



The Saxon Shore (Camulod Chronicles Book 4)

By Jack Whyte

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Merlyn Britannicus and Uther Pendragon---the Silver Bear and the Red Dragon--are the leaders of the Colony, lifeblood to the community from which will come the fabled Camulod.

But soon their tranquility is in ruins, Uther lies dead from treachery, and all that is left of the dream is the orphaned babe Arthur. Heir to the Colony of Camulod, born with Roman heritage as well as the blood of the Hibernians and the Celts, Arthur is the living incarnation of the sacred dream of his ancestors: independent survival in Britain amidst the ruins of the Roman Empire.

When Arthur is adopted by Merlyn Britannicus, an enormous responsibility is placed on Merlyn's shoulders. Now he must prepare young Arthur to unify the clans of Britain and guard the mighty sword Excalibur. And, above all, Merlyn must see that Arthur survives to achieve the rest of his ancestors' dreams, in spite of the deadly threats rumbling from the Saxon Shore.

"Of the scores of novels based on Arthurian legend, Whyte's Camulod series is distinctive, particularly in the rendering of its leading players and the residual Roman influences that survived in Britain during the Dark Ages."--*The Washington Post*

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The Saxon Shore (Camulod Chronicles Book 4) By Jack Whyte Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #74652 in eBooks
- Published on: 1999-01-15
- Released on: 1999-01-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The fourth book in Whyte's engrossing, highly realistic retelling of the Arthurian legend takes up where *The Eagle's Brood* (1997) left off. Narrated by Caius Merlyn Britannicus from journals written at the end of the "wizard's" long life, this volume begins in an immensely exciting fashion, with Merlyn and the orphaned infant Arthur Pendragon in desperate straits, adrift on the ocean in a small galley without food or oars. They are saved by a ship commanded by Connor, son of the High King of the Scots of Eire, who takes the babe with him to Eireland until the return of Connor's brother Donuil, whom Connor believes has been taken hostage by Merlyn. The plot then settles into well-handled depictions of political intrigue, the training of cavalry with infantry and the love stories that inevitably arise, including one about Donuil and the sorcerously gifted Shelagh and another about Merlyn's half-brother, Ambrose, and the skilled surgeon Ludmilla. As Camulod prospers, Merlyn works hard at fulfilling what he considers his destiny: preparing the boy for his prophesied role as High King of all Britain. Whyte's descriptions, astonishingly vivid, of this ancient and mystical era ring true, as do his characters, who include a number of strong women. Whyte shows why Camulod was such a wonder, demonstrating time and again how persistence, knowledge and empathy can help push back the darkness of ignorance to build a shining future. A lesson that has not lost its value for being centuries old and shrouded in the mists of myth and magic. Author tour.

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From School Library Journal

YA-Three earlier books in this series have dealt with events that foreshadowed the rise of King Arthur. In this installment, readers learn of Merlin's antecedents and his descent from a Roman legionnaire and craftsman whose master creation was the sword Excalibur. Here, Merlyn Britannicus is presented as a man in his 30s, a wily political figure but very much a warrior, with no magical powers. In the vivid opening scene, he is adrift on the open sea with an infant in his arms, his cousin, the young Arthur. The following adventures concern Merlyn's efforts to assure Arthur's safety until he is old enough to begin to unify the divergent native clans of Britain with Saxon and Celtic invaders. This is first achieved by Merlyn's success in establishing a friendship with the Eirish tribe called the Scots, who effected his rescue from the shipwreck. His return to England with a force of the Scots and their remarkable war horses leads to the buildup of a fortified community, which will eventually become Camulod, or Camelot. At the book's close, Arthur has become a capable young boy and Merlyn is removing him to Cumbria where Roman influence lingers. His intent is to raise and train him to worthy readiness for a great future. Whyte has taken an engaging approach to the long-established character of Merlin. Much that is new and intriguing brightens a legend that in many forms has always been enchanting.

Frances Reiher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Kirkus Reviews

Fourth volume in the *Camulod Chronicles*, Scots-born Whyte's reinvention of the Arthurian saga, begun with *The Skystone* (1996) and the discovery of a new metal with which to forge Excalibur, *The Singing Sword* (1996, not reviewed) and--200 years later--*The Eagle's Brood* (1997), in which the Roman occupation of fifth-century Britain hears the first chords of its death knell. Now, the Colony that will become the fabled Camulod is ruled by Merlyn Britannicus and Uther Pendragon. When Uther (Arthur's father) dies, cousin Merlyn cares for the babe and raises him to unify Britain and guard Excalibur. Bernard Cornwell's more florid, less gritty trilogy of Arthur ends with Excalibur (see above), while Whyte's doorstoppers are historically more dense and action-crammed than marvelous, and--with Arthur still a child after four long

volumes--already dwarf Le Morte d'Arthur, will soon loom over Gibbon's Decline and Fall, and, with the Saxon chronicles marching on logically into Ivanhoe and The Waverley Novels, may simply go on forever. -
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stacey Ryan:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book if they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Saxon Shore (Camulod Chronicles Book 4).

Rachel Louviere:

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Fran Short:

This book untitled The Saxon Shore (Camulod Chronicles Book 4) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

Norman Ross:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always aim to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually The Saxon Shore (Camulod Chronicles Book 4).

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