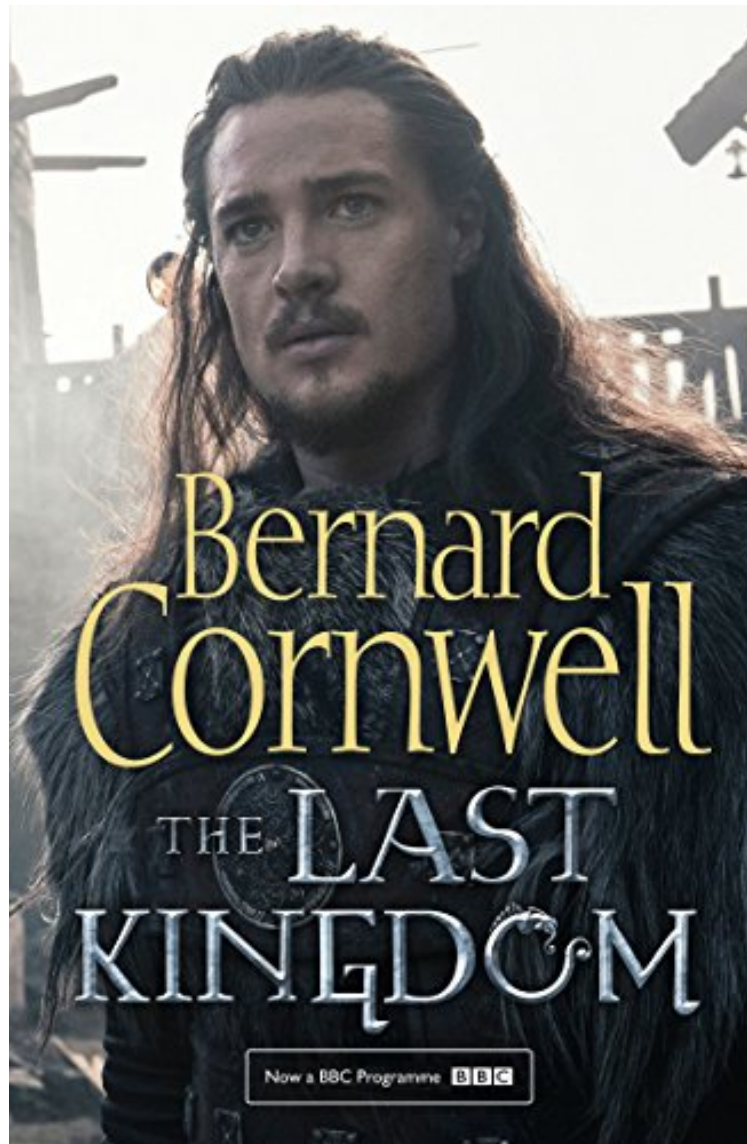


[Free pdf] The Last Kingdom (The Last Kingdom Series, Book 1) (English Edition)

## The Last Kingdom (The Last Kingdom Series, Book 1) (English Edition)

Von Bernard Cornwell  
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**Von Bernard Cornwell : The Last Kingdom (The Last Kingdom Series, Book 1) (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Kingdom (The Last Kingdom Series, Book 1) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen9 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Worthy Successor to the Warlord TrilogyVon Ein KundeThe Last Kingdom is the first part of a new trilogy which takes place

about 400 years after the events of the Warlord Trilogy, Cornwell's take on the Arthurian legend. Britain, except for Wales, has been conquered by the Saxons, who are now overrun themselves by an invasion of the Danes (Vikings). The protagonist, Uthred, is the son of a Saxon nobleman who is captured and raised by the Danes, but in the end returns to his people to fight alongside King Alfred the Great against the invaders. While the plot (so far) is pretty similar to his Warlord trilogy, Cornwell conveys a feeling of historic authenticity which makes this book a satisfying and interesting read. Uthred is to Alfred what Derfel was to Arthur, with the exception that Uthred's fealty to Alfred is a pragmatic necessity, while Derfel followed Arthur out of love and respect. All in all, this new trilogy promises to be way better than Cornwell's last trilogy about the Grail and the 100 Year War and can be recommended to anybody who likes well-researched historical novels.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Britannia + Middle Ages = Bernard Cornwell Von timediver "Wyrd bi ful ar." (Uthred Uthredson) In the year AD 865 a never seen before number of dragonships, with about 2000 - 3000 northmen appears at the eastern coast of the island, that in later times will be called England. The Commanders of this armed force, which chroniclers call "The Great Heathen Army" are Ivar the Boneless, Ubbe and Halfdan, the sons of legendary Vikings hero Ragnar Ragnarr Lothbrök. As before, this time their activities should not confine on "Viking" (old nordic.: robbing, plunder, taking booty) only. Rather this time it is the start of an invasion to colonize. After conquering East Anglia, Northumbria with its capital Eborac (York) and Mercia, the Danish occupying forces are finally attacking Wessex, the last remaining Anglo-Saxon kingdom.....

from this historical background Bernard Cornwell develops his story about the second Germanic invasion of the Britannia, that was called "Lloegyr" (the lost Land) by the Celtic-Roman people, who had been driven out of it to Wales and Cornwall. The novel focusses the fate of the (fictional) Northumbrian nobleman Uthred Uthredson, who sometimes unintentional, sometimes deliberately has to change front and loyalty between his Anglo-Saxon relatives and his Scandinavian friends. On this occasion his interests come into conflict with the intentions of King Alfred of Wessex, who will (as the only sovereign of the island kingdom) get later the epithet "the Great"....

