



# Warlord

*Ted Bell*

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## Warlord Ted Bell

“Hawke is...strong, shrewd and savvy, with an aplomb not seen since James Bond tore up the pages of Ian Fleming’s novels....*Warlord* stands tall....A first rate thriller.”

—National Public Radio

Thriller fiction of the highest order, *Warlord* by Ted Bell returns British-American MI6 counterterrorism operative Alex Hawke to the field, as he races to stop a plot to murder Great Britain’s royal family. This latest spellbinding installment in the *New York Times* bestselling series is filled with twists and turns, shocks and surprises, ever-escalating peril and ingenious spycraft. *Warlord* “puts a capital A in adventure” (*Madison County Herald*) and offers further proof why Ted Bell deserves his position on the A-list along with Clive Cussler, Robert Ludlum, Brad Thor, Vince Flynn, and Daniel Silva.

## Warlord Details

Date : Published October 5th 2010 by HarperLuxe (first published September 14th 2010)

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Author : Ted Bell

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# From Reader Review Warlord for online ebook

## James says

Some people have said that his book was better than his previous works, but if I am honest I personally think that it is weaker. I've rated it at three stars, but it is a definite **3.5 Stars**.

On one hand the plot is certainly intriguing and definitely as good as the previous books. In essence. However, on the other hand it was not produced as well as it could have been. I think that one of the most intriguing things about the *Hawke* books is the bond-esque feeling that they produce, yet for me the first half of the book was particularly boring in this regard. It was a police investigation basically, there were no gadgets (like the cool boats that Hawke seems to continue to own) and it was slow and lacking in any real action.

The prison investigation was over before you knew it, the information found so easily and the bad guys dealt with so easily. It really did feel like a prelude to the rest of the story. Which is fine, but the way that it was produced made it clear - to me at least - that Mr. Bell believed that the first part was necessary, but that his heart, and therefore his skill, was focussed on the second part. This meant that the first part lacked the soul and brilliance that has made me a fan of his work, whilst the second part shone through as a perfect example of his best work.

There was also the fact that despite showing a lot of respect for the royal family and Britain, he gave Prince Harry the surname Wales. It is commonly known that the British royal family does not operate with surnames, and despite looking it up I can find no mention of Harry ever being called Harry Wales. I know that this isn't a big issue and easily missed, but seeing as Mr. Bell has given so much credit to the British institution in his novels - what with Hawke being an English Lord and MI5 and MI6 having such heavy roles - it was slightly jarring.

In fact I would have thought that Mr. Bell was at least a minor Anglophile, so this mistake was even more jarring for me. I would also say that his 'love' of Britain also warps his novels slightly. I am all for the U.K being given credit and not being played down - we've proven that time and time again we can stand up with the best - but his Anglicisation of the book was a little bit too much in places. I mean, our detectives don't wear tweed any more, if they ever did, nor is every Brit a reader of classic literature. It was just... I don't know... as if he was lacking that grittiness that was so great in his first novels.

However, having said that, I thought his portrayal of Britain was very heart-warming in other regards. His fictional royal family showed great fortitude and resilience and showed them in the light that I like to see them under; the Queen's speech being very stirring, and the references to her WW2 speech at fourteen a nice touch. I liked the historical references towards the tug boat on the Thames and its role in Dunkirk, and thought that there were many moments which I felt Mr. Bell was tipping his hat in respect for us Brits. All of which I enjoyed and thought added to the book.

His characters were also a treat, with everyone one of them being real, solid characters that have great depth and stirring. Of course though there were exceptions; Hawke himself for one, I liked the whole grieving part a lot but felt that he jumped back out of it way too quickly - it really was like someone had just flipped a switch. Then there was Sahira, who just seemed to be put there for the sake of romance, of which it was more sultry than romantic. She just seemed to be a prop that Mr. Bell used, whereas his romantic interests in previous books have been very nicely done, with real characterisation etc - with some of them staying on to

play parts in later books 'cause they were done so well. But, mostly, his characters were superb.

His writing was also superb, with only the aforementioned surname issue being a problem. - which I could be wrong on, please correct me if I am. I'd hate to be slagging him off for getting something right about my own royal family when I was wrong.

