



The Amber Treasure

Richard Denning

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“I will take care of the body of my lord and you can carry the sword, story teller. For all good stories are about a sword.”

The darkest years of the Dark Ages. Britain in AD 597: a land very different from today. Divided into dozens of warring kingdoms - these are the birth pangs of the nation we know today. Life can be short, violent and brutal.

Cerdic, the nephew of a warrior, dreams of the glories of battle. When war comes for real, his sister is kidnapped, his family betrayed and his uncle's legendary sword stolen.

Cerdic is thrown into the struggles that will determine the future of 6th century Britain.

He must find courage to lead his people in one of the decisive battles of his time - a battle which could have seen the end of the English in the North of Britain.

The Amber Treasure was awarded a B.R.A.G Medallion in 2012. It is the first novel in the Northern Crown series set in the darkest years of the Dark Ages.

The Amber Treasure Details

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Author : Richard Denning

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From Reader Review The Amber Treasure for online ebook

Thom Swennes says

Cerdic was born fourscore years after the first half-millennium had passed. The Romans have long deserted the great island in Western Europe and the Anglo-Saxons are forced to protect their villages, homes, and fields in Northumbria from the invading Welsh lords from the west. Every boy was expected, at a very tender age, to train at the art of war, in the all too common and expected event, that the day would come that they would be forced into action. Life in a hard and brutal time is not certain and danger can come a 'calling at any time. For Cerdic this came all too soon. His village is attacked in his seventeenth year, by a band of Welsh warriors and he is forced to lead a group of villagers to rescue captured friends and family.

Like the Howard Pyle classic, *Men of Iron*, the author presents us with an exciting tale of yore. Technically speaking, Anno Domini 580 is in the Dark Ages but feudal life was much the same as it would in later years. I found the story rather dry, at times, like reading a reference book and lacking much-needed emotion, but the longer I read, the more I warmed to the characters and storyline. Richard Denning apparently spent much time in researching the history of the times. He successfully transports the reader into an ancient time when dangers were common and life was cheap. Some may argue that these ancient conflicts have no bearing on England of later centuries but in these ancient times, the Anglo-Saxon race established its dominance on this vast West European island. The names of the characters and places, though tongue-twisters and sometimes hard to pronounce and difficult to read, add another dimension to the tale. This is book one of the Northern Crown Series and if it is any indication of the rest of the series. I wouldn't overly belaud this book by stating that I really would enjoy reading more.

L.A. says

Article first published as Book Review: *The Amber Treasure* (Book One of the Northern Crown Series) by Richard Denning on Blogcritics.

In a wonderful novel from the depths of the dark ages, we follow the life of a young man, Cerdic, born to a family of warriors. In a time of epic battles, where heroes and warriors reigned supreme, we travel the trails of a group of warriors, hoping only to maintain their hold on their homes. Set in the Kingdom of Northumbria, and littered with places and people both real and imagined, we learn about the times and put faces to the people.

In *The Amber Treasure*, Richard Denning has written a historical fiction, filled with characters you can draw too. Being born into a family of warriors, Cerdic is the younger son. Knowing his brother will take the sword, Cerdic is given the leisure to spend time with his best friends Eduard and Cuthbert. Leisure is not really the apt word in that time and place as they worked hard and had daily battle practice as routine; because one day they too would be called on, to protect what is theirs.

It is during this time, one of the family slaves, a young Welshman named Aedann is allowed to join in along with another young but angry man named Hussa. Practice is brutal but necessary for this group of youngsters. It is only later that Cerdic learns that Hussa is his bastard brother. Unrecognized by Cerdic's father, he is angry and bitter, with never much to say, but he learns the way of battle well and quickly. As

with Aedann, it is also very unusual to allow a slave to practice battle, and especially this slave, since he was Welsh. The Welsh were the enemies of the Anglo-Saxons and yet Cerdic is able to get into the training.

The Sword of Cerdic's uncle passed to his brother Cuthwine, the next in line after their father. When a group of Welshman attacks their village, Cerdic and his friends taste their first bit of battle. Having been in the woods, they witness the attack and the taking of women and children. Cerdic and his friends are able to rescue many of them, and while they win their skirmish, Cerdic is worried about his own family. Heading home, he is unprepared for the destruction he sees. As he approaches his home he finds that his brother Cuthwine has been killed protecting their home, and his sister Mildrith kidnapped. His father is injured but his mother and younger sister were able to escape. Cuthwine's sword is taken, as well as the Amber jewels. Awarded as bounty for their family's part in helping to save the country in battles past, these were a closely guarded secret.