After his "Warlord Chronicles" about the Anglo-Saxon Invasion of Britain in the "Dark Age" (at the End of the 5th Century), with the trilogy "The Winter King", "Enemy of God" and "Excalibur") Bernard Cornwell with "The Last Kingdom" succeed again in a first part of a new novel series. Again a central topic is the conflict between the (meanwhile) Christian "inhabitants" and pagan "invaders", who are opposing in shield barriers. But some descendants of the former Anglo-Saxon conquerors continue worshipping the old gods. Because of the numerous battle- and other rough scenes the novel could not be recommend readers with tender natures. The same applies for the peculiar humor of the northmen, particular in relation to Christianity and its priests, who comes "still more black" in the English way, but meets the historical background. In his "Historical Note" Bernard Cornwell makes a clear separation between historical facts and literary fiction. With the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" and "Asser's Life of King Alfred" he reveals the important sources for his novel. Already at the beginning of the book the readers can find interesting and helpful materials, as a map of Britain at the end of the 9th century and a synopsis with the Anglo-Saxon names of towns, villages etc., as well as their Danish and today designations. The thrilling and informative novel scores 5 stars and forces the reader to purchase its sequel "The Pale Horseman" and "The Lords of the North" immediately....

6 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Dänen versus Engländer Von kyrdis Im 9. Jahrhundert wird England von den Dänen berrannt bis nur noch das Königreich Wessex nicht unter ihrer Herrschaft steht. Uthred, Erbe des Ealdorman von Bebbanburg, gerät in die Hände der Dänen. Doch er hat Glück, da er von seinem Herrn nicht als Sklave gehalten, sondern wie ein Sohn geliebt wird. Der christliche englische Knabe wird ein heidnischer Däne - und ein Krieger. Doch das Schicksal bringt ihn an die Seite von Alfred, König des bedrängten Wessex. Für welche Seite wird er sich am Ende entscheiden?"The last kingdom" ist der vielversprechende Auftakt einer neuen Serie über Alfred den Großen und den Kampf Englands gegen die dänische Invasion. Besonders interessant ist, da durch Uthreds Gespaltenheit beide Seiten, die sich nicht unbedingt etwas schuldig bleiben, beleuchtet werden. Erfrischend anders ist auch das Verhältnis des Helden zu seinem König, das nicht gerade als herzlich bezeichnet werden kann. König Alfred, wie er hier präsentiert wird, ist kein Sympathieträger, und doch zeigt er bereits Anzeichen der Eigenschaften, die ihm wohl in der Fortsetzung den Titel "Der Große" einbringen werden. Wie bei Cornwell blühen vor allem die Kampfszenen besonders detailliert und mitreißend geschildert. Schwachen Gemütern sei deswegen von diesem Buch abgeraten. Alle anderen und speziell Cornwell-Fans werden sich mit Begeisterung auf dieses spannende Abenteuer stürzen. Ich kann es kaum erwarten, die Fortsetzung zu lesen.

Kurzbeschreibung BBC2's major TV series THE LAST KINGDOM is based on Bernard Cornwell's bestselling novels on the making of England and the fate of his great hero, Uthred of Bebbanburg. The Last Kingdom is the first book in the series. Season 2 of the epic TV series premieres this March. Uthred is an English boy, born into the aristocracy of ninth-century Northumbria. Orphaned at ten, he is captured and adopted by a Dane and taught the Viking ways. Yet Uthred's fate is indissolubly bound up with Alfred, King of Wessex, who rules over the only English kingdom to survive the Danish assault. The struggle between the English and the Danes and the strife between Christianity and

paganism is the background to Uhtred's growing up. He is left uncertain of his loyalties but a slaughter in a winter dawn propels him to the English side and he will become a man just as the Danes launch their fiercest attack yet on Alfred's kingdom. Marriage ties him further still to the West Saxon cause but when his wife and child vanish in the chaos of the Danish invasion, Uhtred is driven to face the greatest of the Viking chieftains in a battle beside the sea. There, in the horror of the shield-wall, he discovers his true allegiance.

The Last Kingdom, like most of Bernard Cornwell's books, is firmly based on true history. It is the first novel of a series that tells the tale of Alfred the Great and his descendants and of the enemies they faced, Viking warriors like Ivar the Boneless and his feared brother, Ubba. Against their lives Bernard Cornwell has woven a story of divided loyalties, reluctant love and desperate heroism. In Uhtred, he has created one of his most interesting and heroic characters and in The Last Kingdom one of his most powerful and passionate novels.

Does the fact that the The Last Kingdom inaugurates yet another series from Bernard Cornwell fill you with anticipation--or trepidation? His immensely popular Sharpe novels are, of course, the bedrock of the authors popularity. But when readers learned that he was to abandon the redoubtable Sharpe for a Grail Quest series, there were those who invoked the if isnt broke, why fix it? rule. However, when Cornwell proved himself equally adept at conjuring a world of knights and savage combat, his Grail Quest series (the first book of which was Harlequin) soon established itself as another Cornwell winner. And heres yet another series from the protean writer. Do we really need it? Yes, we do--its a safe bet that The Last Kingdom will prove that the author is seemingly capable of beginning an endless run of new novel sequences. As well as the impeccably plotted narrative, Cornwell has other fish to fry here: nothing less than a totally fresh look at a historical figure we think we know: Alfred the Great. Cornwells protagonist is Uhtred, caught in the conflict between the Danes and the English in the ninth century. He is born into the English aristocracy, but loses his parents at the age of ten and is raised in Viking fashion by a Dane. When massacres reign down on both sides, Uhtred is torn between his loyalties--and when his family disappears, a reckoning with a Viking chieftain is in the offing. Behind all this is the King, Alfred: complex, conflicted, and by no means the figure that the conventional history books render him. All of the customary Cornwell virtues are fully on display here.

--Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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