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Fin Gall: A Novel Of Viking Age Ireland (The Norsemen Saga Book 1)



Synopsis

Book I of the ongoing Norsemen Saga. 852 A.D. For decades the Vikings have swept out of the Norse countries and fallen on England, Ireland, whatever lands they could reach aboard their longships. Few could resist the power of their violent onslaught. They came at first to plunder, and then to settle, an encroachment fiercely resisted where ever they went. Such was the case in the southern lands of Ireland. En route to the Viking longphort there, known as Dubh-Linn, Thorgrim Night Wolf and Ornof the Restless stumble across an Irish ship that carries aboard it a single item - a crown. The Vikings eagerly snatch the prize, unaware of its significance to the people of Ireland and the power granted to the king who wears it. Soon the Norsemen are plunged into the violence and intrigue of Medieval Ireland, where local kings fight with each other and with the invaders from the north for rule of the island nation. With enemies at every hand, and loyalties as fickle as the weather, Thorgrim must lead his men, the white invaders, the Fin Gall, in the fight of their lives, with both Irish and Dane eager to see them dead.

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Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of Jim's for a long time, and admit that I prefer his historical fiction to the more studied recent works. Jim has a great ability to develop characters that are believable and then weave a tale with depth and breadth that draws you in. So when I realized that he was starting a new series of historical fiction I eagerly bought *Fin Gall* and jumped in! So, I started *Fin Gall* with high expectations and was initially a bit disappointed, frankly there was a "saga of the cavemen" thing going on that was hard to identify with. But Jim's sense of human nature shines through and before long it became yet another page turner that I couldn't put down. He has really set the stage for some great future stories, the level of interplay is on a par with "Game of Thrones" put in a blender with "Downton Abbey". Warfare, sex, intrigue and deception, love, lust, food, drink, and travel.... what's not to like?

For context and reference I find the works of Robert Low (Oathsworn Series) to be the definitive Viking Era tales, followed by Giles Christian, Bernard Cornwell and Judson Roberts. I have a great interest in the Viking Era, and rabidly search for titles to meet this appetite. I have been underwhelmed many times and was prepared to be again, but I genuinely enjoyed *Fin Gall*. Great intertwining of factions between the Irish "kingdoms" the Danes, or Dub Gall and the Norse, or Fin Gall. I appreciated how the author effectively pointed out how individualized and essentially tribal this period was, when today we are used to politics of nations. While some of the characters could use more development and were a little one dimensional, the protagonist, while a perhaps a bit too superhuman in combat, was interesting and appreciated the elements of mysticism (Wolf Dreams) and berserker tendencies. I would recommend this book if you have similar interests.

Excitement from front to back! It starts out with a very vivid account of a sea storm, and from that point on it is indeed a page-turner. The plot does some very cunning twists and turns. I am not familiar with the author, but I am greatly impressed by this work. It has it all: Battle, savagery, betrayal, love, hate, fear, cowards, hero's, villains, treasure, greed, lust and throw in some shape shifting. And best of all, you may learn a thing or two in the bargain (it includes a glossary in the back. I suggest reading that before starting the book). what a treat for a reader of historical adventure novels.

Mr. Nelson once again, and true to form, publishes another great work. I totally enjoy his stories, because like this one, they are factually placed in a period of history. This tends to give his stories a great amount of realism and believability, which I believe expands the overall reading pleasure. In

this case, 'Fin Gall' is centered on the exploits of a particular Viking plundering expedition ("a-viking"). I believe this to be the first time he has tackled that period of world history. And he does it extremely well. I was not only entertained by the creativeness of his story telling, and the easy-flowing and colorful writing style, but I also gained an abundant historical perspective of this period of long-ago life. From all measures, it is a truly rewarding read! If you have enjoyed Mr. Nelson's previous works, you will definitely enjoy this piece. I sincerely hope this book is expanded into a series as he has done with some of his previous stories. It surely has the story base and momentum to see continued life.

Fin Gall is another Nelson page-turner. It is difficult to put down once you have started. I believe that I have read all of Nelson's historical novels and most of his histories. Other reviewers have noted his detailed insight into historical times but let me dwell on an element of his extraordinary writing craftsmanship. In his story line, Nelson has a habit of repeating events. But he takes the reader back in time and repeats the event through the eyes of the adversary. It takes a bit of getting used to, but in the end, the reader is treated to the whole story. My only complaint is that Nelson is not writing his next story fast enough.

So an Irish princess would help an invading wounded viking escape? Really? If you want really good historical fiction, read Bernard Cornwells Saxon Chronicles or his grail series. I don't know if the intent is to attract female readers, but so much of the plot is made totally unbelievable by the ways he does include women. Cornwell has many strong female characters that are believable.

Very good, fast moving tale. horrible editing1 SO many mistakes in the text, it is hard to believe anyone "proof read" it.

It is seldom that I can't read more than 30 or 40 pages of a book at one sitting, but not this book. It has zero character development, and a very basic plot. Once we get the idea that the Vikings were drunk 24/7, and liked to do mean things to each other, it is pretty much over. I am about 3/4 the way through with this book (novel is too generous) and I doubt I will finish it. Also, it clearly was never proof read. Many mistakes. I am very disappointed. I cannot believe that these 5 star reviews are for real....

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