



Legend of the Celtic Stone

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In *Legend of the Celtic Stone*, Westminster Abbey is the site of a burglary that sets all of Great Britain astir. Both the IRA and Scottish nationalists are thought to be the culprits but no one has the answer to the puzzling crime.

Andrew Trentham, member of Parliament and one of the nation's most eligible men, is as chagrined by the break-in as anyone, and wary of the winds of nationalism sweeping down from the north. It is difficult for him to focus on national affairs however when his personal life is filled with all the trouble he can handle.

Rebuffed in his proposal of marriage by the woman that he loves and suffering through the lingering pain of a family tragedy, this heir of noble blood is compelled to reexamine his foundations. What Andrew discovers in the process is a link to ancient Caledonia, a highland heritage that will forever change the way he looks at the world. As the ancient legends begin to shed light on Andrew's place in the world, he makes attempts to rekindle the love he has lost. At the same time, a resurgent Scotland rises to reclaim the glory of its storied past.

Legend of the Celtic Stone Details

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Author : Michael R. Phillips

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From Reader Review Legend of the Celtic Stone for online ebook

Chaya & Cinnamon says

I'm very much into researching and learning/studying history. When you read what several different historians and scholars say, you will likely read several different views not always based on facts. Some will agree and some will completely disagree with each other, which of course means they can't all be right. My sis and I began reading this (free) book being curious about what would be done with the plot and with the Celtic/Gaelic aspects. In this story the emphasis is decidedly more on fiction rather than historical. The premise of the book is entirely of the author's imagination and supposition - the announcement in the prologue about English Queen Elizabeth II reigning for fifty years then abdicating - in reality this year, 2017, was 65. I looked to see the publication date of this book, which is 1999.

In the opening pages of the book, the author admits the content is more of a parable and says that the historical inaccuracies were unintentional. Many of them could have been avoided though if only the writing had been influenced more by what the Bible records historically.

The mystery and intrigue that initially drew us was taken over by a deluge of stuff, and with it wiped out our initial curiosity in the imaginary premise of the theft and what was going to happen with that. I believe this book is more about fantasy, fairy tale, imaginations, allegories, and speculative fiction. Much of the book came from the confines of the author's mind.

The greatest historical Book, as well as the greatest contemporary Book and accurate prophetic Book, is the Bible and reading it you can learn so many things, spiritual, history, science, timelines, right now, the future, infinity, etc.

As Trentham was walking and thinking, it was suggested that only Freud would understand him. That didn't make sense to me, at all - Freud, who's mental capacity was not such that he should have been giving advice to anyone and definitely no one should listen to his inane ramblings of ineffectual thought. And why speak of fate?

The terrible 1692 massacre of Glencoe, *Mort Ghlinne Comhann* in Scottish Gaelic, which wasn't said in the book, when William of Orange decreed for the Highlanders who wouldn't swear allegiance to him would be punished severely (murdered). Another time where I wondered (again) what was the author's goal/point was when the author wrote about Colonel Hill and said Hill drew comfort from his books and the Bible, yet, for what was going to happen, the terrible, treacherous, cowardly murders, this is a quote from the book: "he would find no comfort in either." What a sad, terrible, incorrect message. A person can always find comfort in the Bible. Everyone, even the evil people (William and Dalrymple, etc.) who worked to bring about those murders can be forgiven and find comfort from the Words of the Bible.

Even with all of the errors, we were still reading it. That is, until the first couple of pages of the section called "The Wanderer". The depiction of the man was soooo very unrealistic. Man is made in the Creator's image. You can read right in the Bible what early mankind was like. Adam and Eve were very intelligent. Noah built an ark as instructed (first boat ever), In Bereshit/Genesis 4, Jubal is noted as "the father of all such as handle the harp and organ", Tubal Cain, brass and ironwork. So there were musical instruments, craftsmanship, deep thought, etc. You can even see at the Tower of Babel that there was building/construction going on, and then there were many languages, so communication, words, concepts of words, and the ability to think was in place right from the beginning with Adam and Eve. Concepts and

traditions are passed down through generations. Despite all of that information readily available from the Bible, the "Wanderer" start is filled with stuff made from the bigoted opinions and descriptions instigated by some historians. Not reliable. What the author was describing had no hint of reality. The fantasy conclusions and imaginations of the author misinterpreted history and the way it would be based on what we know from the Bible. We were really shocked at the lack of historical basis and lack of Biblical knowledge.

This is not a book to learn true history from and the author does admit that it isn't a history text.

It's not the quantity of the words in a book that makes a book good, but the quality of them; what they represent and the result when put together.

If you want history, read the Bible, it's way more interesting - and it's accurate.

My sister and I were reading this book and we spared ourselves from more. I'm glad this is not the only book about that area. We prefer historical fiction to have history rather than a convoluted mix of fantasy, fairy tale, and myths.

