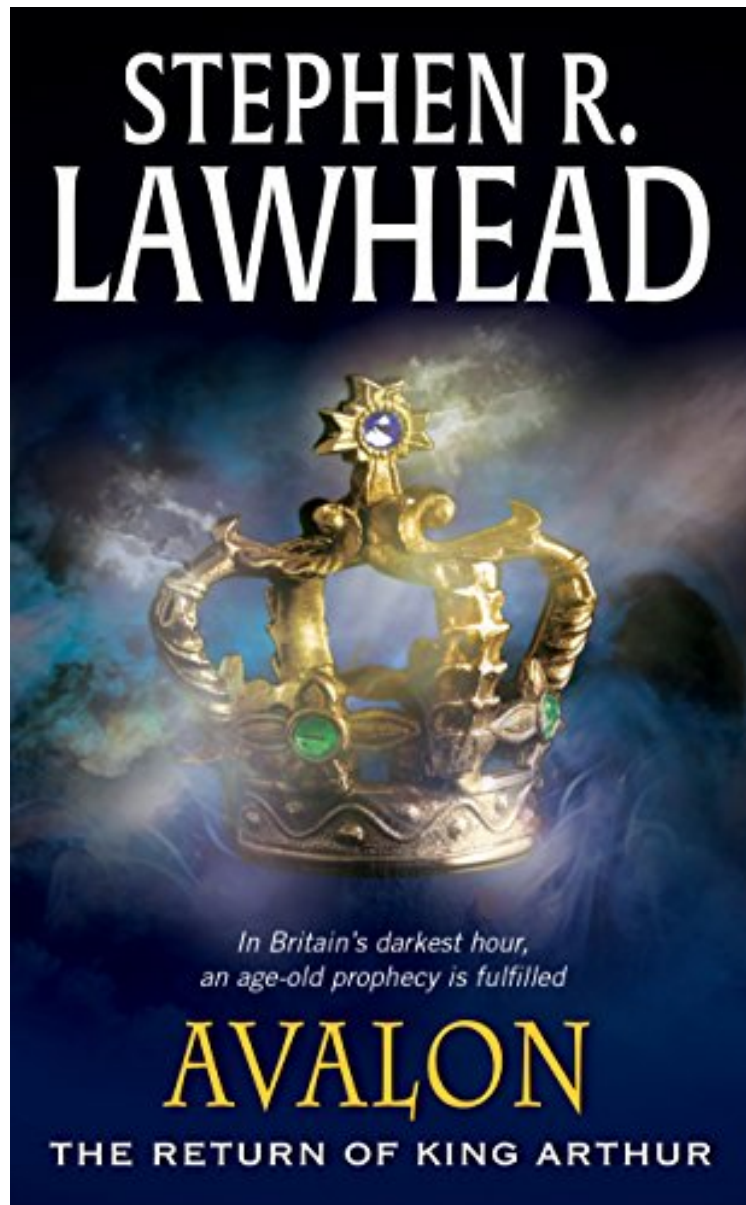


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Avalon: The Return Of King Arthur (The Pendragon Cycle)

Von Stephen R. Lawhead

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Von Stephen R. Lawhead : Avalon: The Return Of King Arthur (The Pendragon Cycle) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Avalon: The Return Of King Arthur (The Pendragon Cycle):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not as

