



The Shadow of Camelot

Wendy Leighton-Porter

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Did the legendary King Arthur really exist? Joe and Jemima Lancelot uncover the truth behind the myth when they find themselves in Camelot, as they continue the quest to find their missing parents. Together with friend Charlie and their endearing cat Max, they are plunged into yet another life-threatening adventure. Luckily they have Lancelot, who is convinced the twins must be distant relatives, to protect them when danger looms. Meanwhile, Max has a mystery of his own to solve. Will he finally discover why Midnight has been haunting his dreams?

The Shadow of Camelot Details

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From Reader Review The Shadow of Camelot for online ebook

Renee says

If you have been following us for some time, you'll know that we are HUGE fans of Wendy Leighton-Porter's Shadows from the Past series. In each book, the heroes of the tale, Joe and Jemima Lancelot are pursuing their lost parents as they travel to historically relevant times or locations taking along with them their friend Charlie and their cat Max. In past books, they have traveled to Atlantis, ancient Greece, Troy, Egypt, and Italy. The beauty about each book is how the author brings alive the experiences of the people living in past times and places. Wendy Leighton-Porter does this so well. In The Shadow of Camelot, Leighton-Porter brings to life the legend of King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table, and the magical land of Camelot.

There has always been the question as to whether King Arthur and Camelot really did exist – were they real or are they legend? The author has managed to merge snippets from the legend of King Arthur (e.g., Guinevere, the wizard Merlin, the evil Morgana) with historically real people (e.g., Aelle, the brutal Saxon leader); real events (e.g., the Battle of Mount Baden); and real places (e.g., Bath) to create a spell-binding story for middle graders. Particularly amusing was the character of the French-speaking Sir Lancelot who just happens to share a name with our twins, Joe and Jemima Lancelot – making them distant relatives! I also enjoyed how the story speculates about the true origins of the mythical sword Excalibur. You'll have to read the book to find out!

I like how The Shadow of Camelot focused on more fully developing Max's character. In previous books, Max has always been a bit of a tag-along scaredy-cat (although he does rise to the occasion and has contributed significantly to the success of each of the previous quests). In this book, he is "the one" prophesized by Merlin the Wizard, to save Camelot:

A Lion from the future will come to save the Bear,
Accompanied by children three, one dark, the others fair.
With coat of cream, eyes like the sea and points of mushroom-grey,
His noble heart will crush our foe; the Bear will win the day.

Max is able to conquer his fears and bravely go forth to fulfill the prophecy. I feel like this is an important development for his character and I can't wait to see how it plays out in future books with his newly found courage.

My Bottom Line:

The Shadow of Camelot is another adventure-filled, time-travel tale featuring the endearing trio of child heroes Joe, Jemima, and Charlie, along with their very special cat, Max, who become part of history as they travel to the mythical land of Camelot. It was a delight to read a story featuring some very famous characters such as King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Gawain, Merlin, and others, written specifically for a middle grade audience. And by this, I mean that there is no bad language, minimal violence (aside from the story of the Green Knight), and the plot is sufficiently complex to engage middle grade and reluctant readers. Another great read in this fantastic series that I can't stop raving about! I think girls and boys would equally

like this book as it features both genders. Ages 8+

** I was given this book free-of-charge by the author in exchange for my honest opinion. All opinions expressed are my own. **

Linda says

When describing Merlin's beard, the author accidentally confused the adjectives "straggly" and "scraggly."

Fiona Ingram says

Another adventure unfolds as twins Jemima and Joe, Charlie (best friend and neighbour) and Max, their talking (yes, talking!) Tonkinese cat, embark on yet another adventure in The Shadow of Camelot. The twins have still not found their missing parents, trapped somewhere in the past, and have been on five amazing adventures so far with the help of an ancient magical book and the key to open it – kept safely on a chain around Jemima's neck. They always get hints and clues to their parents' whereabouts and hope that the next adventure will be the one to restore their mother and father. In the meantime, they live with their studious Uncle Richard, who is a Professor of Archaeology at London University and doesn't suspect a thing.