One last thing, I really didn't like the epilogue. With the reveal being... I don't know. I just don't think that it will work, I mean, why do it? I'd hate to think it, but has Mr. Bell run out of original fun ideas that he has to do that? However, whilst I am against it, I'm sure that he will pull it off well, as ever.

So, if you like thrillers, action and spies then you have come to the right place. This series is a fun read that you will enjoy all the way through.

Have Fun Reading.

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### **Andrew Bass says**

Ted Bell strikes again. Warlord, along with the rest of the Alex Hawke series, borders on epic while maintaining a "no boring page" standard. I find it hard to rate any of the Hawke series with less than a perfect score because they are all just so compulsively readable and near-mint. The stories are always different, but finding fault in them is not an easy task. Therefore, I won't even try. I loved this book. To rank it among the other Alex Hawke books, I would say it falls somewhere behind Tsar and Spy. Yet I gave it a 5 star ranking. If FORCED to rank them, Spy and Tsar are my favorites in the series, but that doesn't take anything away from the others. It's like choosing a favorite Tarantino movie. It's difficult. If pressed, sure, I can do it, but choosing a favorite doesn't make the others any less perfect. So there you have it. I think Ted Bell is the Tarantino of Spy fiction. His books rise above espionage and achieve a status all their own. To the story now:

Alex Hawke is in the depths of despair. After the earth-shattering events that took place at the end of Tsar, he no longer cares about his own life. Overweight and alcoholic, Alex gets the call that the Royal family is in trouble, and that is all he needs. Taking a little time to get himself back into shape and his life in order, Alex takes off to save the world again. There are tender moments in this book like in the others in the series, particularly when he shares his pain with a woman in equal torment. These are the scenes that bring Bell's novels above other suspense/action novels. I like Cussler and Fleming, but neither of them has quite grasped the human pain and emotion that Bell has, IMO. Anyway, Hawke searches for a mysterious IRA string-puller named Smith, and the assault on the Royal family has actually been in action for quite some time. No spoilers, but this is a book to be reckoned with. The Alex Hawke series is alive and kicking. Next up? Phantom.

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### **Dean Grogan says**

Overall I would give this book 4 out of 5 stars. It was a little above my reading level, yet I still enjoyed reading it. Even though I had to look up a word every couple of pages I thought it was very well written.

Quite often, when reading an action novel, you will get a sense of seriousness. Not with this book. Ted Bell balances humor with seriousness very well. His main character Alex Hawke is an MI6 agent that has been down on his luck. His depression over the death of his wife and newborn child is about to kill him. At the verge of giving up, he gets a call from his lifetime friend, the prince of Whales, Lord Mountbatten. The Prince believes that the same man that assassinated his uncle is going to make an attempt at his life as well. Alex is lost for words. He takes the job even after swearing he would stay retired. He tries to shake off the dust and save one of his dearest friends. An entire league of men is assembled to investigate the assassination of the Prince's uncle hoping to find clues to help stop the assassin from striking again. This book jumps from present to past, and back very often, so if you don't like to think very much then this isn't a book for you. Personal I like a good book that makes me think which is part of the reason I liked it so much. I'm not sure if I would recommend this book to a high school student, more likely, a college student. I plan on reading more of Ted Bell's work in the future, as I enjoyed it throughly.

If you were in a state of depression, such as Alex. Would you have put aside your problems to possibly save the life of one of your closest friends?

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### **Nancy says**

If there ever was a better James Bond, we have it in Alex Hawke. Born to privilege, best bud of Prince Charles (yes, that Prince Charles), secret agent with a valet of wiles and ways of taking care of him. Alex has been absorbing all the alcohol in Bermuda and doing a grand job of it. Grief will do that to you and he has had more than his share after losing his fiancée and their unborn son a year ago. Pelham has all but given up on him when the call comes in the veritable middle of the night - there is a problem in England and Charles needs his assistance immediately.

