



Warriors of the Storm

Bernard Cornwell

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The new novel in Bernard Cornwell's number one bestselling series The Saxon Tales, on the making of England and the fate of his great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg.

A fragile peace governs the kingdoms of Wessex, East Anglia, under the rule of the late King Alfred's son, King Edward, and Mercia, under his daughter Aethelflaed.

Uhtred, her formidable champion and greatest warrior, controls the northern parts from the strongly fortified city of Chester. But no one can prepare them for the storm that is about to descend...

The Northmen, allied to the Irish, come in force under the cover of night, up the Mersey, perhaps to attack Chester, perhaps to rage and pillage through Mercia, perhaps to take the troubled kingdom of Northumbria. They are led by the terrifying Viking warrior, Ragnall Iverson, a fierce fighter and ruthless leader.

He and his army are formidable enough but worse still, his brother is married to Uhtred's daughter. With his passionate determination, Uhtred will stop at nothing to take back his corner of Northumbria and secure the future of Bebbanburg. But for Aethelflaed and the Mercians, doubt must arise to where his loyalty lies.

In the struggle between family and loyalty, between oaths given and political demands, there is no easy solution. And the clash between the Vikings and the Saxons will resound across the land.

Warriors of the Storm Details

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From Reader Review Warriors of the Storm for online ebook

Dawn says

I find that the books in this series where Uhtred is not left with time to feel sorry for himself are always the better ones. This book has him on the go and attacking from beginning to end. All three of his children are part of the story and I like the family man version of Uhtred we get to see because of it. There is no doubt that this is family, warrior style, but still, it gives a more rounded version of this character rather than just the fire breathing, battle hardened, christian hating, morose man we usually read about.

Ace says

Edit: April 2016 Just finished listening to this one, cannot wait for the next book!

May 2015 - Eagerly awaiting this book, I was in two minds about its potential, book 9 in a series, it's a hard task to keep to your story and maintain the thread of characters but I had nothing to fear!

England is full of rich history, and I'm glad to be reading it through this series. Another winner for the Saxon Stories.

Bernard Cornwell has delivered a for me a 6 star read about one of my favourite characters, and I'm a happy little vegemite today!

Rob says

Executive Summary: I'm still enjoying this series as can be inferred from my rating, but I'm eager for things to reach a conclusion soon.

Full Review

This was another quick easy read. It doesn't really stand out as anything special among the rest of the series, but still enjoyable nonetheless. Uthred is great and all, but what keeps me going in the series is some of the supporting cast. Finan, Aethelflaed, and most recently his kids.

Uthred is getting old though. I'd like to see him finish up his adventures in another book or two. I only have 1 more left to catch up, and I don't think it's the last. I am starting to hope he doesn't keep dragging this out a bit longer. The ending of this book seemed to go by pretty quick. I was starting to wonder how things would get wrapped up by the end, or if they would be left on a cliffhanger. I was surprised at how well he did bring the book to a close.

All that would make it sound like I didn't like the book, but I blew through it in only a few sessions. If not for

getting busy in the middle, I'd have likely finished this in 3 days.

Overall this was a solid entry in the series, that hopefully inches things a bit closer to the end, albeit not as much as I would have hoped.

Jason Koivu says

Dashingly handsome Uthred of Bebbanburg's life story vikings along in *Warriors of the Storm*, the ninth book in the Saxon series.

First off, Uthred is never described as being handsome in the books. That is a tv fabrication. Okay, I just needed to get that out of the way.

Anywho, this is a serviceable book that continues the saga admirably. It's not anything special. No major historically related events take place. It's more personal. In fact, at one point Uthred has to rescue his daughter and son-in-law.

It does feel like maybe Bernard Cornwell is wrapping things up. A prominent character from earlier books bites the dust, and when that begins to happen the end is often nigh. However, we're talking about an author who's learned his lesson about rushing a good thing along just to get to the end. With his Sharpe series, Cornwell ended up going back and writing prequels because a tv show had developed and fans clamored for more. I wouldn't be surprised to see the Saxon series double in size before he's done with it. However, it probably should've already ended. I mean, at this point it feels like he's having to pull out of his ass new ways to get Uthred into hot water.

