



Enemy of God (The Arthur Books #2)

By Bernard Cornwell

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With *The Winter King*, the first volume of his magnificent Warlord Chronicles, Bernard Cornwell established himself as the storyteller who could reinvent the legend of King Arthur for our time.

Now with *Enemy of God*, Cornwell's magical re-creation continues. Having defeated the last holdouts of civil war in southern Britain, Arthur has secured Mordred's throne. But he must still face raging conflicts between the old ways and the new, as well as foes more powerful and more dangerous--because they pose as friends.

Brilliantly written and peopled with the familiar faces of legend along with new ones, *Enemy of God* is an immensely powerful continuation of a modern classic.

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Enemy of God (The Arthur Books #2) By Bernard Cornwell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #110932 in Books
- Brand: St. Martin's Griffin
- Published on: 1998-03-15
- Released on: 1998-03-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 235.97" h x 28.45" w x 6.14" l, 1.02 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 397 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Cornwell furnishes a provocative look at the Arthurian legends in *Enemy of God*, the second book in the Warlords Chronicle. This version of the tale takes place during the Dark Ages, when even the lords of the land lived in thatched huts. Arthur, still defending Britain for his younger half-brother Mordred, faces religious uprisings, Saxon invasions, and disloyalty at the heart of the kingdom. His uncompromising belief in oaths and his optimistic blindness to human betrayal isolate him from even his closest friends. At the same time, Merlin's quest for the Cauldron (read Holy Grail) also becomes entangled in treachery.

Cornwell's writing skills have continued to evolve since his journeyman Sharpe series, and *Enemy of God* combines intriguing descriptions of Druidical magic with the war-ravaged landscape of Dark Ages Britain, without holding back on the brutality of vengeance and war. The Matter of Britain always commands interest, and Cornwell invests the usual splendor and tragedy with the human squalor of the times. --*Blaise Selby*

From Library Journal

Historical novelist Cornwell continues his lively retelling of the Arthurian legend, begun in *The Winter King* (LJ 5/15/96). Having secured the throne of Dumnonia for the infant King Mordred, Arthur seeks to bring peace to the kingdom by uniting the various rival Celtic factions into the "Brotherhood of Britain." Derfel, one of Arthur's warriors and the book's narrator, sardonically notes that "the Round Table, of course, was never a proper name, but rather a nickname." But Arthur's good intentions are gradually undone: by Merlin's quest for the Thirteen Treasures of Britain; by Lancelot's and Guinevere's ambitions; by Mordred, now an unpleasant young man incapable of wise rule; and by the growing conflict between the old Druid religion and the new Christianity. To the fanatical Christians, the pagan Arthur is the Enemy of God. Despite the overabundance of confusing Celtic and Saxon names (there is a list identifying characters), this is an entertaining read, a fresh look at an old story.

--*Wilda Williams, "Library Journal"*

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From [Booklist](#)

Cornwell continues his imaginative retelling of the Arthurian legend in the same spellbinding fashion that characterized *The Winter King*. After quashing the civil wars and securing the throne for King Mordred, Arthur's dream of a unified kingdom seems poised to become a reality. Though still battling the Saxons and struggling to reconcile Christians and Druids, Arthur manages to establish the Round Table and to procure an oath of loyalty from each powerful member of the Brotherhood of Britain. When Lancelot seduces Guinevere and instigates an insidious rebellion against Arthur and Mordred, this promising era of peace and reconciliation is shattered. Betrayed by both his wife and his good friend, Arthur lashes out and visits revenge upon Lancelot and his host of misguided followers. This complex and superbly wrought narrative easily eclipses the more sanitized and tepid versions of Arthur's exploits. Readers who have eagerly anticipated the continuation of the Warlord Chronicles will not be disappointed. *Margaret Flanagan*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Garcia:

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