The raid centered on his home and appeared to be due to the presence of the jewels, known to very few. With only a handful of family and servants even knowing about the treasure, suspicion is high, and Cerdic is almost sure the traitor is his young servant Aedann. It colors most of his actions in the coming months. With his father's injury, it is up to Cerdic, his friends and a group of warriors to rescue his sister and return the stolen items. Little do they know that they are on the brink of war. Can they find Mildrith and rescue her without becoming embroiled in even more battles and death? Can they save off death and keep their home and land from further war and bloodshed?

This is a wonderful coming of age novel, full of action and bravado. Cerdic is embroiled in an attempt to find his sister and get revenge for his brother's death. He is brave with a wonderful group of friends that believe in him. He is brash and sometimes outspoken, but with his youth, his thoughts and ideas are often ignored. We see him grow in this book and Denning does an excellent job of describing him, as you would expect of a boy learning to become a man. He tires of battle and death quickly and yet understands it may be his role in life. He seems wise for his age and it does not take long for many of the battle-hardened warriors to begin to learn to trust him a bit.

His friends are both brave and funny. There is something about both their bravery and antics that is endearing, and makes you want to have friends just like them. The descriptions are strong and you can picture them in your mind as they frantically follow Cerdic's lead.

The battle scenes are well written. They feel both real and down to earth. The scenery and sounds are described in such a fashion; you can feel the heat and smell the sweat and blood. You can hear the clang of the armor and the snorts of the horses as the battles engage. It is really quite exciting.

This is a great read for the Young Adult reader; it is full of historical facts along with just enough fiction to keep it entertaining. I believe it will also resonate with the young at heart reader that enjoys historical fiction with action and intrigue. This is a fun and exciting read.

This book was received free from the author. All opinions are my own based off my reading and understanding of the material.

Hazel L. Strickland says

Well Written and Interesting

An unrecorded time. Forgotten battles. A way of life that modern man looks back at with horror...and longing. Survival was the only thing that mattered. In spite of fate of hunger or the strife against other men trying to survive themselves.

Richard Denning has brought this forgotten time to life so well one might almost smell the stench of sweat and blood, suit and rotted flesh.

Terriann Rea-gaustad says

This story takes place in a time that isn't much written about so that makes it interesting to start. The Saxons are still fighting the Welsh, and it was a rude, crude, violent time in history. There was really only one true surprise in the plot for me, but I wasn't bored at all reading it. I finished it in 2 days because it kept me so interested that I carried my Kindle everywhere with me and read more at every opportunity. That's pretty rare for me, so that was a clear sign that I really enjoyed it. The hero is a young, untried warrior-to-be, who ends up finding himself in a leadership role way before he was ready for it, due to battle wounds that the experienced fighters suffered early on. There's only a tad bit of romance in it, and that's mostly the longing from a distance type. The main women in the story are spared being assaulted, which might not be realistic, but it was nice that the story didn't get into that stuff; I mean, I know that's what happened, as much as everyone else familiar with the times knows it, but I'd rather not read descriptions of it. The ending might be a little predictable, but it was still a very enjoyable read for me. I do recommend it, and I hope to read more by this author.

Lisa Yarde says

In Richard Denning's *The Amber Treasure*, a young man's initiation into the warrior class of his society sets him on a perilous journey, pitting him against merciless enemies and exposing long-buried family secrets. Set in sixth century Saxon England, the coming of age of the hero Cerdic immerses the reader in a vivid, brutal story of revenge and warfare.

The bonds of family and kinship propel much of the action and remain a persistent theme. At the opening, the remnants of the Saxon defense, Cerdic's uncle Cynric and his companion Grettir, stand against a host of three hundred Welsh men. Cynric valiantly gives his life and fosters a legend surrounding the strength of his sword. Cerdic, inspired by stories of his uncle's bravery from Grettir and the famous bard Lilla, begins training as a warrior. His friends Cuthbert and Eduard join him, but also two others whose actions will determine Cerdic's destiny, a slave named Aedann and the warrior Hussa. Both share an equal disdain for Cerdic, yet their reasons are dissimilar.

