



The Fox and the Bear

L.A. Wilson

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Hundreds of years ago in a land ravaged by fierce clans, where only the strongest survive...a Legend of the People was born. From the historic tales of King Arthur comes a raw, riveting and passionate series of novels by author L.A. Wilson, who breathes fresh new life into this spell-binding story.

Told in first-person by Bedwyr...the person closest to Arthur's heart...this story is an amazing journey into the past, where social order was kept by the sword, loyalty and the desire to be free. Free to survive, free to live, and free to love without restraint. Through Wilson's powerful story-telling...a whole dramatic world of love, hatred, war, betrayal and loss is created and viewed through the exotic and passionate eyes of 'The Fox.'

From the first book "The Silurian: The Fox and the Bear," to the tenth installment, "Last Man to Avalon," this work is destined to become a literary classic, defining a new age of reading and establishing a new genre.

The Fox and the Bear Details

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From Reader Review The Fox and the Bear for online ebook

Arthur says

[I don't usually l

Arthurianmaiden says

I may be biased because I had great expectations about this novel. I've read in reviews people calling it "one of the best arthurian adaptation" and having read many (MANY. I am kind of obsessed) arthurian novels I expected it to live to the role of "best arthurian adaptation". It clearly was not. So from now on I'll review this book simply as any else arthurian novel I've read (or gay romance novel I've read). I might also be biased because I had to read it on pc, as the paperback copy was very pricey, I bought the kindle copy without having a kindle and for me reading on computer is very tiring. I will probably try to read the next books when I'll buy a kindle.

I'll immediately say that I've read about 90 pages then I started to jump a little, reading very fast to see what was going on and after about 160 pages I went truly fast. I've read the end but I basically jumped to it from about page 190 or something.

From now on there will be spoilers.
(view spoiler)

I don't even know what else to write- I am just very disappointed and annoyed by this book.

Sally Boyington says

Told in the first person point of view by Bedwyr, loyal companion to Arthur (whose meteoric rise at a young age to become King Arthur of Britain), this meticulously researched historical novel invites readers into the Dark Ages. Arthur of the Silures is portrayed as a charismatic leader of men and lover of women in Roman Britain at the beginning of its fall to the barbarians, including the Picts and the Germani. The exquisite characterization of Arthur and his men and the detailed scenes of battles and daily life make this epic saga hard to put down.

Not that this is an easy read. The language is dense, and if you aren't interested in worldbuilding details, it may be a hard slog. In the pre-chivalry world of these knights, men were coarse and brutal, and most treated women even worse than the enemies they faced in battle: there is no modernist revisionism here.

I would have liked to see the manuscript pruned, with less repetition of material (particularly battles and

explicit sex scenes) and more forward movement in the character arcs, but other readers will undoubtedly love those parts. The author also could have been more careful to avoid mixed metaphors and flat dialogue in places. Still, these are minor issues when weighed against the driving action of the story.

(Disclaimer: I received a free evaluation copy of this book as a judge for the Global e-Book Awards)

SharonBBD says

I am in the middle of an epic of all epics! The Silurian by L.A. Wilson. It's a 9-book 900 pg per book HF based upon the beginning of King Arthur and during the Dark Ages of England's history. It is AMAZING and Nook-inexpensive. History, armor, battles galore between the British and 1st century Saxons, Picts, etc. It has mild sexual/violent descriptions, but very beautiful descriptions of love; between Arthur and his wife, between his best friend "the sodomite" who narrates the entire thing and his feelings of love toward Arthur. Jokes about "poking" women, brief and very FEW mentions of rape, at a time where no doubt it was prevalent between warring factions. Battles are described but not in a gory way. It truly is a beautifully written and captivating series. I'm starting on the 6th book and dreading the end of the series!

Dave says

Pleasantly surprised with this series. Not usually a fan of the Knights of the Round Table type books, but, the writing is so eloquent and the story so fresh that it pulled me in completely. I can not wait to see if Fox ever lands his prince...

Kaye says

This is a book I recommend highly, based on my own personal tastes and reading experiences. I enjoyed this book a lot, and was surprised by its historical accuracy, and its originality. I was dragged along so very slowly in the beginning, but after the first half, I began to fall in love with it.

There are a good bout of mistakes that I can pick out here and there, and the author occasionally slips into a more modern tongue. The characters are great, and they are multi-faceted. But sometimes, I find the actions or feelings of the characters hard to believe or relate to, but I give the benefit of doubt and assume that is how the times were.

I can't honestly say how much I liked the series, even though I had said so much about what was a little disappointing. In honesty, the books so far have been a great rollercoaster of emotion. The books are sometimes slow, but they pick up again quickly. You begin to feel for the characters, and grow attached. I feel for Arthur's troubled relationship with his father, and how Bedwyr cannot help but love Arthur. The battles are so very well-done, but not drawn out enough to bore.

