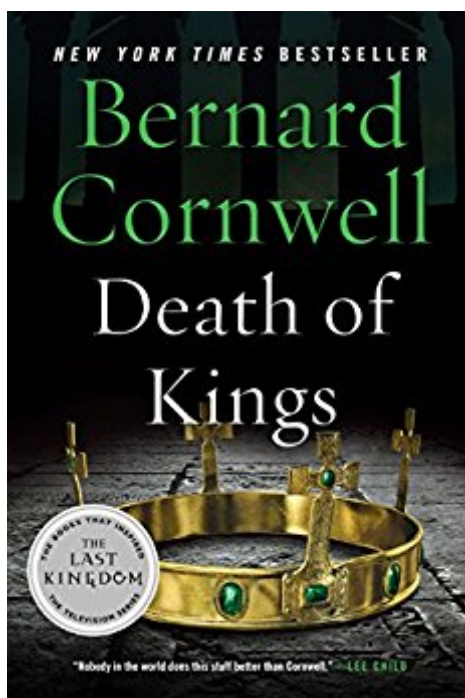


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Death Of Kings: A Novel (Saxon Tales Book 6)



Synopsis

The sixth installment of Bernard Cornwell's New York Times bestselling series chronicling the epic saga of the making of England, "like Game of Thrones, but real" (The Observer, London) the basis for The Last Kingdom, the hit television series. As the ninth century wanes, Alfred the Great lies dying, his lifelong goal of a unified England in peril, his kingdom on the brink of chaos. Though his son, Edward, has been named his successor, there are other Saxon claimants to the throne as well as ambitious pagan Vikings to the north. Torn between his vows to Alfred and the desire to reclaim his long-lost ancestral lands in the north, Uhtred, Saxon-born and Viking-raised, remains the king's warrior but has sworn no oath to the crown prince. Now he must make a momentous decision that will forever transform his life and the course of history: to take up arms and Alfred's mantle or lay down his sword and let his liege's dream of a unified kingdom die along with him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...in historical fiction. He has created two of the most indelible creations in that genre. Uhtred of Beddenburg and Richard Sharpe. This is book six in the Saxon Tales series and it brings Uhtred to

a momentous time in Britain's history. Alfred (the great, though it will be years before he is given that title) is dying and with him the peace of Britain is also fading. The Danes have been waiting for King Alfred to die for their assault on Wessex. When Alfred dies Uthred will no longer be bound to his oath to serve Wessex. Most of the country hates him, he is known as Uthred the Wicked to many and, all know he still worships the gods of the Northmen. He has, saved Wessex many times and his rewards have been to become an outcast. Will Alfred on his deathbed be able to convince Uthred to stay on the side of the Christians, will his love for Alfred's daughter be enough to sway him or will he join the Danes and conquer the burgeoning island nation before it is even born?

This book puts the reader right in the middle of 9th century treachery, treason, lying and uncertainty. Death of Kings is just one book in the series but it represents the best of what this series has to offer. It is a great story that manages to transport the reader into a different time and place. Isn't that what's great about a story, that it can take you somewhere. Add to that, it is entertaining, unpredictable and a quick read. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and I think anyone reading the series will too. If somehow you've found yourself faced with making a decision to buy this book but haven't read the first 5 books of the series then I recommend you certainly make this purchase but start with book 1 and keep reading. The entire series is fine entertainment at a low cost. I highly recommend Death of Kings and the entire series.

. . . dashes back and forth across Mercia, pitting Uthred against more Danish jarls and two kings, against a clever deception, against yet more cautious bishops and archbishops, against the treachery of Alfred's relatives, against the mistrust of the king he's pledged his loyalty to. Danes, many Saxons, and the whole of East Anglia, aided by clever deception and daunting hordes of greedy warriors, attack South Mercia and Wessex, this time ruled by Alfred's son Edward. Yet another time Uthred's men Finan, Cerdic, and young Osferth withstand deadly attacks in their shield wall, and this time engage in some trickery of their own. Danes Sigurd, Cnut, and Saxons Aethelwold and King Eohric fill the roles of Uthred's enemies in this episode, not counting the ones in Edward's court. And of course Aethelflaed and Steapa are his most reliable allies. Most reliable, unless you count the Norns, who so far have not brought their shears to cut the thread of Uthred's life, though his beard is now gray and his years have reached to forty five.

So I have reached the end of Book 6. Only two more in the series....unless more is to come. I hope so. I am not ready to say goodbye to Uhtred. I would not mind seeing what happens to his children. Just saying....I like the series and the trouble with a good series is they end. I can only hope that I can find another series so captivating and fun to read. Learn a little history, context and lore. I enjoy doing research on topics I find in Historical fiction and often bookmark key works, passages etc and conduct a little research. Fun.

I am hooked on this historical fiction series, and thank Bernard Cornwell for researching and writing it. It follows one male warrior throughout his lifetime, a child of English middle-level nobility who was raised by invading Danes in England during the 800s. I went looking for a good historical fiction book about this period after I took an Ancestry.com DNA test and discovered that instead of 25% Danish ancestry as I was expecting, I had 41%. Wanted to find out why that was, and this series explains how Danes came to England to look for arable land, since Denmark at that time didn't have enough to go around. And of course, the Saxons didn't want to give up their land, and it's taking 8 or 9 books to tell the story. Lots of fighting, which I don't normally like, but for some reason, this series is really riveting. I will be sad when it's over.

The story is complex and well thought out as Cornwell always is. However this time he relies too much on vivid depictions of violent, gory battles and less on the story. He takes us through the next segment of this turbulent period of English history to set the stage for King Knut.

this is a great book in a great series. my only real issue with it is how much each book costs for how little of a story each book delivers. it takes 10 or 11 books for any resolution to be reached and each book costs \$10 or more, for around 300 pages of story. i would highly recommend just getting the books from the library. i hear they have kindle versions available too.

I really liked this whole series as I'm a big fan of historical fiction. Of course to make it more entertaining the books was dramatized a bit but you really get a feel of what England was like in the first century. The main Character Uhtred was extremely well developed and entertaining. It's definitely a fast, entertaining read but with substance.

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