



The Forever King

Molly Cochran , Warren Murphy

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In a darkened house not far from the place where Camelot may once have stood, a madman schemes, plotting toward the day when he will wrest the cup that men call the Holy Grail from the boy who is its guardian.

Arthur Blessing is no ordinary ten-year-old. The Grail is his by chance, this time, but the power to keep it--a power as ancient as time itself--is his by right.

Now he must stay alive--battling foul sorcery and indefatigable assassins--long enough to use that power.

"A fresh and exciting view of the Arthur legend." —Robert Jordan on Molly Cochran's *The Forever King*

The Forever King Details

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Author : Molly Cochran , Warren Murphy

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From Reader Review The Forever King for online ebook

Katie Daniels says

One of the very first Arthurian retellings I ever read. I got it as a mass market paperback from the library and the cover was torn off so I didn't know the book title. This didn't bother me until years later when I realized I had no way of finding it again. I didn't even have the kind of reliable internet tools available today, so the limited information I had was of no use in locating it. The details faded over the years and any time I thought of it I wasn't near a computer...until today! Whee! And there's more of them! Definitely up for a reread.

The Forever King is one of the few novels that deals with the prophesied return of Arthur when the world needs him most. It's unique in that the characters are actually reincarnated, rather than resurrected. It follows the story of Hal Wocznia, a former FBI agent who deals with PTSD of some kind, and eventually realizes he's Galahad. I especially love it for the story it tells of the Holy Grail--telling a very coherent story of the cup and its journey through time.

Not recommended for younger readers, due to some mature content.

Preston Nowsch says

This is one of the most amazing books i've ever read, easily in my top five. another angle on the story of arther pendragon(yes Dakota, ARATHER not BOBBY) that is beautifully told.

Known as the greatest king of all time, it brings to life the story behind the holy grail. With one of the most vile villians to ever set foot in fiction, Salidin is the one you love to hate for every reason. you will love this book if you like the middle ages, Chivalry and a sense of mystery. You might not like this book if you don't like a little bit of gore, or suspense teases you.

an incredible ending for an incredible story, a must read for anyone who loves the TRUE story of ARATHER PENDRAGON, with a heck of a twist. For those who love the olden days of lore, i can't recomend it highly enough. It would probably be an awesome read even if you don't have a huge interest in the Dark Ages. An easy five in my book, list.

Tracy Taylor says

I love, love, love this book! Got myself a hardback edition of it, so I can always keep it. This mystical tale of reincarnation, magic and history just grabbed me and wouldn't let go. I stayed up late nights reading it, and have reread it and enjoyed it just as much every time since. I didn't like the sequels as much, but this book I cherish. Any fan of Arthurian fantasy should read this, I think.

Sara says

At first, I wasn't sure i was going to like this. Gritty, violent, and a little more real-world modern than i expected, i wasn't too hot on it at first. Then, I kept going, and I couldn't put it down.

I love the concept, the depth of the characters, the richness of the images of Camelot, and the details of the characters' histories. I love the thought of Saladin through the ages - who else might he have been through history? Where else did he hold influence? These characters are multi dimensional and pull you in, and by the end I was wholly absorbed in their world, and the only problem was that I wanted more. How glad I was to come on goodreads and find that there's a sequel!

Trin says

This is one of my roommate's favorite books, which she lent to me. I can totally see why she liked it. It's a really cool take on the King Arthur legend, involving one of my favorite silly soap opera plot points—reincarnation. There's also a really interesting, complex villain whose long, long life is explored through a series of fascinating, history-charged flashbacks. So plot-wise, it's pretty damn awesome. I think the only thing that's stopping it from being OMG ONE OF MY NEW FAVORITE BOOKS EVA!!! is the fact that the prose is really nothing to write home about. It's kind of standard-issue, serviceable and flat. And thus the characters don't really come alive for me. I mean, Hal, the washed-up FBI agent who may have a shot at redeeming himself, is *just* the kind of fictional dude I have a tendency to fall in love with. I *should* have fallen in love with him in this book. But he just kind of sits there on the page. The book wasn't any less fun to read, and I'll definitely be picking up the sequel, but for me, at least, the prose's lack of sparkle makes it something I'm less likely to reread.

