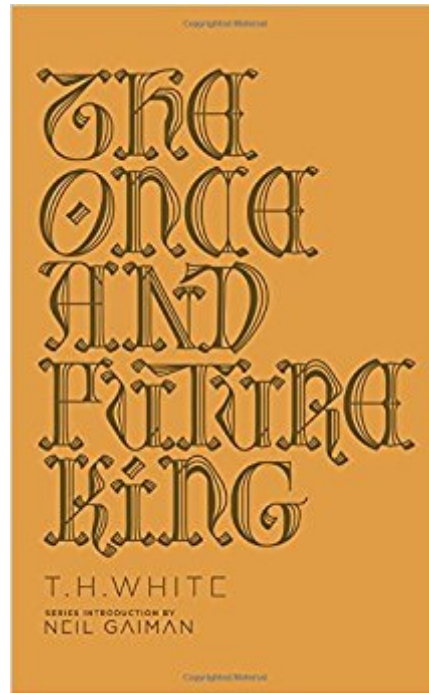




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The Once And Future King (Penguin Galaxy)



Synopsis

A deluxe hardcover edition of the world's greatest fantasy classic – part of Penguin Galaxy, a collectible series of six sci-fi/fantasy classics, featuring a series introduction by Neil Gaiman. Winner of the ALGA + Design Observer 50 Books | 50 Covers competition. T. H. White's masterful retelling of the saga of King Arthur is a fantasy classic as legendary as the sword Excalibur and city of Camelot that are found within its pages. This magical epic takes Arthur from the glorious lyrical phase of his youth, through the disillusioning early years of his reign, to maturity when his vision of the Round Table develops into the search for the Holy Grail, and finally to his weary old age. With memorable characters like Merlin and Owl and Guinevere, beasts who talk and men who fly, wizardry and war, *The Once and Future King* has become the fantasy masterpiece against which all others are judged, a poignant story of adventure, romance, and magic that has enchanted readers for generations.

Penguin Galaxy – Six of our greatest masterworks of science fiction and fantasy, in dazzling collector-worthy hardcover editions, and featuring a series introduction by #1 New York Times bestselling author Neil Gaiman, Penguin Galaxy represents a constellation of achievement in visionary fiction, lighting the way toward our knowledge of the universe, and of ourselves. From historical legends to mythic futures, monuments of world-building to mind-bending dystopias, these touchstones of human invention and storytelling ingenuity have transported millions of readers to distant realms, and will continue for generations to chart the frontiers of the imagination.

The Once and Future King by T. H. White
Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert A. Heinlein
Dune by Frank Herbert
2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke
The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin
Neuromancer by William Gibson

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Customer Reviews

“One of the coolest gifts you can get for your favorite sci-fi geek . . . You’re not supposed to judge a book by its cover, but these new Penguin Galaxy hardcovers make it really hard. Gizmodo” “Serious science fiction and fantasy readers cannot resist the classics. . . . That’s what makes the Penguin Galaxy series so appealing. . . . Each of the novels here has earned their place in the halls of literary history. . . . Their small form factor and minimalist covers call out to readers and make them fun to read all over again.”

•Kirkus Reviews “I have laughed at [White’s] great Arthurian novel and cried over it and loved it all my life.”

•Ursula K. Le Guin “I have read [this] book more times than any other in my library.”

•Lev Grossman, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Magicians Trilogy “Intense and rich . . . Full of insights, scenes, and flourishes that are really quite astonishing.”

•Jane Smiley, The Guardian

T. H. White (1906–1964) was born in Bombay, India. He began to write after graduating with distinction from Queen’s College, Cambridge. In 1938 he published *The Sword in the Stone*, the first volume in what would become his epic retelling of Arthurian legends, *The Once and Future King*. Neil Gaiman (series introduction) is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty books for readers of all ages, including *American Gods*, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, *The Graveyard Book*, *Coraline*, and the *Sandman* series of graphic novels. He is Professor in the Arts at Bard College.

Alex Trochut (cover designer) is an award-winning artist, graphic designer, illustrator, and typographer. He has designed for The New York Times, The Guardian, Nike, Adidas, The Rolling Stones, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi and was nominated for a 2016 Grammy Award for Best Recording Package. Born in Barcelona, Spain, he lives in Brooklyn.