When Lord Mountbatten was assassinated, everyone took the word of the IRA that they were behind it. Were they? Maybe not. When potshots were nearly taken at Harry in Afghanistan, who blew out the eye of the sharpshooter? Was it IRA again? And the biggie, Diana's death - it may not have been the press after all. When notes are left in places that no one should have been able to get into it was decided that it definitely was NOT the IRA but an assassin going by the name of "Pawn".

Pawn has issues and will not be denied his success at doing in the entire Royal Family, friends and anyone who gets in his way. Alex and crew are just as determined to stop him at any cost - even their lives if need be.

This was my first Alex Hawke novel and my first Ted Bell book. What a treat! Not only does the author make use of current events, he ties it all up in royal purple cords and leads us into the fray. The characters were splendid and very British which was wonderful. Bravo Mr. Bell!

Coming to you November, 2010.

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### **Sandy Vaughan says**

Hmmmm. This one is tough to review. I liked it but I didn't finish it.

The story starts back in time with the murder of a British royal and then comes up to before Princess Diana dies. There are warnings and fears and intrigue. It is well written and well read.

So why didn't you finish it? Because the news stories before and after the death of the Princess are still too close in my mind. Such a tragedy! I just could not let it that close again.

Now, my husband (the one born in Scotland), he thinks it should get a 4 or 5. He liked it all the way through to the end.

I guess if you can take it as a story of any time and leave recent history alone, if you like good intrigue in your international murder mystery, you should give this one a try.

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## **Lee Boyland says**

I commend Bell for his portrayal of Islamic fanatics. If anything, they are much worse than the characters in the story. Criminals are being radicalized in prisons. This is a fact--a fact our leaders chose to ignore.

Bell uses India, and Great Britain's pullout as a key component of the story. As soon as the last Viceroy departed, the country erupted into a religious civil war. Bell did not address the root cause of this conflict, which was the Muslim conquest of India. Invading Muslim armies destroyed Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh temples, stole their gold and jewels, and built mosques on top of the destroyed temples. Members of each religion were killed by the thousands, and the women and children were sold into slavery. Bell was correct, there was no good solution--nor is there a good solution for current Middle East problems.

I take exception to one statement, made twice in the story (pages 84 and 159), the first being, "It was how to embrace a hijacked religion, learn how to hate America and kill civilians ..." Unfortunately, it is the ones we refer to as "moderate Muslims" that have hijacked the seventh century religion in an attempt to modernize it. For those of you who are about to scream "Islamophobic" check out Shariah: The Threat To America: An Exercise In Competitive Analysis (Report of Team B II), not a work of fiction, authored by an impressive group of men and women, it provides a clear, concise picture of Islam. Also, a minor technical correction for page 415, the U-235 parts should be subcritical since critical parts would melt.

Someone said "Plagiarism is the most sincere form of flattery." Well, denial is a sure way to become a slave. The Germans found this out when Hitler took over. Today Islamic fundamentalists are assuming control of the Middle East with the goal of forming a new caliphate, a new Islamic Empire. Again, Bell got it right, Pakistan, with its deliverable nuclear arsenal is the center of the looming storm. A combined Pakistan-Iran is a nightmare that we may have to face.

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## **Sarah says**

You know what? A year plus later, this book still fills me with righteous indignation. The thing is, I thought that I was going to like this book. After all, it had two things that I really enjoy: spies and the royal family. What could be better?

But I *hated* this book.

For one, Alex Hawke was lost in a sea of angst and alcohol at the beginning of the book, to the point that his friends were thinking he was going to die, and then his BFF Prince Charles calls, and lo, he just decides to stop drinking and then goes swimming and running like he hadn't been wallowing for weeks and months -- like his body could just go back to the way it was.

Then, there is the way that the women in the book are portrayed. See, the love interest, right? She loved her fiance so, so much, and she was just devastated when he died, and then she meets Hawke again a few months later, and lo, she never really loved her fiance at all! She really wanted Hawke the whole time! And then she seduces him, like, three pages later.

And then the book was filled with pages of what these very manly soldiers were *feeling* and how they all considered Hawke to be their BFF, and...

The first fifty pages were pretty awful, and then the next fifty were pretty good, and then it went back to the awful but I was too far along to stop. I should probably give it two stars since I actually finished the book, but since I'm still feeling righteous indignation over having wasted my time reading this book...

