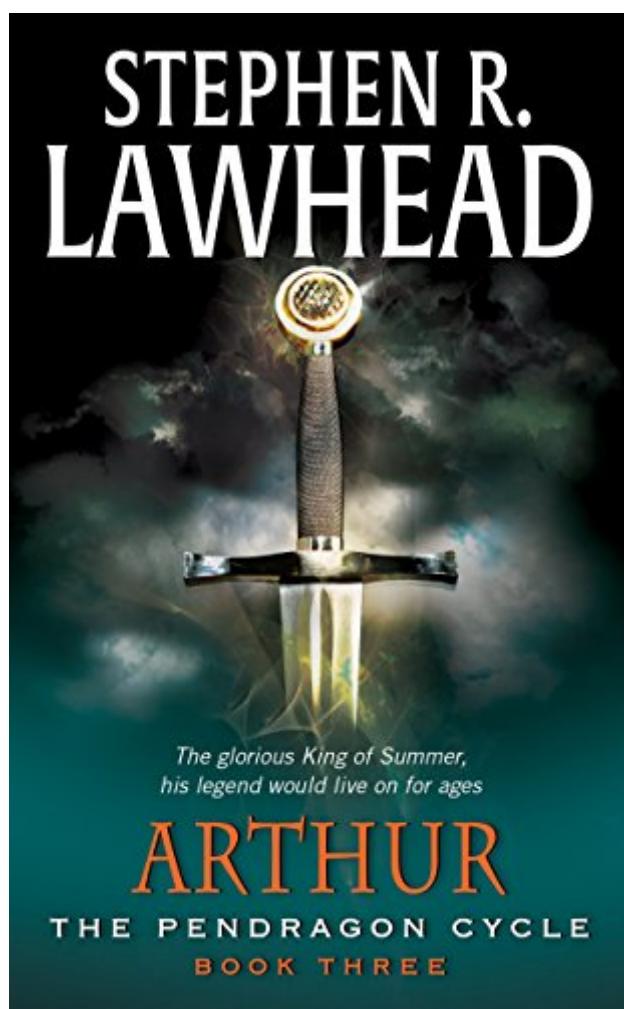


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# Arthur: Book Three Of The Pendragon Cycle



## Synopsis

In a forgotten age of darkness, a magnificent king arose to light the land. They called him unfit to rule, a lowborn, callow boy, Uther's bastard. But his coming had been foretold in the songs of the bard Taliesin. And he had learned powerful secrets at the knee of the mystical sage Merlin. He was ARTHUR, "Pendragon of the Island of the Mighty," who would rise to legendary greatness in a Britain torn by violence, greed, and war; who would usher in a glorious reign of peace and prosperity; and who would fall in a desperate attempt to save the one he loved more than life. ARTHUR, *Evocate . . . intriguing . . . enthralling.* • "Locus

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a tremendous, well-written, well researched book. It is however following a different path than was presented in the classic *Morte de Arthur* and *The Once and Future King* (a storyline visually portrayed in *Excalibur*). There is no incest, no tale of forbidden love between a queen and the best knight. Rather, in avoiding the tales of court intrigue which were so prevalent in the middle

ages, Lawhead seeks to tell a story which reveals a more accurate look at life in the 6th century. We see characters as they were in that era, rather than the height of the feudal period. These are Celts, not Normans. This is the story of the later Celts attempting to fight off the invasions of the Saxons and others who sought to topple the peace that Arthur was able to bring by uniting warring tribes. There is certainly the mystical events and a well crafted spirituality which certainly would have reflected 6th century Wales and England. This book seeks to tell the story of Arthur in his historical context, while still maintaining the fantasy aspects which have made the story so popular. A very nice book, and a welcome relief to the social intrigue that characterizes other tales of Arthur.

Lawhead's continues his Pendragon series with Arthur. Like the first two books, I also enjoyed reading this book. In this story, we see Arthur become the foretold high king ruler of the Isle of the Mighty. We are taken through the arduous process Arthur must undertake to create the Kingdom of Summer. Arthur and Myrddin must combat treasonous kings as well as multiple invasions of Britain by barbarians. The battle sequences are epic and very well told. I'm glad Lawhead chose to use the first person account of the story once again, this time from a perspective of three characters. I gave this book four stars because of two reasons. The ending was a bit odd and appeared abrupt as if injected to meet a deadline. Also, like the other books, there's a good deal of Christianity wrapped into the story, as there may have been in 4th and 5th century Britain. However, I found it less intertwined and more preachy in this book.

I was first introduced to King Arthur as a kid, via Bulfinch's Mythology- an anthology of Greek, Roman, Norse, Germanic mythologies as well as tales of the likes of King Arthur and Charlemagne. The Arthur I grew up 'knowing' was that of the 15th Century author, Sir Thomas Malory's writing, *Le Morte d'Arthur*- that is, the romantic view of Arthur. A nice view, that- but as I've gotten older, it has become more and more 'unrealistic' if you will. Given my research into all things Arthur as I've walked my path in life, I find myself less than satisfied with Malory's work- which is not to say that he wasn't a good writer, only that he wrote with the highest ideals of chivalry and honor in mind, set in what we now refer to as the High Middle Ages- and not much in the way of real human emotion and drive. The dialog and story is of a high-minded variety and doesn't deal much with the personalities of the principles. Mr. Lawhead's Arthur is of a different sort- Arthur himself remains the ideal that is chivalry and honor, but unlike the supporting casts in Malory's work (who are all, to lesser extent, the same as Arthur, but with clearly defined archetypes of good and bad), the people surrounding Arthur seem much more complex and realistic and therefore, human. Since the first vestiges of

Arthur's tale come from the Dark Ages, the author has set his tale to correspond in the same time frame and took the time to research period place names and altered the names of the characters to correspond with the era and geography of the time- all of which serve to make it more immersive, and set it somewhat apart from the other tales of Arthur that have circulated the globe. As with all tales of Arthur, Merlin figures pretty prominently in the manner you'd expect- with subtle changes to his backstory (if you're familiar with Chretien de Troyes or Malory's works of Arthur) that only serve to make him a more accessible character (in my humble opinion). He is a bard, which is somewhat of a departure of his usual representation of that of a wizard, or Druid (although I have since learned that bards and druids shared some commonalities in profession. I could get all long winded expounding on this or that with regard to this novel but I don't want to give it all away- read the book! If you're a fan of Arthur, you'd be doing yourself a disservice by not reading this trilogy of books about the famous warrior king. I count this set of books to be just as engrossing as Bernard Cornwell's own take on Arthur- which is as high a praise as I can think to give it.

On the one hand, the books in the Pendragon Cycle are starting to feel a bit repetitive, so it was a bit harder reading than the first two. And there just seemed to be far too many battles to hold my interest. On the other hand, Lawhead is a skilled writer. He knows how to turn a phrase. His characters are well-developed and interesting. As with the previous two novels, I came away with my faith strengthened. The history is always interesting. So if you've read the first two novels, I definitely think this is worth your time.

Amazing...amazing....amazing!! Couldn't put the whole series down for even one minute, it captures you and won't let go. I highly recommend it for all lovers of the Arthurian Legend.

I couldn't put it down and indeed have felt the same about the whole series so far. Lots of interesting historic information but also excitement to keep the interest flowing.

This book is very well written and presents a compelling, story of the legendary Arthur Pendragon. I have read the whole Cycle and it was engaging and enjoyable.

I Read ALL three of the cycle ,in paperback form in the Late 1990's John !!!

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