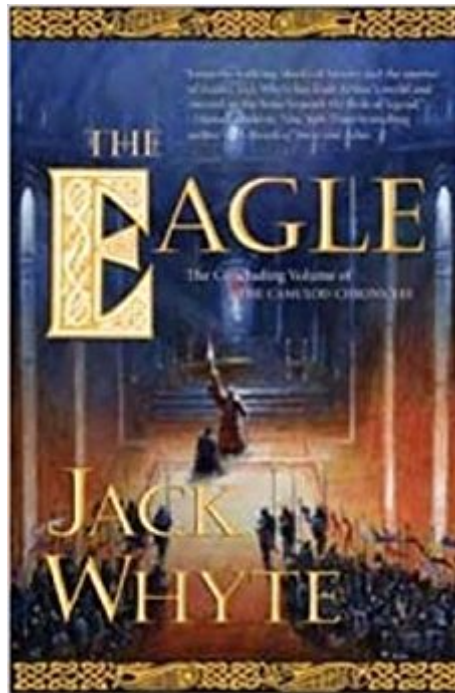




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The Eagle (The Camulod Chronicles, Book 9)



Synopsis

Beginning with *The Skystone*, the first in his riveting *Camulod Chronicles*, Jack Whyte has embarked on an ambitious and remarkable re-telling of the Arthurian cycle, giving us a fresh and compelling take on a story that has been beloved for centuries. *The Eagle* brings us at last to the heart of the tale, the creation of fabled Camelot and the love story that enshrined its glory. Whyte takes us into the minds and lives of Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot, three astonishing but fallible people who were bound together by honor, loyalty, and love. Three who created the glory that was Britain's shining dream—*and*, some say, caused its downfall. The Gaulish nobleman Clothar—known in our time as Lancelot—is drawn to the young High King's court by tales of honor and nobility, where he meets a man whose love of law matches his own. More, he finds in Arthur a life-long friend whose dream of uniting the people of Britain in peace Clothar embraces. And Clothar meets Arthur's queen, a wondrous beauty whose passion and ideals match those of her husband. Together they work to bring Arthur's dream to life. But dark forces rise in opposition to Arthur's plans for creating this noble island nation and it is hard to tell friend from foe in the swirling chaos that ensues. Many tales have been told of the dream that shined and died. This one will astonish even the most jaded.

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Customer Reviews

The ninth and final installment in Whyte's *Camulod (Camelot)* series offers an imaginative if rambling account of the end of the Arthurian era. Narrated by Clothar of Benwick (Lancelot), King

Arthur's best friend and loyal companion, the novel is grounded in the author's "interpretation of Lancelot" as "an archetypal hero." Faced with fractious local rulers and Saxon invaders, Arthur hopes to unite Britain to fend off the invasion. But two regional kings—the treacherous Symmachus and the ambitious Connlyn—unite to frustrate, and ultimately destroy, Arthur's dream. The basic plot, however, is overburdened with a stew of subplots and backstories: Clothar's affair with a betrothed woman adds heft but not substance, and the detailed recounting of the paternity of Arthur's son, Mordred, the fruit of an unwitting incestuous affair with his half-sister, is distracting. The author also sends Clothar off on a seven-year detour to Gaul where he trains a cavalry force and saves his cousin's kingdom from the Huns. Clothar returns to Britain to find that events have taken a dangerous turn and a final showdown looms with Camulod's enemies. Fans of Whyte's exhaustive retelling of the Camelot legend will welcome this final chapter. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Whyte concludes his nine-volume retelling of the Arthurian legend with a rousing final chapter in the saga of Arthur, Lancelot, and Guinevere. With the threat of a Saxon invasion looming, Arthur attempts to cobble together a united Britain but is thwarted by jealous rivals. Meanwhile, Clothar (Lancelot), a romantic young nobleman, pledges his loyalty to Arthur and the ideals of Camulod (Camelot). As the two men work feverishly to turn their vision of Camulod into a reality, the stage is set for the ultimate clash between Arthur and his enemies. As one might expect, the doomed love triangle of Arthur, Lancelot, and Guinevere plays a pivotal role in this epic reworking of this classic literary staple. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I first started reading Jack Whyte's Camulod Chronicles, I couldn't wait until he got to King Arthur. I was captivated by the early books in the series about Cais Britannicus and Publius Varrus. I was impressed with Whyte's portrayal of Uther and, especially, Merlin. Unfortunately, Whyte's creative steam seems to have run out by the time he reached the most interesting part of his source material--King Arthur himself. The earlier books in the series, most of which revolve around the remnants of Roman culture in Britain, and the founding of Camelot, are far superior to Whyte's version of the story of King Arthur.

The concluding volume of the Camulod Chronicles, and the only one to actually deal directly with

the story of Arthur and his knights. The quality of the book overall was consistent with the rest of the series, which is recommended overall. I found Clothar/Lancelot's character to be far more interesting and heroic than in *The Lance Thrower*, but he still is not always the best narrator. It seems that Jack Whyte confronted the colossal task of actually writing a novel about the climactic arc of his own story of the historical Arthur, and found himself either unable or unwilling to accept the challenge. The majority of the important action happens "off screen" in this book while Lance is running off on his own tangential endeavors in Gaul. The treatment of Arthur's actual leadership as king and battle commander is very limited, and that of his knights even more so. Merlyn also gets very little attention; we are told by others that he is becoming senile and diminished by age though his advice seems inspired and wise as usual. Without giving too much of a spoiler, the ending was quite disappointing: Arthur sends Lance away, and much of what happens in the last days of Camulod remains a mystery. I am still giving the book 3 stars because it was an entertaining read and a brilliant series overall. I very much enjoyed the world and characters that Whyte created so ingeniously, I just wish he had more fully explored their potential.

Loved the whole series. Lot of work - but the historical and cultural flavor throughout was well worth it. Loved the picture of Merlyn that Whyte painted and his treatment of Lancelot was unique. The only problem is that the Arthurian saga ends sadly.

A very enjoyable read. Well written, but light on plot. It continues the Arthur story but does not build, or hold, suspense. I could put it down, but I always picked it up again. If you've read the preceding volumes then, by all means, carry on! If you have not read the other volumes in the series this one will probably not hook you. Although it will stand on its own, this is neither the best place to start nor the best book in the series

The Jack Whyte series is a very good collection. He retells the Legend of Arthur from a whole new perspective. Mr. Whyte did extensive research for all these books with a new twist on well known plots and a narrative not expected. He gives us a very good picture of life in Briton as Roman rule is on the wane. Very enjoyable reading. Recommended!

I love the Camulod series, but this is my least favorite book. Arthur is barely in it at all, and you never hear from Guinevere. Lance is kept in France most of the time. His character is well developed. His actions scenes are well done. The famous triangle is dealt with creatively and

realistically. He has to write about the end of Camulod, so that darkness is there.

The Camulod Chronicles were great, up to a certain point, but this book is not so great. An insult to the Arthurian legend, I'd hazard. He managed to insert a weird hybrid feminism into this, and retconned Guinevere into something she wasn't and Arthur as well. Seems like he just wanted to get it over with. I don't recommend this book.

The last book is as good as the first book. Adventure all the way. We were absorbed into each character, even the animals, and even cried from time to time. We would read nine more books if they existed. The history involved in this book is wonderful. For us, we find this more believable compared to fanciful fiction of the Arthur tale. We highly recommend the entire series.

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