Having said that, if he *does* keep putting out more and more of these, I will keep reading them. It's enjoyable stuff and I'm fully invested in the characters. "Please sir, may I have some more?"

Terri says

It has been a long time between drinks for me and, after a couple years since the last time I had read a book in this series, boy, it sure was good to be back drinking from the well of Bernard Cornwell's Uhtred. I've missed the big guy, with all his scorching, sardonic quips and his unabashed mocking of just about anybody, he is a big personality to endure, and I endure him with such delight and immense gratitude. Rarely does a character, consistently, make me smile and laugh out loud as much as Uhtred Uhtredsson of Bebbanburg. He is a character to be enjoyed and can carry these books and their stories on his back alone. No other character can compete and, thankfully, Bernard Cornwell never lets them. His Uhtred takes centre stage at all times. And most especially so in this book. Number nine in the series.

These books are stand alone. Cornwell always reiterates important back history so that people who are reading them as a stand alone, or who read the series but need a refresher, can follow along fairly seamlessly. If you do read the series, however, this book has a lot of closing chapters in it. With characters you have known for many, many years, leaving the series for good. I will not tell you who they are, so as not to spoil

things, but like or loathe them, it is always a little sad to see characters that we have gotten to know over many years, finally become no more.

We even learned a thing or two about Finan in this book. His storyline was fascinating to follow and it felt like another loose end tied up. But, Uhtred is on to new chapters in his life, including, in maybe only a few more books, the end of his own story and the passing of an era, so it is expected to see some loose ends come together. It makes no sense to weave them to their conclusions in the last two books. That would be rushing it.

Warriors of the Storm turned out to be one of my favourites of the series. I loved it from start to finish. It could be because the leave taking of a few lingering characters from earlier books left me feeling sentimental. It could be because I did have a break for a couple of years and completely forgot how much I enjoy these books. Or, it could simply be because the book was a bloody good read. I am thinking it is all three, but in saying that, without the first two, I would still regard it highly and recommend to others based on nothing more than it being that good read. The former two matter little when it comes to me thinking of recommending it.

With battles and strategies, twists and turns (that you may or may not see coming), short journeys, some seafaring, some nostalgia, Christians who were tolerable for a change and Danes like we love them, brutal, blustery and bombastic, this was an entertaining, well paced read, that made me want to read it all over again as soon as I'd finished it.

Tosh says

[First, it was nice to see Finan get a spot in the limelight. He's always been a faithful oath man and friend to Uhtred, and I've liked his character since their captivity on the slave ship, but his **badassery** is given

Murf the Surf says

Riders on the Storm!

Hey, I'd bethought that clever maxim all by myself, he he. Uhtred is on the roll again and as before he wishes to uphold the Christian realm of Alfred whilst praising Odin and Thor, bemoaning the evils of the Nailed God. Maybe all these testosterone fueled animosities towards Cornwells strict Episcopal upbringing seems a bit silly at times, but it is truly an enjoyable read.

I can't believe that I've made it through book nine already. You see I have a great weakness for all things medieval and dark. It's a childhood passion I've had since I'd lived in Sicily and Denmark in my boyhood. America is just a baby when it comes to holy wars and bloodshed. We've not drank from the bitter cup of war often, and it amazes me how bloodthirsty this new administration is gearing up! This is a book review, so I'll behead my political Cornwell fed moralizing.

Book ten looks enticing. The story of England's making is blood-drenched. Eventually the Northmen (Danes and Norse) will intermarry with the Saxons, but so long as the two sides compete for ownership of the land, then war will continue. Uhtred has marched from Wessex in the south to the northern borders of Mercia. He has farther to go, so he will march again.

Peace, and please take some time to spread love around, Murf

Andy says

Crashed through it in 2 days & was a great ride & thoroughly cleansed my mind's eye of the sad whim of a boy that portrays Uthred in that appalling BBC show *The Last Kingdom*.