Amanda says

I adore this book. After reading it, it has become one of my favorites. I thought the characters really came alive and couldn't help but love and hate Saladin all at the same time. I think this is probably one of the best and most complex villains I have read about in a long time. The moments in the story where I caught a glimpse into Saladin's heart elicited such strong feelings of sympathy and respect that I would forget he was a cold blooded killer, which makes the story that much better. Overall, a terrific book that I would recommend to anyone!

Nacho Iribarnegaray says

One of my favourite books and one I have read and reread again and again.

I thought it was a single book, and I've discovered just now -thanks to goodreads!- that it's a trilogy! If I had known when I was a kid!

I'm *so* adding the following ones to my wishlist. And this one as well, I have to read it in English this time!

Leo (Rahien Sorei) says

Now, when I picked up this book from a pile of mislaid novels in B&N I had no clue what it was about - even the synopses and snippets in the book don't really clue you in. But I was immensely pleased as I began to read - as a book about King Arthur, it had all of the hallmarks of a classic Arthurian story you could find in Erec or Yvain, or The Knight With the Lion. The story follows an unlikely knight, Hal, who has already

suffered his fall from grace (not a spoiler, I promise) in a modern setting. This is urban fantasy, and it had sneaked up on me to pleasantly surprise with its application, being set in the 90's. Even better, the contemporary story actually references stories about, or mentioning Arthur found in original manuscripts dating back to the 13th century from poets who were the pioneers of Arthurian literature (Hartmann von Aue, Chretien de Troyes, etc) and even British authors like Geoffrey of Monmouth who prophesied the great king's return in his "History of the Kings of Britain." My enthusiasm for Arthurian lit aside, it's a fun read: Cochran walks you through the ages, with Hal and an interesting cadre of characters who will provide an interesting range of views on the big questions of the novel. Is "forever" really a good thing? I don't know about that, but I do know that you'll enjoy reading this!

Stev Paulson says

I've only started reading books again recently. Over the past few years, I've started and stopped reading more books than I wish to admit. This book, "The Forever King", is the first book in years that completely engrossed me! I absolutely loved it! It wasn't until I finished the book that I realized it was the first of a trilogy- the next in the series is definitely on my short list of books to read this year.

The short chapters were such a nice change from the more epic tomes I've attempted recently! Having limited reading time each week, these smaller, bite-sized chunks are really helpful to getting in and out, without feeling like you've left in the middle of things.

This is a unique take on an ageless story, and I look very forward to what comes in the next book!

Wealththeow says

Hal was a fantastic FBI agent, but after a child died during one of his cases, he left the bureau and became an alcoholic mess. Arthur was just a bright but ordinary boy until he discovered a strange metallic cup. A series of coincidences and the dastardly deeds of the immortal Saladin bring them to England, where they discover they are the reincarnations of Galahad and King Arthur. But their vague memories of their past lives will be little use against the clever and ruthless man who was once known as the Saracen knight.

I did like this book; it strips out a lot of the icky psychosexual undertones of modern Arthurian tales, and instead focuses on the knights' justice and loyalty. But I couldn't help but get creeped out that all of the non-white characters are evil, or that the only queer character is a twisted madman. I really resented how many chapters were told through the sociopathic and thoroughly unpleasant point of view of Saladin. And I have two quibbles with the last few chapters of this book: (view spoiler)

I don't plan on reading the rest of this series, because no one seems to enjoy them very much. But I'm glad I read this one; even though Hal isn't given much of a character (he's a character type I usually love, but I felt nothing for him in this iteration) and the battle between evil Arabs vs honorable Anglos reads offensively to me, I still enjoyed the effort to bring King Arthur into the modern age. The moment when Arthur pulls the sword from the stone a second time, for instance--I nearly teared up.

