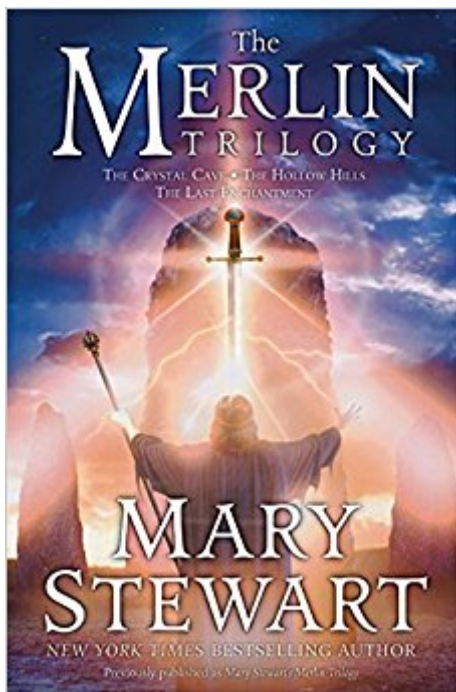


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The Merlin Trilogy



Synopsis

The Arthurian legend is one of the most enduring and powerful of myths, and Mary Stewart's classic *The Merlin Trilogy* is one of its most beloved and acclaimed retellings. In prose that is as vividly, achingly real as it is poetic, New York Times bestselling author Mary Stewart brings to life the man behind the myth: Myrddin Emrys ... Merlinus Ambrosius ... Merlin. *The Crystal Cave* *The Hollow Hills* *The Last Enchantment* Born the bastard son of a Welsh princess, Myrddin Emrys -- or, as he would later be known, Merlin -- leads a perilous childhood in *The Crystal Cave*, haunted by portents and visions. But destiny has great plans for this no-man's-son, taking him from prophesying before the High King Vortigern to the crowning of Uther Pendragon ... and the conception of Arthur -- king for once and always. Keeping watch over the young Arthur Pendragon in *The Hollow Hills*, the prince and prophet Merlin Ambrosius is haunted by dreams of the magical sword Caliburn, hidden for centuries. When Uther Pendragon is killed in battle, the time of destiny is at hand, and Arthur must claim the fabled sword to become the true High King of Britain. In *The Last Enchantment*, Arthur Pendragon is king at last. Unchallenged on the battlefield, he melds the country together in a time of promise as Merlin works to keep safe the once and future king. But sinister powers plot to destroy Camelot, and when the witch-queen Morgause -- Arthur's own half sister -- ensnares him in an incestuous liaison, a fatal web of love, betrayal, and bloody vengeance is woven. Extensively researched and beautifully written, *The Merlin Trilogy* is the epic culmination of an acclaimed career, a legend in and of itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Merlin Trilogy is Mary Stewart's take on the Arthurian legend in three books: *The Crystal Cave*, *The Hollow Hills*, and *The Last Enchantment*. These books have Merlin, Arthur's wizard mentor, as their focal point, and the result is a charming, engrossing tale providing a unique perspective on a familiar tale. Her history is superb and richly detailed, her characterizations are masterful, and her plotting is perfect. You'll be entranced by this magical story.

Mary Stewart is one of the most widely read fiction writers of our time. The author of twenty novels, a volume of poetry, and three books for young readers, she is admired for both her contemporary stories of romantic suspense and her historical novels. Born in England, she has lived for many years in Scotland.

It's got to be a good 25-30 years since I read these three books, and were just as enjoyable now as they were then. Stewart has a lovely way of describing a scene, the land and the people. If you purchased the trilogy in one book, just remember that they were originally three separate books. I found that while I read it as one book this time, there were redundancies and/or things that I would have expected to be cut from one large novel, but necessary additions in three separate novels. I found myself skipping through those sections. You won't find any great surprises in the story, if you are familiar with the legends of King Arthur. This story is mainly Merlin's from boyhood to old man and beloved cousin and counselor of Arthur. While I don't usually enjoy a book written in the first person -- as you lose so much from what the other characters are experiencing -- the author pulled this off well enough. With Merlin's visions, we were able to see happenings that were not personally witnessed by Merlin. Of the books I have read so far on the Arthurian legends, my favorite is still *The Road to Avalon*, followed by *Queen of Camelot*. It's been so many years since I've read *The Mists of Avalon*. I can't rate that amongst these until I've read it again. All in all very enjoyable and I would recommend this for younger readers whose parents are trying to find well written books without the constant presence of bodice ripping. A thumbs down to the publisher, I found many small typos that became a bit irritating after a while, i.e. women instead of woven, is instead of in, etc. You would think that after the first publication they would catch these and fix them for subsequent publications.

I like this series I read it as a kid and just read it again.

I read this way back when it was first published and have reread it recently. It is still just as good as

it was in the '70's. This is the best fiction I have read about Merlin and the Arthurian legend. I highly recommend it to others.

I reread these books every 2 or 3 years and never seem to tire of them. Stewart's first person approach to the legend of King Arthur is brilliant. Who else would have thought to have place Merlin as the narrator? The subsequent sequel to the trilogy, *The Wicked Day*, employs an even more radical approach by placing Arthur's bastard son Mordred in the role of narrator! The fantasy genre as a whole seems to lack authors who's writing style I admire, but in this case the writing is excellent. Highly recommended...Mike Iverson

I originally read the 1st book of this trilogy as a stand alone book (*The Crystal Cave*) and enjoyed it enough to want to read the other 3 books. (Yes, I know I said this was a trilogy but apparently the author found she had yet more to say and there was a follow up fourth book later.) It is Mary Stewart's version of the King Arthur/Merlin legend with a huge amount of detail added. I don't know how historical the characters or places and place names are as I didn't buy the book for historical accuracy but for fantasy entertainment and so have not verified any of the information contained in the book. As entertainment rather than history, the book fulfills its design and is a compelling read.

Mary Stewart's Merlin Trilogy is one of my all time favorite series of books. I read them first when I was about 13 years old and have re-read them frequently since then. What I like is that Ms Stewart's focus is on good story telling. These are the characters of the Arthur legend but she presents them as real people with likes, dislikes, strengths and flaws. And unlike other Arthurian books (*The Mists of Avalon* comes to mind) Mary Stewart doesn't seem to have an underlying agenda that she is trying to prove. I also like the fact that these books focus on Merlin primarily. In addition to this title which contains the first three books there is also a fourth title "*The Wicked Day*" which is published separately that is excellent as well. If you are a fan of King Arthur stories or just good fantasy writing in general I recommend that you get this book.

Mary Stewart, well known to mystery/suspense readers is a very talented writer. When I heard she had tackled the Arthur/Merlin Trilogy I knew it was a must read. This book arrived quickly and was in great shape. Soon I was lost in the legends of Merlin. If you like mystery, fantasy and lore, this book is right down your alley. Mary Stewart delivers again.

The Trilogy is a masterpiece. Ms Stewart is a stupendous master of the written word. Her characters are wonderfully drawn out and are brilliantly brought to life on the printed page. Merlin is so special. There is much warmth and emotion from the man even though he appears to be laid back. I was never a fan of "magic" plots but Merlin makes me believe magic really exists. Again, there is much warmth in the relationships of the "good guys" in these books. I plan to read more of Stewart's books and I am sure I won't be disappointed. Do not miss these special books. They are easy to read because of Stewart's effortlessly developed plots that just roll along unfolding wonder after wonder.

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