Uthred is now older although an age not given & enjoyed the new characters immensely, as well as some old ones, which really did catch me unawares. A really quick read as your drawn into this page turner & truly back to the form of the first few books in the series for me.

What's more to say! 5 stars as it delivered.

Markus says

A much more interesting book than *The Empty Throne*, the wonderfully titled *Warriors of the Storm* only took me a bunch of hours on a plane to read.

After securing the future of Mercia, Uthred and his allies turn their eyes northward, towards his old homeland of Northumbria. The Saxon kingdoms are in their strongest position yet, with both Mercia and East Anglia on the verge of liberation from the invading northmen. Awaiting him in the north, however, is a grand convergence of enemies both new and old. And a man who dreams of uniting Britain under Norse banners.

This ninth book of the Saxon Stories brings back a lot of the good things from the earliest instalments of the series, from characters and locations to the style of presentation. It's very encouraging to see that Cornwell still has his entire repertoire of skills as we move inevitably towards a final conclusion.

Bookdragon Sean says

It's been two years since I last read a volume in this series. I just started to grow tired of it and the formulaic approach to novel writing. Although a series, each story is quite self-contained and follows a similar pattern of development. So I definitely needed a break from Uthred of Bebbanburg for a short while.

And I'm glad I took it because I found myself enjoying this one more than many of the others and, even better, I'm actually quite excited to read the rest of the series. Though I do really think it needs to start drawing to a conclusion very soon before all life is beaten out of the characters and plot. I don't want to see fifteen books in this series. Ending it around book thirteen would be perfect for me, anymore and it will start to lose its edge.

So what's good about *Warriors of the Storm*?

"That is why battles of the shield wall are slow to start. Men have to nerve themselves for the horror."

The tittle for one. For me it was all about the desperation and the great action. We've all seen Uhtred in tight scrapes before, but this time I felt like he might actually die because the odds seemed so powerfully against him. It took some real cunning to survive them and turn the tide of battle in his favour. And that's why he does so well. His experience allows him to predict the actions of his enemies and he can lead them exactly where he wants them. He is a true lord of war even if his age means he has to withdraw slightly from the front lines. He still leads the charge, though he is more cautious than his former reckless self.

For once, Cornwell actually wrote about a priest who is not a complete buffoon. All the religious types seems to fit into a stereotyped role of piety that shields their gaze and prevents them from perceiving the realities of a nation at war in this series. For once, Cornwell wrote about a practical priest who understood that he knew nothing about war. And he was a genuinely likable character, and genuine in his faith rather than using it for personal gain. Even Uhtred liked him, and Uhtred hated almost everybody who wore Christian robes.

Uhtred is starting to get old

Of further note, the historical basis of this series is becoming looser and looser (it never claimed to be accurate or anything) though it began by recounting some battles and political turmoil between actual historical figures, but now the battles are purely fictitious as are all the foes that Uhtred faces. Whereas before it was a mixture of history and fiction. It's an interesting turn of events, to make it all fiction, and it says to me that Cornwell is willing to adapt his style to keep this series going. I suppose there was only so much source material he could play with and once Alfred died he had to get quite creative.

This is a good instalment into the series, and it tops the previous two, though I am really hoping that the series will start to slowly draw to a conclusion before Uhtred's story starts to run dry and he can no longer stand in a shield wall.

S.J.A. Turney says

For years friends of mine have raved about Cornwell's Uhtred novels, and I have intended to read the series at some point, but never seemed to find the time. For the record the last Cornwells I read were the Sharpe series back in the day and, though I think I tired a little of the series towards the end, I remember the earlier ones as some of the absolutely best novels I have ever read.

