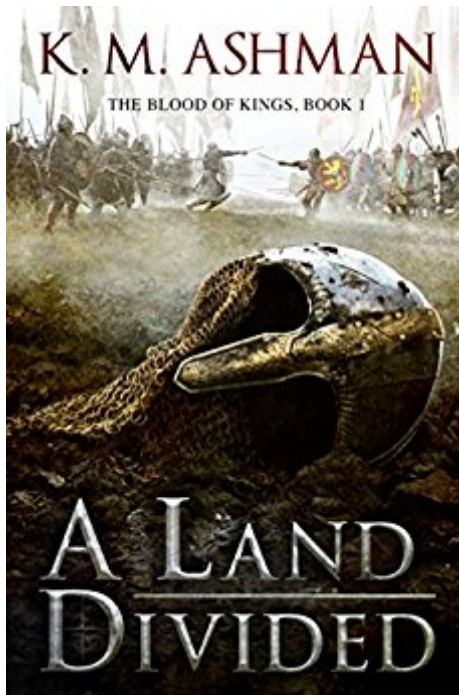


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A Land Divided (The Blood Of Kings Book 1)



Synopsis

1081. William's bloody conquest is over and Britain is under Norman rule. But one bastion of resistance remains: Wales. A divided land where brother fights brother and kings battle for power. The English use this to further their own ends, and while one king is tempted by an offer he cannot resist, the others wage war over long-forgotten feuds. Gruffydd ap Cynan, true heir to the kingdom of Gwynedd, is in exile across the sea. When he hears of the betrayal of the Welsh people by the imposter in his throne, Gruffydd unites with Tewdwr, a monarch deposed by the traitors, and they forge an army from the ashes of their kingdoms. But Tewdwr's wife and daughter "the source of much of the allies' strength" are a weakness their enemies will exploit. Betrayal, treachery and war await, but both men know they must fight to the bitter end, when the sundered lands of Wales are drenched...in the blood of kings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story had me on my toes from the beginning to the end. I finished it in two days and the ending left me with a desire to see what else happens. I got it as a Kindle on Samsung free monthly

download and couldn't have been happier. I'm going to try to explain it without giving away too much information. This is a fiction book of a war that takes place to combine countries, regain or increase royal positions, and over power different families. The characters names, places, and relationships were all charted, and explained before the chapters began; as well as the form of pronunciation which I appreciated. This storyline in the beginning describes the families and the reason for their likes and dislikes to other families. The middle describes how and why the battle is even begun, as well as the different betrayals, and end shows you who wins. It also gives you a reason to why you would even need to read the second book, which I did. Would I suggest this first book, "A Land Divided" to anyone? -Yes, the author, K.M. Ashman knew how to interest people in the characters, the fights, and just gave you enough to make you want to keep finding out more. This book is worth it! Would I suggest the second book, "A Wounded Realm: The blood of kings book 2"? -Yes and no, I gave that one 3 stars and read it in a month and a half. I considered this one to have a slower beginning with an interesting end. So unless you just have to find out what happens to certain characters I would not bother. But if you like war battles and taunting go for it. To find out more read the review I gave it.

A compelling tale of the Welsh struggle to unify in the wake of William's takeover of England. Gruffydd ap Cynan having been defeated and in exile in Ireland, raises an army and returns to Wales; joins forces with another Welsh King, Rhys ap Tewdwr, and undertakes the simple task of defeating three newly allied Kings to reclaim their lands and thrones - newly allied and in cahoots with William the Bastard. The story goes back and forth between the battling armies and the two Queens (of Gruffydd and Tewdwr) who are facing their own battles to survive, not only physical hardships, but the mental anguish of not knowing the fate of their husbands. As in any well told tale, there are ample plot surprises, well developed characters, efficiently researched history and the ability to take the reader into the very land and actions described. The ending is especially intriguing and the best part of that scenario is that it paves the way for a sequel; which I ordered within moments of finishing A Land Divided. It took a while for me to get around to reading this book/author, but I'm glad I finally did. 4.3 stars

I have to say that I am a huge fan of Kevin Ashman's "MEDIEVAL" series, so I couldn't wait for this series to start. I love the way Mr. Ashman develops the characters, I find myself really loving some and really disliking others. Mr. Ashman has a way of making me feel like I am riding along side these characters and experiencing the very life that they are experiencing. I have read numerous

novels about Welsh Princes, English Kings and Templar Knights but never had I read a book in three days simply because I could not put it down. I hope I don't have to wait for too long for the second book in the series. Another well written book by Kevin Ashman.

Kevin Ashman continues to astound me. I first started reading him because he's books were cheap on Kindle. Now after reading eight of his novels I think his books are grossly underpriced. I put him up there with the historical fiction giants like Bernard Cornwall and Conn Iggulden. I might even like him better. This "Blood of Kings" trilogy is great work! It's full of surprises. Kevin's got an easy style of writing that makes his books burn through your fingers. Nothing is wasted either. He does great character development. Things eventually come full circle in these books. I have been utterly stunned at some of the reversals I did not see coming. If you love reading about the British Middle Ages and want to true history fleshed out into very readable stories, Kevin Ashman is your man. I hope you enjoy this series as much as I do.

Easy reading, I was worried about the Welsh names but they did not get in the way. A book about very cruel and bloody times, about those who want power and will kill and keep on killing no matter what the cost in human life to achieve it. This is the history of the human race, you should read it to see what we were like in the past, maybe some will feel we have not progressed all that far today.

The book skips a lot of chances to paint the landscape and use word pictures to bring the imagination of the reader to life. It contains a lot of direct address (dialogue), and not a whole lot of descriptors or anything else. The premise is good and I liked the idea of a historical novel in 11th century Wales, but it seems like the author wrote it specifically with the idea that it would be converted to a script. I got it free with my Samsung Galaxy S7 promo, so that's the reason for 2 stars.

The book did not meet my expectations. The characters are not developed. The situations do not look realistic. Everything is plain and somehow childish. Welsh history deserves a better story.

Found the story informative and entertaining. Always like reading about medieval life. Story moved along at a good pace. Overall a good read.

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