A grand and valued rendition of the Arthurian legend. White's classic version of King Arthur is creative, clever, witty and compelling. Sure to please. Follow young Arthur as he comes of age with the magic and wizardry of Merlin, the deceitful and perilous half-sister Morgause, his vision for a better world, the fabled round table, Guenever and Lancelot's disloyal relationship, son Mordred and the hatred for his father...it's all here. Coming in at 640 pages, this is a lengthy read...as are most well thought-out interpretations of King Arthur. Impressive and enjoyable.

This is one of my favorite books. I have read it four or five times already, since I was 13. Wanted to read it again, and got a hardback copy from the library, but the type hurt my eyes. Reading it on Kindle software on iPad is a treat for old eyes. Anyway, the story itself. It begins when the young man who will become King Arthur meets Merlin, goes through his life, all the legends come to life, the sword in the stone, Arthur's eventually fatal misalliance with his sister, Lancelot and Guenevere's betrayal, the Knights of the Round Table, all told with wit, humor, compassion and sensitivity by the great T.H. White. My favorite parts will always be in the first part of the book, when Merlin tutors the young Arthur, or Wart, as he is nicknamed, in the ways of the world by changing him into a beast or a bird or a fish or an insect. Those little vignettes are so charming. Well, I am only halfway through this re-reading, Lancelot just met Guenevere, and, while I know how it will end, I am still absorbed and enthralled, all over again.

Since I first read "The Once and Future King", I have gone back to it again and again till the cover tore off, the page edges turned yellow and started to roll up, time to retire this puppy. Thank goodness for Kindle! Now I have a copy of one of my favorites books, and it won't wear out, get stained, water damaged and all those other injuries. Not to mention, now I can read it without wearing my glasses. I love my Kindle. OK, back to the book. This is a somewhat familiar tale of Camelot, but the author has focused on the people, the tragic triangle, the values and the realistic backdrop of the messy, violent and superstitious world Arthur theoretically lived in. (There is no definitive evidence there was an Arthur King of the Britons. There is an amazing musical called Camelot, but that's for another time...) And there's a wizard, too! This Merlin is part Zen master, seer, cranky old man and screw-up and lots in between. Like I said, real characters as conceived by an author familiar with the legends and committed to attaching humans to icons. This is not your childhood's King Arthur. There's a lot of humor, too, mind you. King Pellinor and his Questing Beast, Sir Ector, Merlin and more, are laugh out loud funny at times. I feel like I understand that time in

history a little better for having read the book. I like it, I recommend it.

a must-have for adventure/fantasy fans. this is one of the ground-breaking great classics, up there with the hobbit. laugh-out-loud funny, and as the story grows, the maturity of the themes grow as well, so by the end of the book, you feel like the entertainment has naturally morphed into meaningful philosophy. this is more than entertainment (altho it is extremely entertaining); it's smart, life-affecting fiction.

This book transcends simply good reads. I read it as a child and many times since then. It is an old friend that never disappoints. The writing matures with the character and still provides fresh insights every time I read it.

We are all Arthur, and Mordred. We are Lancelot and Gawain. We are Guenever and Morgause. The poet reaches truth through inspiration, the priest through revelation, and the philosopher through reason. Rarest, all three. White reaches and succeeds.

I've been wanting to read this book for a while now but didn't have the chance to until recently. It's one that requires more time than other novels, especially if you're not accustomed to reading 800 page volumes. I wasn't quite sure to expect but I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. White seamlessly and effortlessly weaves fiction, philosophical acumen, and political thought together to create a classic opus. As we follow the story of young Art who becomes a king we are introduced to some of the most beloved and rich characters in literary history: Whacky Merlin who challenges how we think about time, young Robin 'ood and his band of woodmen, and Arthur's best friend Sir Lancelot who struggles with his flawed greatness. I for one am glad that I took the time to read so a renowned and lasting story. And you should too!

This book has the same good humour as The Hobbit, and the first few Narnia books. I have read it many times, and am now reading it, in installments, to my grandson (well, just The Sword in The Stone--he's only 5.) It's partly history (though of the 1100s and 1200s, not the 300s, probably the real Arthur Pendragon's time). Merlin and his creations are pure fantasy, mixed with comedy and gleeful anachronisms. Some of the book is plain arts and crafts--you read about how to joust, how to make hay, how to shoot arrows, how to hunt with a hawk. In a way it's like a beautiful Book of Hours; Middle Ages folk at work and play, but without dirt, disease, and death. But you should above

all read it for the characters--they are wonderfully realized. Even the nasty ones are human and recognizable. Of course, my favorites are the warm and generous Arthur, and his part-father, part-curmudgeon Merlin.

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