So when I had the opportunity to read an advance copy of the new Cornwell, I had to say yes, didn't I. I did wonder whether I would really be able to get into the novel, being as it's book #9 and I have yet to read 1 to 8. No need to worry. From the very first page I remembered why I loved Cornwell's writing. *Warriors of the Storm* opens straight to the action, dragging the reader right in. It is filled with the smooth, almost effortlessly absorbing prose that I remember being Cornwell at his best. The descriptive is full and rich, the moments of light-hearted humour beautifully worked.

Set in the early 10th century, the Last Kingdom series is a strange milieu to me. The Dark Ages is a curious era, full of change and uncertainty. A mish-mash of cultures struggle to dominate Britain, from the Saxons and Danes to the Celts and the Scandinavian vikings, many of whom are by this time based in Ireland and Scotland. As a Roman historian, I am to some extent at a loss with 9th-10th century Britain, so this is fresh unfamiliar ground.

However, the bulk of this tale is based in an area I know quite well, that being Chester, the Wirral and surroundings, and to rediscover a place with which I am so familiar (I spend quite a bit of time reenacting there now and research a lot into Roman Deva), though in a whole different era, is fascinating.

The book opens as a Norse lord (Ragnall Ivarson) who has long been an enemy of Uhtred's begins an attempt to conquer parts of England. Driven out of his previous territory, this lord and his army sail into the Mersey, which is held by Uhtred, and begin to move inland making a play for invasion and control, holding an ancient hill fort and bridging the river into Northumbria, where a vast supply of potential manpower awaits. Cue a desperate campaign to counter the growing strength of Ivarson, who is related to the English hero through his brother's marriage to Uhtred's daughter, so yes, politics is inevitably going to play as much a part here as battle.

My friends rave about Uhtred. This is my first outing with him and, while he is a traditional hero with a particularly nice turn of phrase at times, I wouldn't say there is much about him that makes him outstanding to me. That didn't matter, though, because the supporting cast were so vivid and fascinating that I could deal rather easily without a deep fascination with the hero.

Aethelflaed, the daughter of King Alfred who rules Mercia and Wessex, is impressive and powerful, with flaws and uncertainties that make her a far more vivid character than Uhtred. The priests Ceolnoth and Ceolberht were fun and memorable for all their small role, the bishop Leofstan was simply superb, and of Uhtred's own cadre of warriors, the Irishman Finan was one of the most interesting.

Of course if there is one thing for which Cornwell is noted it is his battles. He has a long pedigree of writing warfare across many eras, and this has over time granted him the ability to do so with pace and panache, never having to linger too much in the gory detail while delving deep enough to hook the reader and really create an impression of the horror, glory, and above all desperation of combat.

The upshot? Great characters, well-written prose, fascinating locations and excellent battle scenes. The plot might have benefitted from a few extra twists and turns, but that is merely icing on a well-made cake. Warriors of the Storm dragged me in and kept me glued to the end. Well worth a read, and now I am shuffling books 1-8 back up in my pile.

Bart says

Actual rating: 4,75

I've read the whole series this year, so it's easy to say I love these books. Some are better than others though. I rank this book among the best. It has all ingredients for a classic Uhtred story: full scale battle, Uhtred at sea, Uhtred vs priests, plot twist, one-on-one battle. I strongly recommend this series to all readers of historical fiction and fantasy.

Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λου says

Bernard Cornwell did it again! Another masterpiece!

Uhtred is getting older but he knows what he's doing and this book is a proof of that. This time the enemy is powerful and his family in danger. It's time to go to war...Again...

Uhtred is a man driven by his passions... He has a passion for war, for women, for his land... In this story he is going to make some pretty big decisions and my opinion is that he did well... I can't get enough of him and I can't wait to read more!

His story isn't an easy one... He is living in a time where everything is changing and no one knows it... A country is in the making and only one god is going to survive...But until then...Wyrð bið ful aræd...

Scott Hitchcock says

3.5*

Uhtred kills some Danes, bullies some priests, mocks the nailed gods, defies Etheldred.....we do lose a couple of old "friends" in this one.

Sarah says

Price drop: \$1.99 in the Kindle Store today!