There is a good dose of love and hate for each and every character, and that's great. LA Wilson shows her characters as true people, who are both noble and also very annoying sometimes. Normally, I wouldn't enjoy being annoyed by characters, but each time they redeem themselves.

Even supporting characters are appealing to the reader. Sometimes, they fall flat, especially the women. I commend LA Wilson for her deep insight into all the men's characters, but her women seem so shallow to me. I don't know if it is because Bedwyr, who narrates in first person, just doesn't understand women, or if Wilson just can't write them, but that is not too big of an issue.

It's a good series which I suggest highly if you don't mind a slower read and very little in the way of romance.

Jane says

This version of King Arthurs emergence as a leader in Dark Age Britain is compelling. The primitiveness and brutality are not hidden but not dwelled upon. The novel centers upon three young men, Arthur and his cousins who lead their armies to protect their lands from invaders.

Maria Banning says

Takes a bit to get into but well worth it!

Rick says

I've read nearly all of the Silurian series by L.A. Wilson and let me tell you I am on the edge of my seat the whole time.

How to describe the series is kind of tough but I'll give it a go.

Part fantasy with the Arthurian Legend. Which I love by the way.

The characters are so well layered and drawn out that I do not have one complaint about the cast of characters. Even the dis-likable ones have a certain nobility to them that makes you want to know more.

The battle sequences, oh seriously I find my legs stiff and my feet cramping up from my muscles being so tense. The battles are pretty graphic but in a very realistic manner or I should say her narration enables me to "see" it all happening and feel as if I'm along for the ride.

The friendships are real, you can feel all of the love and camaraderie they have with each other. Then there is the Love. Oh my such love, some forbidden but so well done it's romance entirely.

The realization of a man during that time period realizing he really wanted to be with men. Wow.

I believe I've one novel left to read and I'm putting it off as long as I can because I don't want the story to end!

Happy reading!

Erastes says

There are some books where you read them and you feel unsettled because you don't know the era and the history and the author doesn't make you feel safe – but I have to say that L A Wilson didn't engender this fear with me. It was clear from the first few pages that the author knew this period damn well, and if anything was wrong then I didn't get the feeling, and I didn't get the itch to rush onto the internet and check facts like I sometimes do with eras I don't know.

The facts seem to be similar to Geoffrey Monmouth's history of Britain with some changes (such as Uthyr being brother to Lot, and not Ambrosius) – but as I say, I'm not an expert on the Dark Ages, so it bothered me not a wit and I was just involved in the story being told.

Prince Bedwyr (not really a prince per se as we know it today, but the son of a tribal chieftain) is a complicated and likeable character. Deeply flawed and realistic, I was drawn to him immediately. He's in love with Arthur; they've been raised together as foster-brothers due to Arthur's father Uthyr having rejected him and they've both been placed in the army together. However, as much as he loves Arthur, he holds his love back, confused by the emotions that he feels. He hides his love under fraternal devotion and it's heartbreaking to read, especially as Arthur, with typical teenage lust, fucks his way around Britain.

Both young men (and the Mordred character, Medraut) have father issues which range from pride to incest, and much of this first book is concerned with Arthur's rise through the ranks and subsequently taking control of the armies of Britain. There are a lot of political machinations, as you would expect, but they are never dull and over-involved. Wilson manages this by narrating from a viewpoint other than Arthur's – so we are there to listen to Arthur for all his hopes and fears, rather than being involved in the plots and politico-manouvering. This works well and keeps the action moving along nicely.

As a fan of bad boys, I was charmed and delighted by Medraut, who is written as a most engaging character. He's blond, extremely handsome and personable and is charismatic where Bedwyr is difficult for people to get to know or understand. As the book progresses though, we see that Medraut – whilst also being in love with Arthur, but for different reasons than most other people – has a dark side and his idea of loyalty is skewed and wrong. He's pretty frank about his homosexuality in a time when Christianity was leeching across Britain and subverting the tradition of male-love, and whilst he's not reviled for it, it doesn't make him popular either. If I have any gripe about Medraut, it's that I objected to more open homosexual of the saga to be the official baddie, and sado-masochistic to boot.

Understandably, in a saga this large, many characters are introduced in short order but they are well drawn, and unlike some multi-character plots it's easy to keep track of who is who. That being said, perhaps a glossary would have been useful, in light of what I'm about to say next.

What the book really lacked though – was a map. I like maps, even in my fantasy reading – and because this is writing entirely using original names of tribes and towns (the only one I recognised was Londinium) and because there is so much travelling described from one end of Britain to the other, I felt a map was essential. Perhaps it's something that the author can address in further printings.

i DID enjoy it, but I had to make myself continue to read it, I'm afraid. For my money the major drawback with this book was the fact that it needed a severe edit with a ruthless red pen, as the mistakes are legion and someone with less patience (or not possessing the punctuation blindness as I appear to have) would have given up fairly early on. Semi colons are used instead of many commas or full stops. They proliferate like bunnies as the book progresses and some of the many many typos are inexcusable. This is a real shame because if this book had been clean and well edited, I see no reason why any historical publisher wouldn't have picked it up, as it smacks of the period and is a darned good story.