Beryle says

Although this was a looonnngggg book, it was interesting to read in small doses. There is a great deal of history of the Celts in both Scotland and Ireland. Then, there is the present day story of a young politician finding his roots and political intrigue as well. The characters were well drawn and most were likeable.

Much of the story concerned the conversion of the Celts to Christianity, and the depictions of Saint Colum and Saint Patrick were sympathetic to their missions. But, for me, the depictions of the Druids seemed demonized. They had their own spirituality albeit as imperfect as any religion is. Not everything is black and white and although many Christian conversions were willing - not all were. And those that were not were sometimes coerced in as cruel manner as any Druidic rite.

Meanwhile "the Church" embarked on kingdom making and political intrigue while losing the heart connection to the Good News of the Gospel.

I would have liked to see a more balanced and respectful telling of the story.

Nevertheless, this half Celt enjoyed the book and would recommend it to those of Christian faith.

Connie says

It has been interesting to read another "epic" so soon after reading *The Source* by James Michener, whom Michael Phillips memorializes in this first of his Caledonia series. Though there were definitely similarities, this was a much faster, more captivating read.

Here are some quotes that were meaningful for me:

"Why is it so difficult for our people to join in common cause?' 'Because men find it easier to dispute than to unite. Easier to fight than to live and work together.'"

"In unity is brotherhood."

"How fragile is unity, how easily broken.' 'Unity is a high thing for men to seek...But when they forget brotherhood, it is undone."

"But remember, it is only through brotherhood that we will be capable of keeping it (the land). Do not forget these words of mine, nor let them later slip from your hearts. Teach them to your children and to their children after them....Only in the unity of our peoples will our freedom survive. Take these words to heart, that you and your tribes and families may live long in the land your father have given for your heritage."

"How much is the kingdom of God advanced in unseen ways by simple kindness between his creatures. It is the invisible power that opens doors for the reception of the gospel...."

Cilicia says

This was a good read. It kept me engrossed to the end. I learned a lot about Scottish history.

Monica says

Loved the Celtic "mythology."

Sandy says

Legend of the Celtic Stone (Caledonia Book # 1)

Very entertaining storyline following the history of Scotland and the ties to Great Britain. Based on historical truth with some literary license and some fictional characters this novel is informative and interesting. Definitely want to read book # 2.

Thom Duncan says

It's rare that I put down a book. By page 55, though, I had grown so weary of the stilted, academic writing that I couldn't go farther.

I'd love to learn more about my Scottish heritage, but that won't come from this author.

Kw says

I don't share this author's appreciation for Michener, whom I think was just simply too verbose for words, but although this book (actually two books in one) is long, I do appreciate his amazing research and sharing of

Celtic history, and I did enjoy both stories and all the characters. Especially the mammoth undertaking! It is well worth the time it takes to read this, and I plan to begin the sequel in a day or two, so that says a lot. I am being educated and entertained, and hope to even remember some of it. ;-) If you like history and are interested at all in Scottish or Irish stories, this is for you. You will no doubt feel a kinship to some of these ancient characters!

Frances Rogers says

Colossal fictionalized history

There is so much here - where to start?! The war portions with so much loss of blood and life were difficult. The bit of romance here and there was appealing. Family relationships and the struggles to find one's way to forgiveness and self are always inspiring. The story of the arrival of the gospel of Jesus Christ and it's reception by ancient people who had never heard it brought tears to my eyes. Excellent read, especially history buffs - answered some questions I have had about the Scottish people and their land.

Ferne says

The subtitle of the book is, "An Epic Saga of Scotland and Her People". The book is dedicated to, "To the memory of James A. Michener, Master of the Historical Novel". My first comment would be to take note of the words 'epic', 'saga' in the subtitle and note the dedication clearly before picking up this novel. You need time to digest this historical novel. I thoroughly enjoyed the parts I read but to get through it - about half way through I started skipping the historical tales presented in a different font. I will not continue the read of the series but I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in Scottish heritage. I would then think this series would be a true gift from the author to you and my impression is that Michael Phillips has easily surpassed James Michener - his own definition of the Master of the Historical Novel. I'm glad I didn't miss it among my reading selections but to continue this series would be overwhelming to me at this time as my reading time is limited.

Joyce says

He's a very good writer, 50 pages so far :) After finishing the book...the rest of my thoughts:
I don't remember writing the above -- this review is not favorable and rather pointed, in case you want to stop reading here.

What a long book, not because of the number of pages, I've read longer, but because of the lack of pace of the story. It was not compelling reading.

The author went back and forth between the present day and ancient history, which was difficult to follow, like reading two or more books. I understand he cut a lot of history but there is too much for my liking, and I like history. The author has a very good handle on the history, and quite a large quantity of it, and does a good job with details. However, since it was a work of fiction, The reader would prefer more storytelling, rather than retelling of history.