This is (I think) the 9th book in the Saxon Stories series. I would be hard pressed to pick a favorite of Uhtred's tales. This one is probably in the top three.

It was a little different from his usual stories. My one gripe with Uhtred has always been that he has always answered to someone. He has never been truly free to do as he pleased. Sometimes he has worked outside the rules to the displeasure of his rulers, but he's never just done as he pleased. In this book, Uhtred did exactly what Uhtred wanted to do and knew needed to be done. It was SO refreshing. The book ends with Uhtred's retirement to take care of his business in the North. While I can't wait to see his triumphant return to Bebbanburg, I'm also a little sad to know it's coming to an end. He is easily one of my all time favorite fictional characters.

The Shayne-Train says

One of the standout best entries in a series full of near-perfect novels.

Uhtred is back, and kicking Norseman ass like nobody's business. Nerve-ravaging midnight sea-crossings, daring fortress sieges, sorcerers of both pagan and Christian magic....plus the long awaited backstory of Finan, Uhtred's quick, deadly, and loyal Irish best friend.

I don't think I'll ever find a series of books I enjoy as much as this series.

Krista Baetiong Tungol says

Ah. I honestly thought this book is the final installment of the series worthy of my sleepless nights and 5-star reverence, but it's clear now that we'll still see more of Uhtred and his battle-filled excursions in the future (and in a few more books, too, perhaps?). And reasonably so, as he still has a would-be king to mentor and a beloved fortress to recapture!

Well, my only wish is that we won't have to wait long for his next story to come out.

StoryTellerShannon says

It's more blood and thunder as Uhtred continues to fight for Wessex while thirsting for his ancestral lands.

There's fighting and more fighting, particularly against the Irish and the Norse. Some interesting landscapes for fighting and maneuvering this time around.

In some ways this is a repeat of some of the older books but if you love Uhtred as I do then you'll forgive the author.

OVERALL GRADE: B to B plus.

Lo9man88 says

The sun smiled upon my weary soul the day i picked this glorious series, in my book Uthred can do no wrong , It found me in a time when i read the best there is in fantasy and fiction and i had begun despairing and losing hope, some garbage out there: i shudder to think of it ...

Our hero in this novel faces a new threat,surprisingly the brother of his son in law :his daughter and his first grandchild are besieged in their fortress and they're close to defeat and death so naturally Uthred disobeys all orders and reason and sail to Ireland to the rescue ...

This novel has been a grand journey that ended with Uthred making queen and king of his daughter and her husband , a first love that turned sour , and a most fantastic unusual war cry : Puss
Man how hard i laughed, it brought cherished memories of my first

Vagner Stefanello says

Review in Portuguese from Desbravando Livros:

Essa resenha contém spoilers dos livros anteriores.

Como já é de praxe, no momento em que o autor Bernard Cornwell lança um livro novo das Crônicas Saxônicas/Saxon Stories eu já vou correndo atrás e tento ler o mais cedo possível, já que essa é minha série favorita e Uhtred de Bebbanburg é o personagem que mais gosto. O único problema depois disso tudo é ter que esperar mais um ano pela sequência, mas faz parte. hahaha

Depois de defender a fortaleza de Ceaster contra os ataques dos noruegueses liderados por Sigtryggr no final do volume anterior (O Trono Vazio), Uhtred e seus guerreiros têm uma nova ameaça à frente: o irmão de Sigtryggr, Ragnall Ivarson, um viking poderoso e que comanda única e simplesmente pelo medo (Kjartan 2), pronto para saquear as terras da Mércia e atrapalhar o sonho do já falecido Alfredo de juntar os reinos existentes e formar a Inglaterra que ele tanto queria.

"Ragnall Ivarson. Eu nunca me encontrei com ele, mas eu o conhecia. Sabia de sua reputação. Nenhum homem navegava melhor um navio, nenhum homem lutava mais ferozmente, nenhum homem causava mais terror. Ele era um selvagem, um pirata, um rei de lugar nenhum."