good as the rest Von W. Taylor Of the six (I believe) books in this series, this one is the least engaging, and spends more pages on a soapbox (the author, not the characters) in an obvious way than any other of the books. I found the premise of this book to be as credible as any of the other five, however, his character development was not as well done, and too many times I found myself wondering why the author failed to consider something, or why he had his characters do something a certain way. The worst was the end, where the king and queen are accompanied by security guards, apparently none of whom have a gun or somehow are unable to use their weapons, leaving the queen to defend herself. Why she wasn't similarly helpless makes the whole final climax difficult to accept. Lawhead spends many pages defending the monarchy and describing the British republican forces as evil while only superficially presenting the kind of evil that results from their rule in parliament. It seems that this book was a vehicle for his feelings about the current British monarchy, his disappointment in their current behavior and his concern that their character flaws will be seen as flaws in an institution he feels well worth keeping. As an American on the outside looking in on this particular British problem I feel some sympathy for what he is trying to do. However, I also feel that that goal for this book interfered somewhat with the story. A book that could have been really great is simply a good read. Lawhead has done better. In comparison to the other books in the Arthur series, I found this book to be a disappointment. It was not the climax it could have been. Still, it was more engaging and entertaining than other, more popular authors I have read. I can recommend it to others who have already read the rest of the series.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well-done but not so well thought-out Von Ein Kunde Avalon is a very engaging book that kept me turning the pages in suspense. The premise of the book is that, in a near-future when the British monarchy is about to be abolished by legislation, Arthur is reborn in Scotland as James Arthur Stuart. Our hero, of course, has no idea that he is the legendary king, or even that he is the hidden heir to a Dukedom. Not until he meets a mysterious man called M. Embries (Merlin), does he find out his heritage. After a very believable period of first disbelief, then horror and denial, he accepts who he is and sets out, guided by Embries and accompanied by his friends, to claim the throne. The last king has just shot himself, and all other claimants to the throne have signed away their claims; but Prime Minister Waring, who has spearheaded the campaign to abolish the monarchy, is determined not to let him ascend to the throne. As a simple adventure, this book works quite well. The characters are likeable and realistic; the action never flags; the opposition is always stiff enough to make you worry, but never quite stiff enough to make you disbelieve in heroes' success; the combination of magic and political infighting is intriguing. However... Lawhead makes a strong emotional argument for the monarchy, and it's a credit to his skill that he can make a royalist out of even the most hardened democrat--for the length of the book. But once you stop reading and start thinking, he stops being so convincing. The only real arguments he puts forth are that (a) the king will somehow inspire people into being better, and (b) Britain is meant to be great, and a king is part of God's plan for this greatness. Neither of these, unsupported by anything else, is at all convincing. Sure, the monarchists are all Good, and the democrats are all Evil; but we're not shown in any great detail how either side affects Britain for good or ill. Still, it's a really fun book that I enjoyed reading (though I must admit that I had to smother a giggle whenever the Anglican hero talked about defending the Church; Arthur lived long before the Reformation and could not have been anything but a Catholic). I'd willingly recommend it; just don't expect any mass conversions to monarchism because of it.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Lost Opportunity Von Steve Wand I am now doing something I never thought I would have to - write a critical report of a Stephen Lawhead novel. The story line I considered as one that was waiting to be told but, now written, is an opportunity wasted. While I normally admire Stephen's writing I found whole stretches of this book taken up with pointless detail that only served to halt the forward momentum of the story. In addition I found the characters to be, in the main, cliched stereotypes - caricatures from the US perspective? Who knows. And where was the sorcery that the dust jacket promised? The only evidence was a sad old man, Embries (aka Merlin) protecting himself by a circle of stones from the menaces of bad tempered woman (aka Morgan le Fay). As for her, I've seen more menacing women on the terraces at a football match. Nevertheless, it was a book that, once started, I became involved with and eager to see it through. This was, to some degree, due to some inspiring pieces that were scattered through the story. Pieces in which the author (through his characters) defended the monarchy and viewed a Britain great once more. As a fiercely proud Englishman and a royalist to boot I found these pieces put into words those thoughts and wishes I have for my own nation. If this book were SH's first draft I would say "great story - it shows tremendous promise" but, as a final novel, a lost opportunity.

Kurzbeschreibung It has been foretold: In the hour of Britain's greatest need, King Arthur will return to rescue his people. In Portugal, the reprobate King Edward the Ninth has died by his own hand. In England, the British monarchy teeters on the edge of total destruction. And in the Scottish Highlands, a mystical emissary named Mr. Embries better known as Merlin informs a young captain that he is next in line to the throne. For James Arthur Stuart is not the commoner he has always believed himself to be; he is Arthur, the legendary King of Summer, reborn. But the road to England's salvation is dangerous, with powerful enemies waiting in ambush. For Arthur is not the only one who has

returned from the mists of legend. And Merlins magic is not the only sorcery that has survived the centuries. AVALONA rousing postscript to Lawhead's bardic Pendragon Cycle . . . Playing off snappy contemporary derring-do against the powerful shining glimpses of the historical Arthur he created, Lawhead pulls off a genuinely moving parable of good and evil. Publishers Weekly From Kirkus sHistorical/futuristic Arthuriana from the author of Grail, 1997, etc. In the not-too-distant future, Britain's drunken reprobate King Edward IX blows out his brains in a villa on Madeira. He has no heirs, and was secretly helped on his way by Prime Minister Thomas Waring (an anti-monarchist nursing ambitions to become Britain's first president). The mysteriously knowledgeable old Embries, however, insists that Captain James Arthur Stuart is the rightful King of Britain. Despite documentary proof, James is reluctant to go along, until Embries forces him to recall memories of his previous life as King Arthur! Embries, of course, is Merlin. James's soon-to-be wife is Guinevere, and so forth. So James, proclaiming himself the true Christian King of Avalon, raises his standard against modern cynicism to battle not only the devious Waring but also the reborn witch Morgan le Fay. Pleasant but far from gripping, with the necessary inference that Lawhead's purpose is more agitprop than storytelling. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From Library Journal In a near-future Britain, the death of King Edward IX throws the succession into disarray until a young man named James Arthur Stewart discovers his identity as the reborn King Arthur and claims his rightful throne. Aided by his counselor Myrddin Embries, the new king seeks to restore faith in the monarchy as well as a sense of justice to a land beleaguered by despair. The author of the popular "Pendragon Cycle" takes his Arthurian interests one step further as he explores the ramifications of a legend come to life in the modern world. Infused with Christian overtones, Lawhead's latest novel should appeal to fans of Arthurian fantasy. Recommended. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.