



The Barbarian

Barry Sadler

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As the body count rises higher on the plains of Parthia, Casca reaches his limit and does the unthinkable: he leaves the field. Desertion isn't taken lightly by the Romans, and though Casca cannot die, he can suffer. His only choice is flight to the Northlands beyond Germany--where the fjords run red with blood.

The Barbarian Details

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Author : Barry Sadler

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From Reader Review The Barbarian for online ebook

Mark C. Jackson says

Excellent, even if it retells some of an earlier story. It goes into greater detail though, filling the gaps. And towards the end, it tells of a great and amazing love. And as a reader, you can feel Casca's pain of having to outlive those he loves. Wonderful book!

Kevin says

Today's review is for the fifth book in the "Casca: The Eternal Mercenary" series titled: Casca: The Barbarian (1981©), written by Barry Sadler. In this episode, Casca meets up with a Germanic / Norse tribesman named Glam and the story revolves around their adventures together over the next 30 to 40 years. Basically, Glam leads Casca around northern Europe and Casca takes over a "hold". Casca over-throws the vicious lord of the hold and subsequently marries his daughter. Thus, Casca gains and ultimately loses the second great love of his life. Glam gives Casca one of his nicknames: "The Walker".

All of these volumes have now fallen into their standard formula: character intro, travel around a bit, a few minor fights, a little bit of history, a major battle, and then some resolution before Casca has to wander off. Today's title refers to a scene in the book where the original lord of the hold has a wall at the tides edge staked. When he wishes to execute someone (but not be "responsible" for the death), he has them staked with just their head above the high tide. The crabs do their work during the night and only the head (and skeleton) is left the following morning. Of course, the "curse" saves Casca (again).

If you are into adult / male historical fiction – with lots of geography, historical background and battles, this continues to be a very satisfying series. Final recommendation: strong recommendation.

Jim says

I absolutely loved this series of books. Casca fought in every war to come along until Jesus Christ once more returns to Earth. What a concept.

Joel says

This was one of my favorites in the Casca series. This takes place before the events of book #2.

Randy says

Another great book, and truly wonderful series by Barry Sadler.

David says

The book was good, a little run of the mill, but entertaining.

The biggest drawback is the story is the same story as the first half of book 2, but the story is greatly expanded about Casca's time in the Rhineland.

Francisco says

Not my favorite, slow motions and some corny scenes trying to make him more sensible. But it was entertainment, maybe Cornwell took a few descriptions from here.

Brentman99 says

I'm giving this three stars given the fact that Sadler recycled a portion of Casca: God of Death to write this book. While that was annoying, it did make a reasonable basis for a story and helped fill in the period which the earlier book runs through fairly quickly.

I'll say it again - that you can't accuse Sadler of being a purveyor of literature, not by a far cry. However, I enjoyed the character of Glam (why do Sadler's big, hairy companions both have a first name that starts with G (Gus)? Also, his descriptions are combat are quite good as well.

I enjoy this series for the mindless, entertaining and timewasting diversion that they provide. I ride a subway for about 14 minutes each way during the week and the entire series is the perfect size book to read. As well, the plots are usually quite simple, so they are easy to pick up where you left off when you are interrupted or done for the day.

Overall, I enjoy reading these books. If you are looking for more substance and depth in a book and series, pickup Jack Whyte's series as this one will disappoint. But if you have some time to kill and love to read, look no further than a Casca the Eternal Mercenary book. Now if they could have been in some kind of a chronological order....

Worth the time spent reading.

Simon Ford says

Another episode in the cursed soldier of Romes life, as his sojourn through the tides of time continue.

This time he befriends Glam, a barbarian warrior.

Battles are fought, death and glory with blood and guts aplenty.

Takes control of a walled fort, falls in love, imprisoned, escapes, kills a tyrannical despot and rules his own little kingdom for a time.

Can be read in a day or two.

Robert Mills says

At the end of the book I always feel sad for this man who was just following a order and now forever punished.

Nicholas says

This is one of those books that reminds me that this place needs a 2.5 stars option. It wasn't quite as good as the previous novels, mainly because it felt meandering for a significant portion. Still, it wasn't bad.

Timothy Boyd says

So you just a soldier doing your job. You shove a spear tip into the side of this supposed messiah, except he is the real thing. He curses you to wander the earth till his return. Not bad right, immortality and all. Oh but he also curses you to be a soldier forever at war, never to know peace. This is the story of Casca the Roman legionnaire that stabbed Christ. Forever wandering the earth fighting one war after another. Great adventure series. Very recommended
