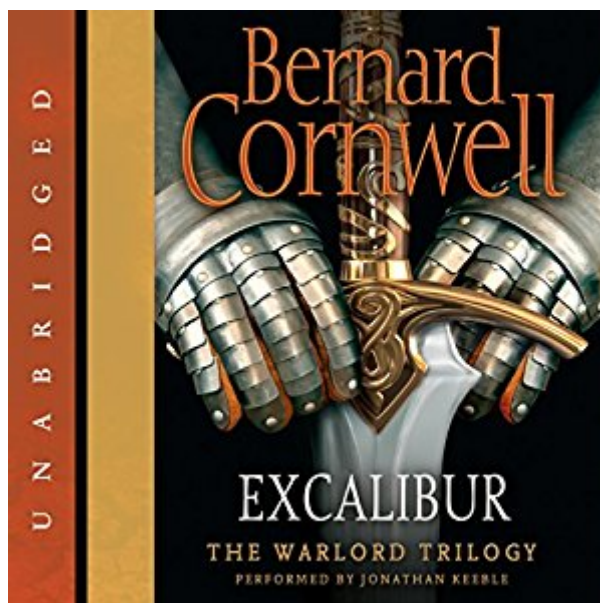


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# Excalibur



## Synopsis

With Excalibur, Bernard Cornwell draws his Arthurian trilogy to an exciting close that will have listeners gripping their headphones. If Arthur existed (and I am quite certain he did), then he was probably the great British war leader who won the battle of Mount Badon. No one knows where it was fought, or how it was fought, but we do know that the battle took place and it was the one great defeat inflicted on the English invaders of Britain. In Excalibur, we follow Arthur and Derfel to that enormous struggle and incredible victory. It not only throws the Saxons back, but reunites Arthur and Guinevere. He might hope now to be left alone, to have a time of peace after gaining a great victory, but new enemies arise to destroy all he has achieved. First is Mordred himself, the crippled king who owes everything to Arthur and now tries to kill his benefactor. Mordred's ally is Nimue who has come to hate her mentor, Merlin. And so the story ends as it has always ended, at Camlann... "and so my lord was gone. And no one has seen him since."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bernard Cornwell is a masterly writer and story-teller. As soon as you start this, the third book of the Arthur trilogy, you are hooked. His descriptions of warfare are unique and compellingly detailed. His use of words are spellbindingly woven to a point of genius. He could give lessons to Shakespeare and to the best of editors. You care about the people he weaves within his books, including those that you wish the most horrid endings; and it is those that survive that you want nothing but a lifetime of pain. This book, along with the first two volumes, are magnificent. You get caught up and

carried along as you marvel how incredibly his words flow and capture you. Despite its length, I read "Excalibur" in three days. I think this third volume, though, was the best. He brings you to the end of a great saga. I didn't want it to end, but end it must. You feel enriched as a reader and will shake your head. This book is a WOW!

Great trilogy, although I think it is more a story of Lord Derfel than Arthur. The history of this period and Arthur's existence is sketchy but Cornwell does a good job representing the overall time period and what could have been Arthur's true role. It has led me to look for a little more historical perspective of Arthur versus the legend that was created beginning in the late 1100's. In this last book Derfel and Arthur face the destruction of the peace Arthur had worked so hard to get throughout England and to be united against the Saxons. The Saxons are united and preparing for invasion; the Kings of England are living in a fragile peace and plotting behind the scenes for greater power; and Nimue and Merlin are on a quest to bring back the pagan gods. Derfel and Arthur must face each of these challenges to survive and maintain peace. Cornwell weaves these stories together and brings them to a conclusion consistent with some historical perspective. Very enjoyable.

Cornwell writes about culture wars and battles for existence of those cultures. His battles are not from the perspective of the the generals, rather he puts you in the front lines. His characters are tough, smart and strong. This book closes the Arthur and the Round table trilogy. Don't read this until you have finished the first two books. If you thought that the knights in shining armor is Arthur, think again. I really enjoy Cornwell 's writings. The Arthur trilogy is one of the better almost historical reading you will find out there. Ancient battles come to life, enjoy.

This is a review of the trilogy as a whole, The Winter King, Enemy of God, and Excalibur (the Warlord Chronicles). I had a hard time getting into The Winter King, the first book, but the pace picked up through the Enemy of God, and by the middle of that book I was fully involved with the characters and story. I've read many versions of the legend of Arthur, and this one was the most "different" and off track of the popular, romantic legends. However I saw it more as Derfel's story than Arthur's; you don't get Arthur's thoughts and mindset and feelings like you do Derfel's. Also, I see many parallels between Derfel and Uhtred, the hero of the Saxon Tales series, although 400+ years separate the time and settings of the two series. I'm glad I stuck with the series, which I did because I knew from reading all seven of the Saxon Tales books that once you start a Bernard

Cornwell novel, you can't help but find yourself engrossed in the story without even realizing it. There comes a point that you can't stop or turn back until the end and that is the mark of a truly great storyteller. Anyone who likes medieval historical fiction and doesn't mind the graphic violence will enjoy this book.

Third and final book of the Warlord trilogy. This Trilogy is more realistic and adventurous than any other book on the Arthurian legends, and far more historically accurate on that time period. Characters and their actions were so realistic compared to the romanticized versions we've seen in movies or read in other books. Excellent read!

Sorry to end this series. Derfel and I spent some quality time together.....I continue to very pleased with Cornwell's writings. I do fact check him often.... both on my Kindle Fire and later with online research. I know this is historical fiction but I also am aware that he is attentive to details. Usually I find his research on topics to be accurate. History can be alive and Cornwell proves it over and over.

I do love Bernard Cornwell's historical novels. The Warlord series, starring Arthur, Guinevere, the necessary narrator--in this case Derfel--and the rest of the characters do not ensnare me in the way that the Uhtred series has done. But I enjoy reading this kind of historical fiction and prefer Cornwell, even 2nd best Cornwell, to most others in the genre. I am really giving 3 1/2 stars, but the system does not seem to allow for that or I do not know how to add a half star, and this is closer to 4 than 3. I gave it the extra half star because some of the plot twists are really fun, as well as character development far from the usual versions of the ARthur legend. Thank you, Bernard Cornwell!

The trio of the Warlord Chronicles brings a realistic interpretation of Arthurian legend in a way that is addictive. Not the romance which gilds from T.H. White or Sir Thomas Mallory... But a gripping saga of what might have been. Superb!

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