Karen Brooks says

This is another book that I read years ago and recently re-read. I did this for two reasons: first, because I loved it so much the first time, I wanted to see if it still resonated and, secondly, because I discovered it is actually the first book of a trilogy and I intend to read the others (mind you, they were out of print, so hard to track down - but I did!).

Ostensibly a retelling of the Arthur story for the modern age, this tale is so much more...Taking the notion that King Arthur died before he could fulfil his destiny, the young man who pulled Excalibur from the stone is reborn in... the USA (of course) in contemporary times. But wait, like a good advertisement for steak knives, there's more.

Spanning eras and continents, the novel takes us back to ancient times, the period of the Pharaohs, Persia, medieval Britain and then catapults us into the modern period and into the life of a burned out former FBI agent, Hal, who can't forget the young red-headed boy he didn't rescue from a psychopathic killer in time.

We also learn about a very tall man, a gruesome murderer, who is in solitary confinement in a mental institute in the UK. He has no name, no past and, it seems no future... that is, until he learns the whereabouts of a certain object he owned for a very long time, lost and which he desires very much.

Parallel to these stories is that of 10 year old, Arthur Blessing. He's an orphan being raised by his brilliant young Aunt Emily. But it's not until he comes across a strange metal, cup-like object that Arthur's fairly ordinary existence becomes not only extraordinary but very, very dangerous for him and those he cares about. For the metal cup has powers that some will stop at nothing to ensure they possess - no matter how long it take or at what cost.

A fast-paced, highly cinematic read (one of the authors has worked on screenplays - and it shows in a good way), this is a fun, imaginatively conceived book that leaves you breathless and wanting more. I couldn't put it down the first or second time.

Matthew Collins says

This was a great book. It took the Arthurian legend and put a new twist on it. Set in modern times, The spirit of the great King Arthur has returned and as a ten year old boy, stumbles upon the legendary holy grail. The only problem is, its previous owner will stop at nothing to give it back. He isn't alone though, Hal, an ex FBI agent who has been drinking his self esteem away with boos for the past year or so, has sobered up and is on his side (not to mention Merlin, and the story is a lot more complicated than that, I am just trying not to give anything away). It combines history with legend and fantasy in a very awesome way. I would recommend it to anyone who likes King Arthur stories, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes reading at all. It has elements from thriller, detective, fantasy, and historical novels and is very well written.

Scribal says

Couldn't finish it. I don't know where to start with the problems. First the good: the concept is good. A gritty modern reboot of the Arthur legend. Love it. But that lasts for the first few scenes. After that it turns into part childrens (not YA but childrens!) fantasy and part back-story synopsis. And the writing although competent in the beginning and grammatically strong throughout gets triter and triter as the modern story (which was interesting) seems to be forgotten by the author.

Daemonzeiro says

AMAZING bad guy. Best King Authur story I have ever read.

This is the book that finally broke my sister. She had major issues with reading- she hated it. Until I forced her into this book. Now she reads like a fiend and it is all thanks to this book.

It takes place in modern times with some limited flash back type instances for mister awesome bad guy. I strongly recommend this even if you detest fantasy. This is not your average mickey mouse magic show by any stretch of the imagination.

Abigail says

I'm addicted to the Authurian legend, so I will read pretty much anything based on it. Hence, this book.

"Forever King" is the first of a trilogy and I have not yet read the subsequent 2 books. I enjoyed this book, it was different and entertaining. It is not my favorite Aurther legend spin-off (that would probably have to go to "Mists of Avalon"), but it was innovative and a new way to look at the "future" part of "once and future king." The book is relatively gritty but still contains a sense of wonder and magic. The villain of the piece is, for me, the most fascinating character. You very much want to hate him, and you do when it comes down to it, and while you do not find him particularly sympathetic, he and his actions are very understandable. If you are an Arthur fan, it is worth a look.
