



The Last Dragon

M.K. Hume

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The first part in an epic sequel to M.K. Hume's King Arthur trilogy.

King Artor lies slain and Ector, a mere boy, is acknowledged as the legitimate heir to the kingdom. But the land of the Celts has been weakened, and Ector grows up torn by conflicting senses of doom and duty. It is only his marriage to Gwyllan that gives him a sense of fulfilment.

Meanwhile, Arthur, the Bastard Prince, grows up aware that he is the son of Artor and Lady Elayne but knowing he can never challenge the position of his ruler and childhood friend.

Living in the shadow of King Artor, neither man can escape the his legacy...

The Last Dragon Details

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Author : M.K. Hume

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From Reader Review The Last Dragon for online ebook

Isabel Ogilvie says

Loving all the MK Hume books.

Zoe says

It's a very interesting book. Following the start of Arthur's journey in life, I would recommend this story to anyone who has a keen interest in the Celtic backgrounds as well as the history of Britain in those times.

Stephen says

historical fiction based in the times of legend celts vs Saxons in the battle for Britain

Clemens Schoonderwoert says

This 1st volume of the "Twilight of the Celts" trilogy is more or less a follow-up of the final part of the "King Arthur (Artor)" trilogy which was titled "The Bloody Cup".

It's another excellent book which is full with real characters who come vividly to life in this tale of brutal warfare, from within and without, within this hard but also wonderful world of the Celts.

Wonderful storytelling makes this book a joy to read and the historical background of the world of the Celts is also exceptionally pictured within this book as well as the historical facts and events which are taking place within this great tale.

The story itself is about Prince Ector, who after the death of King Artor is acknowledged as the legitimate heir of the Kingdom of the Celts, but for the moment the Kingdom is ruled by his father King Bran of the Ordovice tribe as the Dux Bellorum, but even more so it's about Arthur, the Bastard Prince and the illegitimate son of King Artor and Lady Elayne, who's making a name for himself in the Forest of Arden as a warrior.

This Arthur is trained in the skills of the warrior and although he cannot challenge this young Ector, he can't stand back and watch Britain crumble under the threat of invasion by the Saxons.

And so Arthur, as "The Last Dragon", must do all that he can to save his father's legacy and at the same time protect young Prince Ector and his father King Bran from all kinds of enemies, before he himself is betrayed by his worst enemy Mareddy.

Fully recommended for this is a very compelling book which in my opinion is "A splendid 1st Celts volume"!

Mieneke says

King Arthur. How many ways can his story be retold and the myths surrounding him be re-invented? Apparently endlessly, as *The Last Dragon* is yet another Arthur retelling with a twist. Admittedly, M.K. Hume's version of the story is an Interesting one, with the myth retold in a novel way. In fact, the Arthur

who becomes known as the Last Dragon is the mythical Arthur's illegitimate son and the series *Twilight of the Celts*, of which this novel is the first instalment, is set after King Arthur's demise. The series is a continuation of two prior trilogies covering the lives of Merlin and King Arthur. I've not read these previous series and while I don't know how the Matter of Britain has been covered there, familiarity with the original stories and their themes allowed me to find my way in this somewhat uncannily familiar-yet-different version of Arthur's world.

What becomes clear from reading *The Last Dragon* is the affection in which Hume holds the Arthurian mythos and how well she knows it. She structures her version of Arthur's story in a triad of Arthurs, echoing a traditional Welsh telling of the tale which features three Gweneveres. Here we have three Arthurs: Artor or Artorex, Ector, and Arthur. The regular mythos has been broken up among them. Artorex is the version of Arthur that has the most traditional elements attached, but is also based on the more 'historical' view of Arthur as a Romano-Briton Dux Bellorum against the Anglo-Saxons, while Ector is the more politically savvy, yet kind-hearted version, and Arthur, our current hero, is the one raised in obscurity and ignorant of his heritage, yet he has inherited this sword. I thought this structuring a nice shift and it was interesting to see how Hume moulded the Matter to her tale. My biggest problem with *The Last Dragon* was its rather slow start, as the first two chapters are mostly build up to set up the story and very different in tone to the rest of the book. If found these chapters tough going and it was only when we finally switch to Arthur that the narrative smooths out.

Hume's Arthur is interesting, though he does suffer a bit from being too good to be true and being The Chosen One. He is swept along in events and tries to hold to the morals he was raised with, using them as a guide to choose his path. But it only feels as if he's making his own choices in the second half of the novel. I did very much enjoy the younger generation of new companions, such as Eamonn, Gareth, Lorcan, Germanus, and the three – again three – sons of Merlin, Taliesin, Glynn, and Rhys. They feel familiar yet new and I liked the way they interacted. There are also some captivating female characters with those I found most interesting being Anna, Elayne, Maeve, and Blaise. Anna was just such a powerful player in the story and I thought Elayne's dignity and utter peace with what her life had been was fascinating. Here is a woman who bore a king's bastard while married to his greatest captain and she has no regrets and isn't shamed over it in anyway by her husband. And the two teenagers Maeve and Blaise were quite promising and seem to play a larger part in the next novel, which raises expectations.

In addition to great heroes, we are also presented with some cool adversaries, whose motivations are muddled and thus quite compelling. My favourite of these was Bran, as he's so terribly complicated and I rather felt for his predicament, knowing he's a lesser ruler than his predecessor and a less gifted leader of men than both his son and Arthur. He is however a ruthless and great strategist and I just really liked his story. The one villain I just really disliked and whose motivations felt a little cliché was Mareddy. I understood why he was there, I just really didn't like his character or his plot arc.

The Last Dragon is very much the narrative of the hero in training and we leave the story on a cliffhanger, though at a natural break in the story. After I got past the first two chapters and settled into Arthur's narrative, I really enjoyed myself with this original take on the Arthur legend. If you like Arthurian tales, but would like to see them do something new, then *The Last Dragon* offers the first part of a trilogy that seems to promise to do just that.

This book was provided for review by the publisher.

Nancy Robertson says

Gave it up a quarter of the way through. Just did not send me. No character development, stodgy pace.

Carol Ferro says

Good story, spoilt a bit by the frequent swear words, which added nothing to the story.

Laurel says

Another great read by M.K. Hume. Perhaps a slight feeling of deja vu, but I still loved it and am looking forward to the next instalment.

Yvette says

20% is really great and shows Hume's talent for spinning a grand tale. However, the other 80% is bland and sleep inducing. Arthur was a precocious child and youngster, but you never feel connected to him as a character.

I do think I will try some of her other work, but the rest of the trilogy will not appear on my bookshelves.

Katrina Evans says

I love M K Hume's books and I love anything to do with King Arthur so this extension of the legends is wonderful. Can't wait to read the next book :)

Ian Banks says

Dr Hume's latest is up to her usual very high standard. Slightly wobbly at the start and she seems a little too fond of her main character (a flaw in her Merlin trilogy as well) but the story is exciting, the background and research very well-done. Thoroughly enjoyable.

John o byrne says

A must read book

Very good reading. Good sense of history can't wait to read the next book hope it's a good a read also
