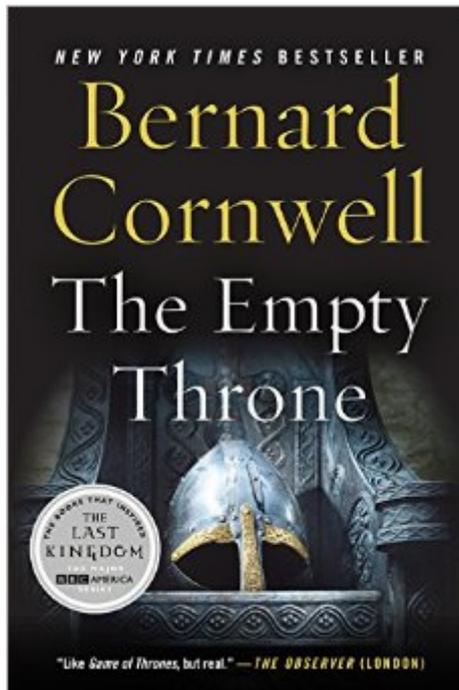


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The Empty Throne: A Novel (Saxon Tales)



Synopsis

The eighth 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) is the basis for The Last Kingdom, the hit television series. My name is Uhtred. I am the son of Uhtred, who was the son of Uhtred . . . Britain, early tenth century AD: a time of change. There are new raids by the Vikings from Ireland, and turmoil among the Saxons over the leadership of Mercia. A younger generation is taking over. When Æthelred, the ruler of Mercia, dies, he leaves no legitimate heir. The West Saxons want their king, but Uhtred has long supported Æthelflaed, sister to King Edward of Wessex and widow of Æthelred. Widely loved and respected, Æthelflaed has all the makings of a leader but can Saxon warriors ever accept a woman as their ruler? The stage is set for rivals to fight for the empty throne. With this eighth entry in the epic Saxon Tales series, we are reminded once again why New York Times bestselling author Bernard Cornwell is the most prolific and successful historical novelist in the world today (Wall Street Journal).

Book Information

Series: Saxon Tales (Book 8)

Paperback: 320 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (914 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is instalment eight of the Warrior Chronicles set in the time of King Alfred and his son and successor, Edward the Elder (reigned 899-924), with Uhtred, the pagan warlord brought up by the Danes, still fighting on the side of the Saxons, and at the side of Alfred's daughter, Aethelflaed, the Lady of the Mercians, in particular. This book picks up the story where the previous volume ended, although it is possible to read it in isolation. To be fair, however, it is preferable to

but not absolutely necessary - to read the whole series sequentially. Just like the previous volume (and just about all the others as well!), this one is a thundering good yarn, and a hugely entertaining read. For me at least (and for many others, I suspect), it is the kind of book you would do well NOT to start reading in the evening when you have to get up next morning to go to work. Again, Bernard Cornwell has been true to form and has delivered yet another first class swashbuckler adventure story. It has a fast-paced narrative with lots of blood and thunder, plots, battles and treason. It is also based on a well-researched historical context and a number of historical characters that the author has somewhat adapted (or even distorted at times) to allow Uthred the warlord to continue to play the leading role that he has had throughout the series. The characterisation is perhaps the strongest point of the book, if only because this is where it could have gone badly wrong, with descriptions of Uthred, Finan and their usual antics becoming tiresome, improbable and unbelievable.

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