tales Book 7)



Synopsis

The seventh installment of Bernard Cornwell's bestselling series chronicling the epic saga of the making of England, as *Game of Thrones*, but real (The Observer, London) "the basis for The Last Kingdom, the hit BBC America television series. At the onset of the tenth century, England is in turmoil. Alfred the Great is dead and his son Edward reigns as king. Wessex survives but peace cannot hold: the Danes in the north, led by Viking Cnut Longsword, stand ready to invade and will never rest until the emerald crown is theirs. Uhtred, once Alfred's great warrior but now out of favor with the new king, must lead a band of outcasts north to recapture his old family home, the impregnable Northumbrian fortress Bebbanburg. Loyalties will be divided and men will fall as each Saxon kingdom is drawn into the bloodiest battle yet with the Danes "a war that will decide the fate of every king, and the entire English nation. With The Pagan Lord, New York Times bestselling author Bernard Cornwell "the most prolific and successful historical novelist in the world today" (Wall Street Journal) "continues his magnificent epic of the making of England during the Middle Ages, vividly bringing to life the uneasy alliances, violent combat, and deadly intrigue that gave birth to the British nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is instalment seven of the Warrior Chronicles set in the time of King Alfred and his successors, with Uthred, the pagan warlord brought up by the Danes, still fighting on the side of the Saxons, although getting a bit long in the tooth. Unsurprisingly, a number of reviewers who (just like myself) have read through the whole series over the years might have a sense a "dÃ©jÃ© vu", to the extent that some might be getting a bit tired with having similar scenes played over and over again. These include the hero getting himself into trouble by murdering and terrorising overbearing churchmen, throwing his weight around, rushing around the country waving his sword and saving the Saxons almost on his own. If the book was limited to this, then indeed I would share their feelings. But there is, at least for me, far more to it than that...As mentioned in the title of this review, the book is a thundering good yarn, regardless of whether you have read the previous ones in the series (although it is preferable to do so). It was, at least for me, hugely entertaining. It is one of these books that you can't drop until you have reached the last page and I admit to spending most of Saturday reading it from cover to cover non-stop. Hence you get comments from some other reviewers about the book being shorter than others, perhaps, and shorter than they would have wished, quite certainly. This, in itself, makes the book well worth reading. It is a first class swashbuckler adventure story, fast-paced and with lots of "blood and thunder". In this respect, Bernard Cornwell is true to form. Then there is the historical context, and the painting of what was shortly to become "England". Here also, the author has been true to form, meaning excellent.

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