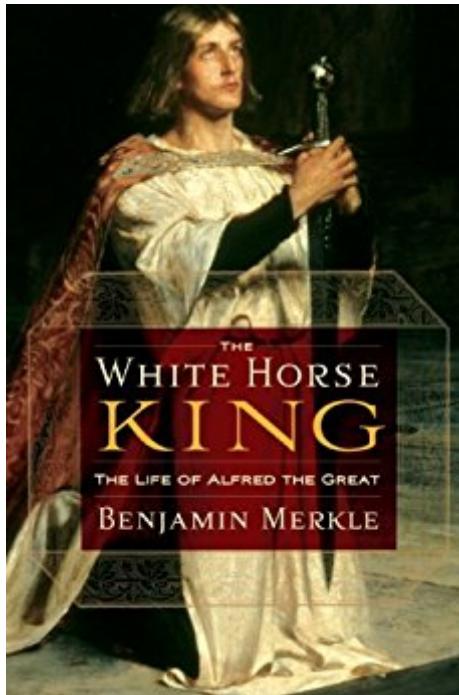




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The White Horse King: The Life Of Alfred The Great



Synopsis

The unlikely king who saved England. Down swept the Vikings from the frigid North. Across the English coastlands and countryside they raided, torched, murdered, and destroyed all in their path. Farmers, monks, and soldiers all fell bloody under the Viking sword, hammer, and axe. Then, when the hour was most desperate, came an unlikely hero. King Alfred rallied the battered and bedraggled kingdoms of Britain and after decades of plotting, praying, and persisting, finally triumphed over the invaders. Alfred's victory reverberates to this day: He sparked a literary renaissance, restructured Britain's roadways, revised the legal codes, and revived Christian learning and worship. It was Alfred's accomplishments that laid the groundwork for Britain's later glories and triumphs in literature, liturgy, and liberty. "Ben Merkle tells the sort of mythic adventure story that stirs the imagination and races the heart and all the more so knowing that it is altogether true!" George Grant, author of *The Last Crusader* and *The Blood of the Moon* —

Book Information

File Size: 2699 KB

Print Length: 259 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 5 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (November 2, 2009)

Publication Date: November 2, 2009

Sold by: — Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B002WQ55DM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #70,643 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18

in — Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Ireland #56

in — Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Medieval #91 in — Books > History >

Europe > Great Britain > England

Customer Reviews

I enjoyed The Last Kingdom TV series on BBC America and was pleased to find how closely the series followed the history as presented in The White Horse King. The book is easy to read and for the most part moves quickly. Not a stodgy history book.

As one who knew little about this time period, I appreciate the information in this book. It was an informative and enjoyable read about a young man who set out to defend his nation against a barbaric threat, and in doing so inadvertently revived civilization, learning, law and order, and education. The Dark Ages were not nearly as dark as I had imagined, and lessons applicable in this age can be drawn from this era. A good read for anyone, not just fans of Britain's history.

Fascinating history of a historically prominent man, but rather dryly written. It was nice to learn more about Alfred the King and his fight with the Danes/Vikings. I would recommend the book to anyone who's interested in historical fiction as I am.

I am interested in this time in history. I undoubtedly know more about King Alfred than I ever expected to, which is good. However, the writing could have flowed better, and the battle descriptions seemed to all be cut out of the same cloth. The book was shorter than I anticipated. If you like history one could do worse than read this book. The descriptions of the King and his battles could have been more organized and not the "same old, same old".

There's not a lot of biographies about Alfred the Great, at least for e-readers. There is this jewel, however, that reads like a novel, partly because he had such an interesting and meaningful life. Growing up he never knew a time when his world wasn't being ravaged by Vikings, who regularly took slaves and destroyed everything in their wake. Everyone feared them, they seemed unstoppable. Their victims paid them the dane-geld just to go away, but that only worked for a short time. Alfred was pious but practical and forward-thinking. How he succeeded in ultimately stopping the Viking hordes from taking over the entire country is riveting reading, but he never rested on his laurels or stopped working for the betterment of his people. He truly was a great King..

This biography is so well written and entertaining, the reader can almost forget it is history rather than fiction. Alfred the Great's life is presented in richness and detail with no "dumbing down" and without turning into a pompous, boring, professorial lecture. Merkle has created the type of factual work that can turn anyone into a lover of history. I am so glad I fell prey to the whim and made this

part of my library. I'm even happier I read it now rather than let it sit until I had nothing else to read.

The Dark Ages were given light by Alfred the Great. To whom we owe our thanks and respect for establishing the ideal of city planning, the codified civil laws, and the defense of our country.

Marvelous description of the English move to consolidation of the Islands of the UK while defending themselves from the Viking incursions. Well written and a joy to read.

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