And no. Just no.

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## **Julie says**

I won this book through the Goodreads First-Read Giveaway on September 7th, 2010!

Synopsis of Warlord - Alex Hawke is an M16 operative who has seemingly lost his will to live and everyone around him notices. His life in Bermuda centers around drinking, smoking and mourning the loss of his love a year before. All of this changes when Prince Charles calls him and asks a personal favor of him - to find the man/woman behind the threats to the royal family.

First thoughts after finishing Warlord - Why in the world haven't I read Ted Bell before?!?

Ted Bell wove a story line that is intricate and full of little surprises - like including Princess Di - and his knowledge of military/government made this book read like it was coming from a news story. While reading Warlord, I found myself skimming the pages because I wanted to find out what happened next but when I found that I was missing important details, I went back and re-read. This was an amazing book that I will read over and over. Warlord happens to be part of a series ... but if you've not read the other books (like me) you will not be lost in the story line; it just makes you want to go back and read everything you can get your hands on about Alex Hawke. Great book!!

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## **Marianne says**

Love this character, and his adventures. Tough guy.....but sensitive.....waaay unreal! That's probably why I like Hawke. Dream on.

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## **William Bentrin says**

Warlord by Ted Bell

This is my second Ted Bell Book. This is in the adult as opposed to young adult genre. This is a thriller right off of the pages of the newspaper (or nytimes.com). The British Royal Family is threatened by terrorists and a shell shocked, combat fatigued Alex Hawke is called in to save the day. This book is a medley of rock and roll action.

This is a fun read. Alex Hawke makes James Bond look like a girl scout. His pal Stokely is intimidating even on paper. The characterizations were colorful and entertaining. Action was pretty much non-stop. The mysterious Smith was truly evil personified. I liked the back story use, it gave the characters more depth. The use of contemporary personages made the book more believable. Conspiracy buffs will revel in it's contents and conjectures.

Bell painted Alex's despair very well. It was easy to wallow in his grief. Loyalty and honor are too often ignored in modern novels, Bell captured both.

I highly recommend the book.

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## **Shirley Schwartz says**

This is a great thriller with a tight plot and believable characters (both the bad and the good guys). I love Ted Bell's Alex Hawke series and eagerly await each new book. This book starts with Hawke trying to drink himself to death in Bermuda after he has lost his fiance and unborn son. The book takes us all over the world. First to England, then Northern Ireland, Miami, Florida, and high in the mountains and caves in Pakistan. That is part of the fun of these books-we travel all over the world. Also, we have the wonderful Hawke, a modern-day swashbuckler with unlimited skills in the spying and killing game. Then there is Harry Brock-the foul-mouthed CIA agent who totally lacks fear and who can shoot anything under any circumstances. Then the wonderful Stokely Jones, the big-as-a-tank black ex- Navy seal who is Hawke's right hand man and just the type of man you want with you in the tight situations. And there are lots of bad guys throughout, some more visible than others, but this is the world of spying after all. And in this book we have real-life royals as well - Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles and his sons. Really, really good fun and I couldn't put it down.

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## **Gail Cooke says**

Wasted. That's the only way to describe the way we first find our favorite British spy in Ted Bell's exciting sixth Alex Hawke adventure. After all, what could one expect from even the strongest, most disciplined of men when he's lost everything that had any meaning for him? In Alex's words, "My parents were murdered before my eyes when I was seven years old. I met a wonderful woman, the first I'd ever wanted to marry. She died in my arms on the steps of the chapel where we'd just been wed." Then as he puts it "The truly



unbelievable happened - he fell in love again and they were to be married, but she died carrying his child, a son.

Alex no longer wants to right wrongs or defend the innocent; he simply wants to die and is choosing to kill himself with alcohol and cigarettes. That is until he received a middle of the night phone call from Prince Charles. The two men have been friends since boyhood, and now Charles asks Alex to return to England because the royal family is in danger, all of them Charles, his mother, Wills, Harry.