I have the remaining two books of the trilogy and will certainly give them a read. If you can excuse the editing, then I do recommend this book – particularly for those with an interest in the Dark Ages – but I can't rate it higher in terms of stars, I'm afraid, as the editing really pulls it down.

Runningrabbit says

This series is incredibly intense. It's so well researched you can't even begin to imagine how the author found time to actually produce a novel, let alone a series. If you don't want to cry, sniffle, obsess and ball your eyes out over the work, you might want to give it a miss. I swear I had a puffy face for a good 18hrs afterwards and went through a whole box of tissues.

The battle scenes are awesome, and the romantic interest which offers more info in the second novel, is incredibly well done.

The main character is, in his own way introverted which makes the interactions with the other mains more understandable and a lot is answered in the next couple of novels.

If you don't want blood, gore, heartbreak, and explicit sex scenes, with some of the best full on M/M relationships I have ever read, then don't get stuck into this series. Good to see the author is a Sydney guy.

I had to go directly on to the next couple books in one go, until I was all emo'd out.

PS. contains M/M action

PS. I say if you're in Sydney and don't have gay friends there's something wrong with you. The truly mentally handicapped...

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

I love gritty retellings of the Arthurian legend and for the most part, this one does not disappoint. The Fox and The Bear is told from the point of view of Bedwyr (better known Bedivere), a prince of the Goddodin. He is the friend, foster-brother shield-brother and companion to Arthur.

This is a dark story, filled with blood, lust, companionship and homoerotic love. There's nothing sanitized here--Dark Age Britain is cruel, cold and brutal as were the lives of many of the people who lived back then. War abounds as does betrayal. One takes their pleasures when they can, and Arthur (as a randy young man) couples at will, all the while plotting to become Supreme Commander of Britain. The characters--Arthur (the Silurian, also called the Bear), Bedwyr (the Fox), Medraut (the Snake) and Uthyr--are all complex men. Heroic at times, self-centered at others. It was especially hard to read about how Uthyr abused his own son then repudiated him publicly.

Bedwyr spins his yarn like a bard. He loves Arthur and yet cannot reveal his feelings, but he spends most of the book declaring himself and putting himself at great risk to remain at his side. I have to admit a certain fondness for the troubled Medraut, son of Lot. His love for Arthur knows no bounds--literally--and he will do for his friend and Supreme Commander what he knows Arthur cannot bring himself to do. Medraut makes no secret of his preference for men, nor of his taste for receiving pain. One gets the sense that he's supposedly the villain, and perhaps that may happen, but his life and his loyalty unto death to Arthur make him very sympathetic.

The battle scenes are so well-crafted I could see them playing out in my mind. I kept hearing the Carmina Burana as I envisioned hundreds of mounted warriors riding into battle, the red dragon banner flying overhead. Wilson does not skip the details and each encounter with the enemy--be they the Saxons or the Picts--left me holding my breath, wondering who would be wounded or lose their lives on the battlefield. Even secondary characters are given lives and personalities of their own, making them as real as the main protagonists.

The place names for cities in this era are called by their Roman names, which if one is not familiar with Arthurian legends, will make one wonder just where the hell they are. Never fear, Wilson includes a glossary at the end of the book that fills in the gaps.

What kept this from five stars were the instances of jarring modern language moments where the characters sounded more like contemporary young adults rather than figures from Dark Age Britain. Be that as it may, I will be reading the sequels. Wilson paints a vivid portrait of a time that happened and a legend from the distant past in a voice that is hard to forget.

Marta says

Well, that was disappointing.

I really love the narrative in the beginning of the book, the way the writing style fit the period, the way Bedivere led his internal monologues about Arthur or Mordred.

Yet somewhere halfway through it seems the author got lazy, or just stopped caring about what kind of book it's going to be and instead filled it with dick and vagina jokes and badly written characters. All women, without exception, serve only to please the men, Mordred, also called a Snake and shown in a juxtaposition to Arthur so often, is built to be a traitor from the very beginning, Uther's actions don't make sense and serve only to add some tragic backstory to Arthur.

I'm surprised this book is listed as a m/m romance since there's more mentions of straight sex scenes than in the majority of m/f books and even though the reader sort of gets the feelings Bedivere has for Arthur, it sort of disappears under the pile of scenes with Bedivere being jealous of all the women Arthur gets.

(Also disappointing that the only canonically gay character in this book, Mordred, is misogynistic as fuck and actually not so kind towards men neither.)

Betty says

A most unusual perspective on Arthur, told by his closest friend. This is not a traditional tale. Very intriguing, very engrossing. Neither Arthur nor his vaunted knights will be expecting sainthood from this telling. If Arthur really existed, this would likely be his biography. Can't wait to get the next book.

Jake Collins says

It's a good start to the series; and at the price you pay over at Smashwords it's definitely worth it! I am going to start the second one today.

