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Date : Published 2009 by Bloomsbury Childrens

ISBN : 9780747594185

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Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Young Adult

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Jacey says

I read this in draft and now my shiny copy of the book has arrived, complete with acknowledgements which includes me. (Thanks, Nicky.) So I might be a tiny bit biased about this one. I might say it's good just because...

But actually I'll say it's good because, quite simply, it is. It's a book marketed for 9s – 12s which surprises me because I would put it more at YA level, but it's possible I'm out of touch. It's a time travel-by-magic book and the third of three about two misfit British schoolkids, Dan and Ursula, who travel through the veil and find themselves at important points in British history, having acquired a certain amount of personal magic and warrior prowess along the way (and a magical flair for languages). Never the same magic in any of the three books as the magic works differently in each timespan. They've already fought in the days of the Romano-British with the warrior King Macsen and at Camlann with King Arthur, but in that last battle Ursula, trained over the course of the previous books into a strapping six foot female warrior, was dreadfully injured. In Arthur's time the wound would have been fatal, so Dan, grown to know battle-madness, and the feel of a sword in his hand, forces the bard Taliesin to open the veil and he carries Ursula through, looking for twenty-first century magic, in the shape of paramedics and antibiotics.

And that's where this book opens. Warrior berserker Dan, mage Taliesin, the war dog Braveheart and the almost lifeless warrior-mage Ursula step out of the mist just an hour after difficult child Dan and lumpy, awkward schoolgirl Ursula disappeared. The coach is waiting; their classmates of probably a year or two ago are still looking for them.

Taliesin and Braveheart make a hasty getaway and Dan and Ursula are found covered in battle-gore. The well-meaning twenty-first century nanny-state kicks in. Ursula gets her medical treatment and Dan gets a quick trip to the local slammer, since he must be the villain, right?

After accusations, through which Dan sits dumb – because they'll never believe the truth – Ursula eventually recovers enough to say they were attacked by unknown assailants and Dan's off the hook. Things look to be settling down because they're allowed back to school to do GCSEs. No one seems to realise that Dan has grown six inches and Ursula has lost pounds of weight and gained enough muscle to join an Olympic team. They shrug it off with 'My haven't you grown' and 'You've lost weight in hospital.' Ursula's mum takes her out to buy her a new pink skirt.

But if Dan finds school difficult, Ursula finds it almost impossible. Addicted to magic, she can't bear it back at home. She needs to open the veil and go through once more. Taliesin reappears with the means to raise the veil and once she knows that, Ursula is set on it. After nearly killing a schoolgirl in the library by defending herself too strongly in a brawl, Ursula runs away, persuades Dan to lift the veil and without waiting for him charges into it in a blind panic, finding and falling into the magic she has been so desperate for. Falling into it so deeply that she's lost in it.

But they haven't returned to Macsen's Romano-British time or even to King Arthur's ill-fated reign, this time they are in the Britain of Alfred the Great and the Danes, separated and lost. Ursula is in thrall to the magic and to a blind child who seems to be able to control her better than she can control herself, and Dan finds himself swearing allegiance to Alfred, his loyalty tested in a terrifying trial by water. Yet all the time he's trying to find Ursula – the love of his life, though he's barely admitted that to himself.

Dan finds old enemies may have at last become friends and there's help from the Bishop Asser when he discovers that the form his magic takes in this century is even more frightening than before and one step beyond being a berserker in battle. In the end Ursula must face the most difficult choice of her life, and then the two must find a way home if they can.

It's gripping; a fast-paced bloody, smelly, gritty book, full of fights, battles and magic wrapped around a realistic historical background. Highly recommended, but don't just read this, read the two books that went before it as well: 'Warriors of Alavna' and 'Warriors of Camlann'. You won't be disappointed.

Pari {Ridhee} says

Well, the book was good. I will not say very good, but good. It was a bit confusing and boring. The part when the battle starts was the only part I liked the most in the book. I was a bit worried for Dan and Ursula as they were placed nicely. When Ursula was in control of Finna's mind, that part hurt the most. I got bored when Ursula was taken captive. And, as I told, the part of the battle was best, It was really sad when Ursula was forced to put fire on Aelfred's men. I didnt exactly want the book to end in a happy ending. But, there was something sad in the last...That touched me most and, that is why I will say, the book was really good.

Hafiza says

Great conclusion.

Louise says

It seemed to me as if the trilogy had been dragged on a little, I will admit, but I did like how it all ended, and the explanation that was given as to why there is no magic in our world - so few fantasy novels set in our world give that. The battle also seemed as if it were rushed slightly, and that there wasn't so much build-up as in the previous two books, but overall it was still enjoyable.

Tasneem says

This was a really fast paced, action packed read. I enjoyed reading about Dan and Ursula and seeing the Kingdom of Wessex and the fight with the Danes through their eyes.

Temperance Truc Tran says

I first started this series about 10 years ago. My child self loved the first two books. I only found out 3 years ago about this last installment of the series. I know that if I read it when I was a kid, I would have loved it and give it a 5-star. However, now that my understanding and knowledge have matured, I do find that the

contents are a little childish for my taste. However, the nostalgia it evoked in me while reading was satisfying enough!