Threats have been made in notes signed by The Pawn. Charles believes the threat to his family is from the IRA, those responsible for killing of Lord Mountbatten in 1979. Of course, Alex promises to be in England as soon as possible.

Once there he'll be joined in tracking the would-be killer or killers by his good friend Ambrose Congreve. Former Chief Inspector of Scotland Yard. Readers of Hawke books know this is an estimable pair. They're more than challenged when the chase also involves trying to find a missing nuke in the wilds of Afghanistan. The challenges before him are the best medicine Hawke could find unless, of course, he dies in the process.

As is his wont Bell serves healthy bits of humor with his suspense. Plus he adds great doses of realism with information gathered when he participated in a special ops program sponsored by the Secretary of Defense. WARLORD is compelling adventure led by a one-of-a-kind thriller fiction hero. Alex Hawke leads the pack.

- Enjoy.

- Gail Cooke

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## **Kira4Inu says**

An intense well written tale about a man named Alex Hawke. For someone like me, who hasn't read the first five books, the author made it fairly simple to understand the plot of this book. It is a thrilling adventure well worth the read. Hawke is a character that draws the reader's emotions that they become attached to. Brilliant descriptions of the characters' emotions, appearances, and personalities really helped me get to know them and care for them. The author does a good job introducing the characters, setting, and moving the plot along. This is the kind of story that keeps the reader wanting more with events that make it hard to put down. Great transitions between characters and settings makes the book easy to follow. I've never read James Bond but this book is definately better than all that I've heard about Bond.

This book caught my attention because of the subject matter. The main character, Hawke, is a spy and I find that quite interesting to read about. It may not be something that I would've normally picked up had I seen it on the shelves at the store, though, based on the cover or for that matter the title. For that, I'm glad I had the oppurtunity to read this book, it really is worth it. What's more, it has taught me that I shouldn't base my opinion on the title or cover of a book without knowing what the book is about. Don't judge a book by its cover, right?

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a nice suspenseful adventure story to read. Those that wish to read about characters like Alex Hawke as well. While it is not necessary to have read the first five books in the series, I would certainly recommend it before reading this book. As a matter of fact, as soon as I can get my hands on the other Alex Hawke novels I will read them.

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## **Lianne says**

This was my first Ted Bell book. As this is one of my favorite genres, I am always looking for new authors. Unfortunately, I probably won't read any more. I liked the character of Alex Hawke but I did not enjoy the jumping around from chapter to chapter to different cities, different countries and even different times. I have to admit I was also not a fan of the storyline either.

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## **Jerome says**

Bell writes a whole lot of words, but so does the Government Printing Office, and neither one writes well. His prime character, Alex Hawke, is another comic-book Superman-type, a descendant of ancient English nobility, who just happens to be an old childhood friend of Prince Charles, and admired by the Queen, as well as most of the other gentrified and oh-so-important ruling class of England (and Scotland too). He also just happens to be the only person who knows every cranny of Balmoral Castle when it is hijacked, and these 'just happenings' just keep on happening. The handsome, witty and dashing superhero possesses unequaled skill in virtually everything, is superbly capable of joining an SAS team as its leader for example, without ever having met them before, and emerges from vicious fire-fights unscathed. He is the only man in the universe able to contend with the diabolically clever and murderous secret Muslim society that already has infiltrated the whole world. Like previous human supermen of English origin, such as the Saint and James Bond, he never meets a woman who is less than a 10 and also brilliant, who very conveniently turns up naked and aroused, eagerly dragging him into bed. Gimme a break, fella! (Compared to the Saint, this guy is a clod!)

The characters are all unbelievable (one is a former SEAL, who picks up two terrorists, one with each arm, and smashes their heads together, killing them -- and Prince Charles is even made to be smart!), the plot is tortuous, the action scenes are ridiculously contrived, and the author's conspicuous fawning over "nobility" is quite repulsive. I'll put Ted Bell on my list of authors to avoid in the future. He should stick to making these goofy-crazy TV ads we have to put up with nowadays. At least they only last 30 seconds.

Also, it's annoying when Hawke substitutes the word "cuss" for a swearword, just for kicks. It was KINDA funny at first, but come on...

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