A brutal attack ravages Cerdic's village, in which Welsh marauders steal his mother's priceless amber jewelry, his uncle's legendary sword and some of the villagers, including Cerdic's sister. Cerdic's family questions the loyalty of the slave Aedann, who has gone missing in the aftermath. The Saxons prepare to reclaim their people and property. When Cerdic finds Aedann along the Welsh border, he gives into a foolish impulse for revenge that endangers all the warriors. The enemy captures them and nearly kills their leader in the process. Cerdic soon learns that his assumptions about Aedann are wrong, and that another has betrayed

his people. The Saxons escape with many losses but their fight is not over. To turn the tide against the Welsh, rescue their people, the legendary sword and the amber treasure, they risk a confrontation even though they are outnumbered. The ensuing battle is a test of Cerdic's wits and valor.

Denning's greatest strengths lie in his characterizations and the ability to convey a vivid portrayal of warfare in all its glory and brutality. The history of the Saxons in England is replete with tales of bravery, often against overwhelming odds. The warrior who defends his land and people is the quintessential hero. Cerdic, who enjoys an idealized existence, is arrogant, anxious and impulsive. His experiences in brutal warfare temper his natural disposition. He suffers at the hands of a true villain, a man who will do anything to guarantee victory, even using Cerdic's sister as a pawn. The experience shapes Cerdic. Without this challenge, he can never grow. Through it, Cerdic learns about sacrifice, honor and duty to his fellow combatants, and rises to the heroic challenge.

Linda says

This author gets a good, solid three stars from me. His mechanics of good writing are fine. He knows his subject, and he knows where he wants to take the reader. I was never tripped by the plot, names, titles or places, which was a miracle for me. I do like this author's style. His chief characters have room to grow. In sixth century England, the Welsh were fairly well established. The massive immigration from the continent of loosely connected tribes had pushed the Welsh westward where they remain today. The author describes the battle between Wales and the tribes when Wales seeks to regain a little bit of their lost real estate. Eventually England will form into a country but not before the people nearly kill each other off in their wars against each other yet to come.

The author tells the story of renowned people through imaginary characters. Perhaps they will appear again in another novel. I hope so.

Thank you, Mr. Denning, for a good read.

Brian Wilkerson says

A Trickster Eric Novels review

Richard Denning asked me to read his novel "The Amber Treasure". It takes place in fifth-sixth century British Isles and involves territory wars between the Saxons and the Romano-Britons. I will examine plot, characters and polish and then assign a grade.

PLOT

There are two plot threads here, personal and impersonal, and they are skillfully woven together. On one hand, the protagonist is looking to rescue his sister and retrieve a family heirloom, but on the other hand, the

guy responsible is part of a plot to conquer Saxon land and drive the Saxons themselves back into the sea.

One might think that this is going to be a solo journey, or at most, a ragtag bunch of misfits but it's neither. It's more realistic than that. It's a formal militia marching to the guy's lair. It doesn't end there either. This story is a military campaign conducted by kings with Cedric, a greenhorn soldier, as it's emotional core. It's engaging and exciting but it is not hotblooded.

I call Amber Treasure the Blue Oni to 300's Red Oni. Instead of Large Hams and bullet time and badass boasts etc there is planning and rhetoric and reflection. This is because it is a first person account written by Cedric as an old man. Naturally he has had time to think about what happened and present everything the way a historian would.

Another thing I like to say about this book is "Your Sister Is In Another Castle". There is a repeated sense of 'not quite there yet' as Cedric continues his personal quest to retrieve what he lost when his village was attacked.

There's an Idiot Ball or two but it is understandable. I've read too many real life historical accounts about people dooming themselves because of idiotic actions to hold them against fictional characters.

There is a terrific resolution. This is a story that resolves it's current conflict but leaves open the path to future conflict. It's hard to strike that balance but Mr.Denning does a fantastic job.

CHARACTERS

I like Cedric, the protagonist. He's a heroic guy and a humble guy. He's aware of his faults. He fights bravely but is not a Conan the Barbarian expy. One of his friends is bigger and stronger while his other friend is faster and a better archer. This guy is the leader. Cedric the Narrator will comment on the qualities of a leader and how he possessed them in sufficient qualities to lead men as a teenager.

What I like about this is that Cedric states at the beginning that he writes this story to preserve what happened but he doesn't paint himself in a flattering light. Indeed, more often than not it's a self-deprecating light.