The magic begins with the Prologue, and the wizard Merlin hard at work, trying to see if a prophecy will come true, and if he can summon help from the future. His assistant is a gorgeous black cat appropriately named Midnight. In the meantime, fast forward to the future where Joe catches a book as it falls off a shelf in Uncle Richard's study. Is that a voice he hears calling for help ...? It seems to come from between the pages of the book entitled King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Using Jemima's key, the kids and Max (feeling as reluctant as ever about yet another foray into foreign climes) open their ancient book which had served as a portal before to the past and arrive ... in Merlin's cave. This adventure is definitely going to be different because magic is at work – they are needed for a very special purpose, actually Max (to his horror) seems to be the one who is needed the most, in order to fulfil a prophecy and assist Arthur in defeating his greatest foe.

Wendy Leighton-Porter has another winner in The Shadow of Camelot, Book 6 in her time travel fantasy adventure series Shadows From the Past. Reluctant hero Max deserves a very special mention. Some (cats) are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Max definitely experiences the latter. Although truly faint of heart, he reprises his role as a messenger of the gods, assuming the form of an ancient cat spirit, Cattus Britannicus, a role requiring a disguise as well. He is joined in this enterprise by Midnight, who assumes the suitably dramatic role of Felina Malina, and together they achieve the impossible. This was one of the funniest parts of the book. Max rises to the occasion and surprises everyone, including himself the most.

The author effectively recreates the court of Camelot, along with characters familiar to readers and fans of Arthuriana: various knights, including Sir Lancelot (with a truly hilarious French accent) who discovers that, since the twins share his name, they are related. He also gives some information about the twins' parents. Other well known characters include Arthur himself, of course, Guinevere, and Arthur's evil sister Morgana, who has her own villainous part to play. The story encompasses real events, places, and historical characters, adding to the fascinating story around Arthur and Camelot.

Arthurian fans will heave a huge sigh of relief to discover that Arthur's initial choices of name for Excalibur were voted down. In fact, Wendy Leighton-Porter has put an entirely new spin on the origins of Excalibur that I found truly unique. The end notes also amplify the facts and the fiction about Arthur, the man, the king, and if he did exist. If you have been following the series, this will be another delightful adventure to enjoy with our young heroes and feline. This is an engaging read for the young and young at heart with action, adventure, feats of daring, time travel, magic, fun and lots of very clever ideas!

Oliver Eade says

Another winning Shadow from the Past!

We all love King Arthur. Merlin too, and our kids are going to love this latest novel by Wendy Leighton-Porter as the Lancelot twins, their loyal friend Charlie and loveable Tonkinese cat end up in Camelot in the ongoing quest to find Mr and Mrs Lancelot lost somewhere in the past without the magical key that Jemima now guards with her life. Max the cat comes into his own in the battle to save Camelot from attack by a cat-phobic Saxon King, helped by a feminine black feline appropriately called Midnight. Meanwhile the twins' namesake and Arthur's rival for Guinevere's affection, Sir Lancelot, has a job to do: not only is Queen Guinevere in danger from Morgana's evil plan, but the twins too. A thrilling take on the Arthurian legend, and beautifully written!

Cheryl Carpinello says

As a lover of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds, I love this series that travels to all of those. Along with their adventure back to Camelot, the three main characters—oops, sorry Max—four main characters, had me chuckling at their dismay when Arthur was picking names for his soon-to-be-famous sword. Won't spoil this for you. Wendy's knowledge of Saxon history is very evident in the details of this story. I'm thinking the Max the cat may have fallen in love in this story, but I'll let you decide that for yourself. A great read and a great adventure!

Jemima Pett says

The Shadow of Camelot is the sixth in Wendy Leighton-Porter's Shadows from the Past series, and is a historical time-travelling kidlit story set in the wilds of Somerset, in about 600 AD. Plenty of marshes, low hills and wild Saxons marauding over the countryside, defeating the local tribes and heading for a bust-up with the famous King Arthur. It's not quite the Arthur we might expect – he's a bit stupid, really, and would like to call the fantastic sword Jemima (with Max's help) has acquired for him something like Pointy!

Jemima, of course, is Jemima Lancelot, who with her brother and friend, and the inimitable Max, a mighty warrior of a cat in his own right, has come back in time – whether through their own magical book or Merlin's magic is a moot point, and doesn't really matter. I see you've already guessed that Sir Lancelot (who pronounces his name Lonselow) takes them under his wing as long lost family.

Wendy Leighton-Porter has done a great job of weaving the kids into the Arthurian legend without too much

interference with existing tales. It's not as strong a story as the earlier tales, but it is very well done, and the characterisation, especially of Max (who's a bit of a wuss, really) and the newcomers to the episode, is first class. It's a quick read, and engaging right the way through.