Velhos conhecidos aparecem e temos alguns dos seus destinos selados. Pessoas que eu nem lembrava direito onde estavam e o que faziam, mas que entraram no caminho de Uhtred por bem ou por mal e o nosso saxão terá negócios para resolver. Negócios sangrentos, digamos assim.

As descrições das paredes de escudos estão fenomenais, como sempre, e foi exatamente nesse quesito tão importante que o autor apostou para retomar a excelente narrativa do 7º livro, O Guerreiro Pagão. Narrativa essa que acabou se perdendo um pouquinho no seguinte, que acabou não sendo um dos melhores volumes da série. Warriors of the Storm não tem esse problema e os leitores podem ficar tranquilos quanto a isso, já que a carnificina rola solta e desenfreada por aqui.

"Trinta passos, vinte, e você pode ver os olhos dos homens que tentarão te matar, e ver as pontas das lanças, e o instinto te diz para parar, apertar os escudos. Nós nos contraímos durante a batalha, o medo enterra suas garras em nós, o tempo parece parar, há silêncio mesmo que milhares de homens gritem, e naquele momento, quando o terror ataca o coração como uma besta enjaulada, nós devemos nos jogar para dentro daquele horror. Porque o inimigo sente o mesmo. E você veio matá-lo. Você é o demônio dos seus pesadelos."

Tive algumas sensações nostálgicas durante a leitura, lembrando bastante do Uhtred lá dos 2-3 primeiros livros, que desobedecia todo mundo e fazia o que bem entendia. Dessa vez, novas ordens não são cumpridas e elas acabam trazendo algumas consequências. Tudo pela família, diga-se de passagem. Só que dessa vez Uhtred é um senhor da guerra, experiente, com reputação a mente, com pessoas a seu serviço e que dependem da sua palavra, e qualquer ameaça à sua família, por menor que seja, é considerada um ultraje sem precedentes e não deve jamais ser ignorada.

"Eu o faria gritar e assistiria enquanto sangrava, cortaria sua carne fresca em pedaços antes de me preocupar com Æthelflaed. Isso era pela família. Isso era por vingança."

Outro que é sempre bom ver por perto é Finan, que Uhtred conheceu há muito tempo no período em que era escravo. O irlandês é um lutador exímio e deixará sua marca em combates singulares.

Um dos pontos importantes a se destacar é a grande evolução de Uhtred ao longo de toda a série. Agora mais velho, com quase 60 anos, ele não tem o mesmo físico de antes e não tem como ser o primeiro cara a pular uma muralha, é mais lento que muitos dos seus adversários, mas compensa os seus defeitos com a sua experiência de anos na primeira linha das paredes de escudos dos saxões.

Muitos por aí dizem que ele é apenas um personagem com a profundidade de uma poça d'água, mas enganam-se ao não notar que as suas preocupações ao longo dos livros mudam constantemente, além de ter sempre aquela questão de gostar mais dos dinamarqueses do que dos próprios saxões.

As piadinhas com os padres continuam e são sempre hilárias, disso o leitor jamais poderá reclamar.

"Você é cristão?"

"Mas é claro!"

"Você acredita em milagres?" eu perguntei, e ele concordou. "Então é melhor você pegar os seus cinco pães e dois peixes," continuei, "e rezar para que o seu deus miserável providencie o resto."

Repleto daquele humor irreverente e das batalhas que tanto amamos ver nos livros de Bernard Cornwell, *Warriors of the Storm* é leitura obrigatória para todos os fãs das Crônicas Saxônicas e deve ser feita o quanto antes. O destino é inexorável, diriam alguns, e Uhtred parece estar se aproximando cada vez mais de Bebbanburg, a fortaleza na Nortúmbria que é sua por direito.

A edição brasileira do nono livro da série só deve chegar ao Brasil no 2º semestre de 2016, mas até lá temos o seriado baseado na série e que a BBC está produzindo. Intitulado *The Last Kingdom*, iniciou-se em 10 de outubro. Recomendo fortemente que todos vocês assistam o quanto antes!