Cedric's friends, Edward and Cuthbert are minor characters and receive characterization appropriate to minor characters. I could say the same for the rest of the supporting cast but what I want to focus on is the nameless background characters.

There is no such thing as Always Chaotic Evil in this story. Cedric often writes how their enemies are no different than himself and his community. Indeed, he points out several boys his age on the other side that are just as scared as him. Then he goes further and says that the Britons have more basis for calling the

Saxons Always Chaotic Evil then the Saxons do the Britons because the Saxons migrated to the British Isles and took over and enslaved the natives.

POLISH

No typos, no grammar errors. It has a thoughtful and reflective air about it. It wouldn't be hard for Mr. Denning to pose this as a real life historical diary.

Trickster Eric Novels gives "The Amber Treasure" an A+ (The third such for a novel)

Tom Walsh says

The Amber Treasure by Richard Denning
Published March 2010 by Mercia Books
Category: Historical Fiction

Long before we read a word of "The Amber Treasure" the ardent and tedious research done by the author becomes evident. Richard Denning provides the reader with place names, maps, and a bibliography for further reading. These items give us an insight into Sixth Century England, and the Anglo-Saxons, just after the Roman Occupation, where the novel takes place.

For a Yank, like me, this peripheral information is priceless, albeit foreign (sorry to use the word "foreign" as it relates to the Welsh "walha" or "wealas", at the time of the novel!) Although I am fascinated by English History and English Literature, the geographical names (with all those strange combinations of letters) and the minutiae of this period's historic territorial events, presented the greatest challenge.

In school, I remember, simply, the Celts were "there" first, and then the Romans conquered, followed by the Anglo-Saxons and Jutes, followed by the Vikings, and then the Normans. My attempts to read short or quick references to the late 6th Century on the net were difficult to find..

As this type of novel reveals, those macro-level school room facts cover not only a great stretch of time, people, but also very catastrophic, territorial and violent events of conquest, reaping great cultural, political and social changes on the great island.

In "The Amber Treasure" the Welsh people are portrayed as the aggressors, the attackers, the antagonists. My initial reaction was startling: "How can this be?" I always thought Wales was the center of British heroic tradition. (I'm prejudiced, as my last name, Walsh, is a derivative from "Walish" or "those foreigners from Wales.") And, after all, didn't Arthurian legend originate in Wales? Didn't Alfred the Great and his powerful thrust to rid the Vikings, come from amongst these same warring people? Yes, that, it seems comes later. In this period of the novel, after Rome leaves, the ones from Wales must fight to regain land, while the Angles, Saxons and Jutes are the one who try to preserve the peace.

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But, as with any exciting, well-written historical fiction, “The Amber Treasure” successfully repaints an era, and resurrects a culture, with vivid scenes and stunning characters. History books are much too factual for this reader, but historical fiction, such as Richard Denning’s, can happily educate, as it sews a vivid tale, penned with the richness of time, place, people, customs and mission.

The plot centers on the protagonist, Cerdic, who lives in the post-Roman Northumbrian town called The Villa. Cerdic’s family legacy centers on the oral myths generated by his late warrior-uncle’s brave assaults, and the physical reality of the uncle’s prized sword, passed down to Cerdic, as well as his family’s amber jewels, kept sacred by Cerdic’s mother. There is a classic line on page 7: “..all good stories are about a sword.”

But, the idealistic views and glorious tales of battle are smashed in Cerdic’s imagination when invaders from Wales destroy the town, kill his brother, Cuthwin, drag away his sister, Mildreth, and steal both the jewels and the prized sword. “.war is really tears and death” (page 119.) The character transformation from the idyllic Cerdic to the vengeful warrior Cerdic, to me, is the most intriguing element of the novel. The author’s description of this transition is brilliant. I remember reading “War and Peace” and thought the same of Tolstoy’s portrayal of his character Pierre, the ideal champion of Napoleon, until he walked through a field of battered bodies after a battle.

But, Denning is thorough as well as intriguing. He supplies his readers with many characters, and keeps the story interesting. He creates Aedann, the Welsh slave in Cerdic’s family, and the poet Lilla, who exemplifies the ancient bardic tradition, and, of course, the antagonist, Semlan, the one-eyed barbaric leader of the forces from Wales. And there is Hussa, who has many surprises.