Mr. Phillips did a great job creating characters. I would have preferred that he show, not tell, the story through these wonderful characters.

The other major problem this reader has with the book, is the lack of clarity in presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not sure what religion the author adheres to, but the message was not clear. There was too much emphasis on the wrong beliefs, too much use of the druids and magical powers, even with Columba, who was bringing the message of Jesus Christ, and way too little on God Himself.

Personally I enjoy reading the author's nemesis, James Michener, however Mr. Michener is famous for his use of evolution in developing his story. This reader was disappointed in this author's numerous references to "prehistoric man" and the underlying theory of evolution, which is not Biblical.

The book was squeaky clean, the few undesirable scenes were handled with great taste and there was no language in the book. That's a big plus!

I would recommend this book to someone who is interested in critiquing it, not looking for an enjoyable pleasure read.

Terry (Ter05 TwiMoms/ MundieMoms) says

I can't believe I read this 500+ page book in two days and am still confused about just how I felt about it. The reviews are all over the place and I kind of understand why.

A quick overview, the contemporary part of this story is about a 37 year old man, Andrew, who is a rising star in the British Parliament. There is also a woman interest in Paddy, who is an American journalist striving to make success of her career in a world not really ready for her. But the story is really about SCOTLAND - in caps! Andrew, through an old sheepherder who has lived on his parent's estate all of his life, remembers the stories told when he was a boy, but revisits them again. The story skips around a lot which did not really bother me. There is the group who steals the legendary Scottish Stone that has been used throughout history to swear in new kings - it is stolen from the Brits who have it on loan from Scotland. So who are they? Mystery. There is a murder that results in Andrew becoming leader of his party. Not deep political intrigue to bog down in but more about the interesting people involved.

But the real intriguing parts of the book are the stories. I am talking history but not a few centuries ago. This is history of the Celts and begins with The Wanderer back before Christ. The author of course did not take this from written history but rather from what has been discovered about the people of the time. But here it's written as a story, and you see into The Wanderer, his wife and his son as they and their sons and daughters in the future become the people of Scotland - the Celts. I found it fascinating but also (hence the 4 stars and not 5) lagging in places where I skimmed a little being careful not to miss the point of each story. Normally when I bog down in a big book I set it aside and start something else and go back and forth. This time I just picked it up again.

Since I am fascinated with Scotland, I loved the way the old sheepherder explained that if you have a bit of Scottish blood in your veins then Scotland is yours. If you don't have it, the whole Scottish/Celtic history can make you feel that you do. My grandfather was born in Scotland, and it is the only part of my heritage that interests me. Thus I have read quite a bit of Scottish history and legend and ran into pieces of it throughout this book. To someone not interested in Scotland, I don't think this book would be as enjoyable. But there are

a lot of Outlander fans out there! It's not anything like those books, but it definitely takes the reader into what it is to be a Scot.

Just an example, I have read all of Juliet Marillier's Sevenwaters series and her trilogy The Bridei Chronicles. I recognized Bridei and Broichan easily and was rather irritated that they were not as likeable in this book. But I realize that 5th and 6th century history is barely known other than names of kings and various leaders. Each author is free in historical fiction to make them into the kind of human they feel they were or that fits with their storyline. There were many places and people in this book that are in The Bridei Chronicles. The stories of Christianity taking over the Pict ancient religion was there in both.

I had to agonize over the massacre at Glencoe again as it is told here. I have read two books about it, my favorite being Daughter of the Glen and this pretty closely followed it, but that was I believe 13th century so more records then. I read another book that I can't remember the name of about a woman jailed as a witch who was involved with Glencoe and there is a mystical young woman in this story I suspect is the same.

Meantime the present day mystery and Andrew's situation in parliament where Scotland is a huge controversy remains a question and there is a second book to find out more about that. I will read it. Enjoyed my two days deep in this story.

Mary says

Exquisite writing, interesting story built around the rugged and beastly history of Scotland and over the line into Ireland, as Christianity spreads and takes the blackness out of the Celtic practices. Gives a better understanding of how people began and what they thought about things of nature in general. It is no wonder that they worshiped what they knew...and God wasn't known to them until...Columba with a gentle heart showed the mystery and majesty of our Christian God and Son. It is a long read, but worth every minute...Michael Phillips captures the reader with his ability to describe and lure. I hope Book 2 will be as good.

Raven says

History shapes future actions

Epic tale weaving first settlers into current political strife. Introduction of miracles derails the tale. Explanations and references add grist for further exploration.

Naomi Brignola-van calster says

A nice mix of fiction and history. My preferred way of learning history ;)

The scenery descriptions made me want to visit Scotland.

The story itself was nicely put together, although I'm not a big fan of jumping back and forth between timelines, and the history sometimes interrupted the story for far too long.

