



## The Encircling Sea

*Adrian Goldsworthy*

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AD 100: Flavius Ferox, Briton and Roman centurion, is finding it hard to keep the peace. Based at Vindolanda – an army fort on the northern frontier of Britannia and the entire Roman world – he feels the eyes of his enemies on him at all hours.

Ambitious leaders sense a chance to carve out empires of their own. While men nearer at hand speak in whispers of war and the destruction of Rome.

And out at sea, ships of pirates and deserters restlessly wait for the time to launch their attack on the empire's land.

## The Encircling Sea Details

Date : Published May 31st 2018 by Head of Zeus

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Author : Adrian Goldsworthy

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Encircling Sea for online ebook

### John Morris says

**An exciting and absorbing book.**

Once started, I really could not put this book down. This was a fast moving story, full of intrigue, vicious battles and with a "who dunnit and why" plot at its core. Truly remarkable.

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### Kate says

Centurion Ferox returns in this action packed Roman military adventure set near Vindolanda (before the Wall was built) and further afield. A particularly nasty bunch of rebels and pirates are out to cause trouble. I really enjoyed the historical detail, which frequently reminded me of the archaeological discoveries of Vindolanda, but the story itself felt rather flat and strained. Review to follow shortly on For Winter Nights.

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### Andrew says

Very good. A gift from Peter, who always chooses good books. Cracking yarn about roman life in Britain in first century AD. Lots of hacking off limbs and stabbing through the eye; and the hero is respected for his fighting ability and loyalty but despises the senior leadership. Similar to Michael Arnold's civil war chronicles in those respects.

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### Cathy Delamotte says

**Can't wait for the third book in this series.**

Great adventure, fast moving, captivating characters and the Roman Empire as a background, who could ask for more. There is just something about hero warriors I adore.

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### Mark Steven says

An easy going page turner, but a bit of a Boy's Own adventure, complete with a princess to be rescued from rapacious pirates... Kind of naff in that sense. But if you've had a recent head injury and need something unchallenging, it's OK. I did enjoy the historic detail and perhaps learnt a little something about Roman Britain.

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### GBL says

For his second novel linked to the Roman site of Vindolanda, Adrian Goldsworthy has used a reference in

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the writing of Tacitus, in his 'Agricola' to build an action packed adventure featuring Flavius Ferox. This second novel has everything needed to be a 5 star historical novel; detailed research and information set aside a strong story line and convincing characters.

Ferox becomes involved in dealing with raiders from the sea, threatening in their appearance and tales of cannibalism. Their capture of Roman hostages - including Ferox's lover, Sulpica - leads to an expedition against the Pirates in their island stronghold. Goldsworthy's descriptions of the fighting on the island are exciting and detailed and create a sense of reality and involvement for the reader.

This series of novels is based upon archaeological evidence from the Roman site of Vindolanda and this context for the action is particularly satisfying. I look forward to the further adventures of Flavius Ferox.

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### **Jo says**

Roman Centurion Ferox helps some of the locals when he finds there's a mysterious band of outlaws terrorising and eating people. This was a fab story set in Roman Britain during the emperorship of Trajan.

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### **Laure Olson says**

#### **Great adventure**

I can't wait for the rest of this series. Reminds me so much of the Sharpe stories by Cornell, also a historian turned writer. Authentic, exciting, characters you want to learn more of.

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### **09/01 says**

#### **Great yarn**

Detox rides again, grey storyline, plenty of twists and turns. thoroughly enjoyed it, found it hard to put down. can't wait for next adven

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### **Jane says**

This time historian-cum-novelist Goldsworthy has taken a short mention in Tacitus's "Agricola" about a mutiny in the army and from this cleverly constructed a full-fledged novel. The cohort of a German tribe, the Usipi, revolted against harsh punishments and other troubles. According to Tacitus, they seized ships, sailed to Germania and were taken and enslaved by the Frisians. However a rumor persisted some were still alive and had returned to Britannia as pirates, wreaking havoc, including cannibalism. We follow *Centurion Regionalis* Flavius Ferox, the Silure, at first in his duties as liaison to the native peoples and rendering judgments, then later as a fighting man. He still is aided by his faithful scout, the Brigantian, Vindex. An expedition to Hibernia shows us some of that culture and a Hibernian queen returns to Britannia. Sulpicia Lepidina, her husband, and their friends, Aelius Brocchus and his wife are also instrumental in the story. There are other historical figures [which we know by name only from archaeological evidence] which Goldsworthy has given personalities and physical descriptions. We read of a daring rescue of Sulpicia and a final battle in which the pirates are destroyed.

This author I consider the best of the recent historians who try their hand at a novel. Goldsworthy marries the best of both worlds; you know his history is impeccable, along with a good story without "infodumps." Also, the cover was quite stunning and set the mood.

Highly recommended.

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