That’s as far as I’ll go with the plot, because I want you to read the book. There is plenty of action to assist you. The plot is revealed splendidly and with ample cadence and held together by many vivid and interesting scenes.

Anyone who appreciates early British history (and now I’m raising my hand as one of them) will inhale reading this electrifying saga. Mr. Denning (or should I type Doctor Denning?) has done his homework, so ancient British history hobbyists will not be disappointed.

But, I have to conclude, along with Mr. Denning in his book’s Appendix, with the glance to the future, beyond the setting of the novel. Wales will remain separate, culturally, and this thunderous battleship of 6th Century fury will produce Alfred who, in this humble reviewer’s estimation, will take the reigns not only to save the English Language but also save the Island of The Britons from the Viking Invasions. But, that’s another saga.

--Tom Walsh, March 2010

Gary Sedivy says

Before there was England, there were the small tribes and kingdoms, the Saxons, the Angles, and the Welch. This story is set about 600 A.D. According to the author, most historical records are lost. Only a few places and names of kings still exist, without much flesh on the bones.

This is a pretty good tale of battles between some the tribes, told in the first person. The teller is a young teenager, whose father is a lord of a minor town. They raided by some Welch warlords, who want their country back having lost it his father and other minor nobles years ago. His older sister is captured and He and some other men from his village set out to get her back, and end up in a couple skirmishes. Although this is the first of a series, the author does a good job of making it a complete story. You know how I hate shaggy-dog cliffhanger endings.

Bettie? says

author brought to my attention by Brazilliant!
:O)

Sabrina says

Cerdic was my idea of a warrior. He wasn't made perfect and drool worthy, he was just a boy with dreams of becoming a warrior, as most boys his age, not realizing the horrors of war.

Unfortunately for him, his dream comes true all too soon and not only does he have to fight, but he has to step into the leadership role very quickly. What is a boy/young man to do?!

He made mistakes, lots of them. Some got people killed, others you just shook your head at, but the point is, it's a normal progression of living and learning. This story does a great job of showing his progress without over-stressing the faults. They happened, it sucks, but it moved on, just like life. And the great thing about the ending of the book?! he still wasn't perfect. He did the best he could, which ended up being better than most. He grew into his leadership role and became the man his people needed him to be.

I also think this book did a great job of keeping things real. The Saxons were fighting for their people, land and way of life, but Cerdic also understood the Welsh believed they were fighting for the same reason. Who's right?

The secondary characters were great. I loved Cerdic's friends and their banter. The Kings, Lords and even the Welsh were fleshed out to perfection making them vital to the story.

I can't wait to continue this story.

Brandy says

As published at Layeredpages.com: Right off, I was impressed with the extensive research done in preparing for this writing in order to remain true to the time period. The story takes you on a journey of the tumultuous travels of a great sword. While this story does indeed feature several great swords, it is the story within, of a boy growing into a man, which grips your heart. The characters of the villa and their allies are well developed and endearing. Descriptions of the countryside, towns, people and battles are detailed enough to transport the reader into battle, and inspire sympathy for the boys, without being overly gruesome. While at times the storyline was slow, Denning succeeds in attaching the reader's curiosity to the character's quest

and fates in order to carry you through these slow spots.

I would recommend this book to those interested in the dark ages, important battles in history, and war stories in general. The ending makes clear that this is not intended to be a stand-alone volume and as such those looking for a new series to read will be satisfied as well. Full disclosure: I have been provided a copy of the book for the purpose of providing a review; however the opinions presented are my own and not influence or dictated by publisher or author.

Christina says

This is YA historical fiction set during the very early medieval period in England. I've always been a huge fan of Bernard Cornwell's Saxon Tales and thanks to shows like Vikings and The Last Kingdom, there's a little more interest in the period. It remains pretty obscure however, which makes it fertile ground for creators of fiction.

Cerdic is a young English warrior and the book follows his first battles against the invading Welsh. It gets off to a pretty slow start. The author is really well-versed in the historical details of the period and takes his time creating a vivid setting. I don't mind- I love reading about how they spun the wool, cooked the food and learned to fight. I do wonder if it's a bit slow for a YA audience. Once the Welsh raid Cerdic's home, and he and his friends pursue them, there's plenty of action all the way to the end of the book.

There are numerous detailed accounts of violent battles, and most of them go on for some time. I found all of that pretty exciting, though I wondered at how easily Cerdic and his friends seemed to cut down more seasoned opponents. I guess someone's got to be that good, so they live to grow up and tell about it.

