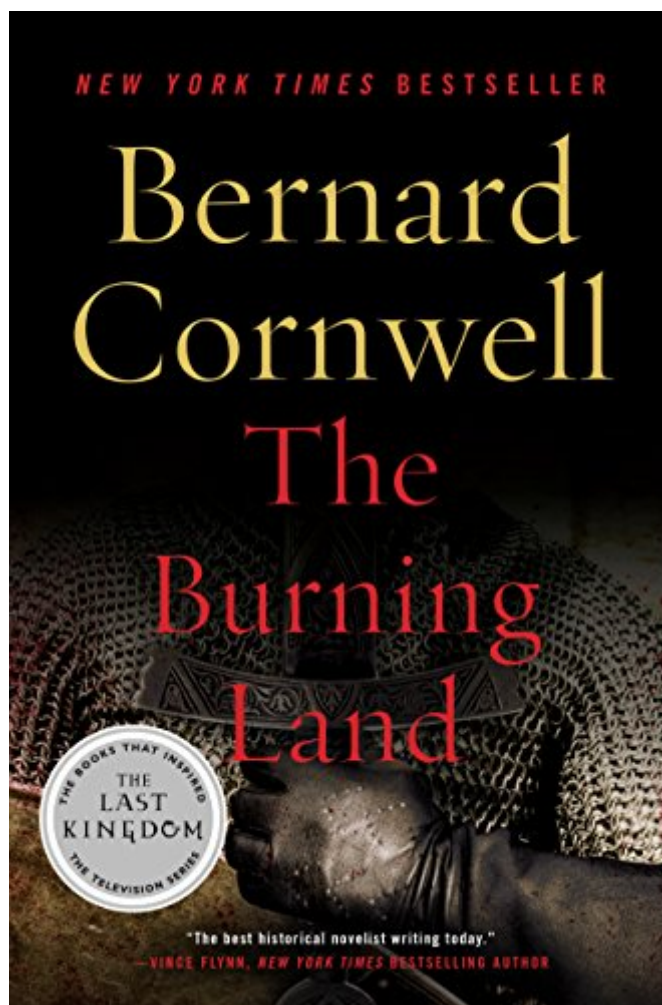


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The Burning Land: A Novel (Saxon Tales Book 5)



Synopsis

The fifth installment of Bernard Cornwell's New York Times bestselling Saxon Tales chronicling the epic saga of the making of England, like Game of Thrones, but real (The Observer, London) the basis for The Last Kingdom, the hit television series. At the end of the ninth century, with King Alfred of Wessex in ill health and his heir still an untested youth, it falls to Alfred's reluctant warlord Uhtred to outwit and outbattle the invading enemy Danes, led by the sword of savage warrior Harald Bloodhair. But the sweetness of Uhtred's victory is soured by tragedy, forcing him to break with the Saxon king. Joining the Vikings, allied with his old friend Ragnar and his old foe Haesten Uhtred devises a strategy to invade and conquer Wessex itself. But fate has very different plans. Bernard Cornwell's The Burning Land is an irresistible new chapter in his epic story of the birth of England and the legendary king who made it possible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Uhtred still fights for Alfred who is becoming more frail and sick worrying for his son Edward and who would rule. He does not want his daughter's husband to rule and wants Uhtred to pledge and oath to his son. Uhtred becomes more powerful as a warrior and lord. People fear him and respect

him. He is still a pagan. In this book, he loses his wife Gisela who dies during childbirth and as a result of this suffers pain and problems because one of the monks offended Gisela calling herUhtred fights with Edward and his faithful followers. I do not know how long he can stay as a main hero, though. I think he will have an affair with Alfred's daughter and/or will marry her.

As with the other four novels in this series, this one is also outstanding. I can't wait to read novel number six. I am sure based on the quality of the ones I have read that it will be just as good as all the others.

It took me this long to realize the books are basically the same. The main character doesn't seem to have much progression, and it seems like the same events keep happening over and over. It feels repetitive. That being said, I still finished it and enjoyed reading more about the world and the characters. Unfortunately I feel a little burned out on it now, so this is probably a good place for me to stop.

"Fate is inexorable." Just as Uhtred's fate is to continually serve Alfred, Bernard Cornwall continually draws the reader into the unfolding drama surrounding the Saxon-born, Dane-raised Lord of Bebbanburg. Each addition to The Last Kingdom series is a fast-paced, action-packed page-turner sure to enthrall history-buffs, military enthusiasts, and anyone who loves a good story. The vivid imagery transports the reader back to the late 9th century and truly brings the story to life. This series is a must read!

The continuing saga of Uhtred of Bebbanburg. You can read it as a stand alone, but I encourage readers to start at the beginning of the series. In fairness, I have to identify myself as a Cornwell fan, having read the entire Sharp series as well as all the previous books of the Uhtred series. Cornwell writes a battle as well as anyone I have ever read, and I have learned a lot from the historical detail that he uses. These details give his books an earthy realism that contributes to their quality. His characters are well-rounded, with virtues and vices and foibles, and they grow and develop as they age through a series. I also like the historical notes that Cornwell puts at the end of each book, telling you what was accurate and where he took liberties. This book is generally up to his usual good work, but I gave it four stars instead of five because of a couple of extremely convenient circumstances that saved our hero's life and gave him success in the big battle. A bit of that is to be expected, but to me he really stretched believability too far in a couple of places.

This is Book 5 and continues the saga of violence, love, religion, and dynastic ambition. I know nothing about early English history but these books make it interesting, if a tad brutal.

Wonderful! Riveting! As Uhtred gets older I fear more and more for his life. Yet he emerges once again as powerful as the greatest warrior for the future to achieve Edward's England! Bernard Cornwell has yet to disappoint me in any endeavor of his imagination put to press. This book is no different.

Cornwell at his best. This is book six of a seven-book series. Start with the first book and just keep going. Cornwell's writing is outstanding. His historical fiction is backed by marvelous research into the history of England. I could not stop reading from the first book through the seventh. You get a feeling of what life was like in the formative years of England in the seventh through the eighth centuries. Life was difficult then.

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