I really enjoyed this book. Except for the nearly complete absence of girls, it's very much my cup of tea.

Rebecca says

It is well done for what it is. Very well written. The lower rating is entirely due to my personal taste, which does not run to copious detailed description of battles and death. I expect it would easily get 5 from someone with different preferences.

Sarah says

Historical fiction is a personal favourite genre of mine. Richard Denning has well researched the Dark ages and the reader is instantly transported into the dark ages.

Vivid description is used throughout the novel and transports the reader to the dark ages. All characters have a purpose within this novel. All characters have a purpose within the novel and help to transport the reader to this time. I could relate to all the characters that are present throughout the novel and this is something that has always been important to me.

If you are into historical fiction this is definitely a novel you will inhale. I look forward to reading more work

from Richard Denning and he is definitely an author who is one to watch.

A copy of this novel was received for review and all opinions expressed are my own through reading this novel.

This review first appeared on <http://everybookhasasoul.wordpress.com>

Joyce says

This YA novel about the Anglo-Saxons in 6th Century England had some interesting historical information. It also had quite a bit of violence, with lots of "gushing blood", and battle scenes that seemed to go on forever. I found myself skimming a lot to get past it. The enemy Welsh characters, with one exception, were extremely one dimensional. (Translate: all bad.) Having read a book just previous to this about the Saxon invasion of England, with many a Saxon massacring the Britons who dwelled there before them, I had difficulty sympathizing with the Saxons in *The Amber Treasure* constantly whining about the Britons/Welsh trying to take their country back from Saxons who now viewed England as their own country and "only wanted to live on their land in peace." (I'm sure the Britons/Welsh only wanted to live out their lives in peace, as well, before the Saxons showed up and began mowing them down.) By the end of the story, I found myself looking forward to the Norman Invasion to give the Saxons a taste of their own medicine.

The Amber Treasure contains some profanity and one explicit sexual reference that would have left me very uncomfortable were my twelve-year-old daughter to ask me, "Mom, what does this mean?" (I could easily have read this book at twelve.) Unfortunately, the reference comes before the battle scenes, because I doubt most girls would have continued reading through all the blood and gore.

The author has clearly researched the period in depth and is passionate about his story. I just think the characters on both sides could have had a little more depth and the story could have had more balance.

John McCormick says

A quality read

I will be honest prior to reading this book I had never heard of this author but having bought an Amazon Fire having previously always been an hardcopy reader, I was looking to download some books to give it a try. Amazon being Amazon were quick to offer some suggestions, and I selected half a dozen at the excellent price of nothing yes Free, but there's a famous saying there is no such thing as a free meal, well in my case as an avid reader there is no such thing as a free book. Yes the books were completely free, but having read *The Destroyer* with its nail biting cliff hanger ending I have since ordered at a cost book 2.

Likewise having read and thoroughly enjoyed this book I have since ordered the complete trilogy as this worked out better value than just buying the two remaining books.

This is a quality read almost non stop action, and be warned those of a nervous disposition some quite graphic violence, the characterisation vivid with a real sense of time and place you can almost touch. This book is right up there with similar offerings in this genre such as Giles Kristian's "RAVEN" series, Robert Low's "Oathsworn" series and Bernard Cornwell's "Uhtred" series, and as such I highly recommend it.

S.C. Skillman says

A brilliant evocation of the conflicts and challenges that faced the people of Dark Age Britain. The extended battle scenes between the Romano-British (whom the author refers to as Welsh) and the incoming Anglo-Saxons are powerfully described. I found the story a little slow in getting off the ground at first, as the author sets the scene but then the action takes over and we are swept along by Cerdic's tale and intrigued by the Welsh slave Aedann, and the question of where his loyalty lies. Highly recommended as a gripping action read, bringing an obscure period of British history alive; and a worthy start to the first in the Northern Crown series.

Pat Roberts says

While not the caliber of Bernard Cornwall historical fiction, this is not a bad read. In fact, I may continue checking in on the various characters who were fleshed out well so the reader could create a bond with them. Of course not all the characters in subsequent books will show up. This is a story of war and conquest..a price is paid in the form of human life.

Darrell D. Warner says

Captivated

Kept my interest all the way. The story caught me up and kept me going on, this could have been the story of my ancestors.
