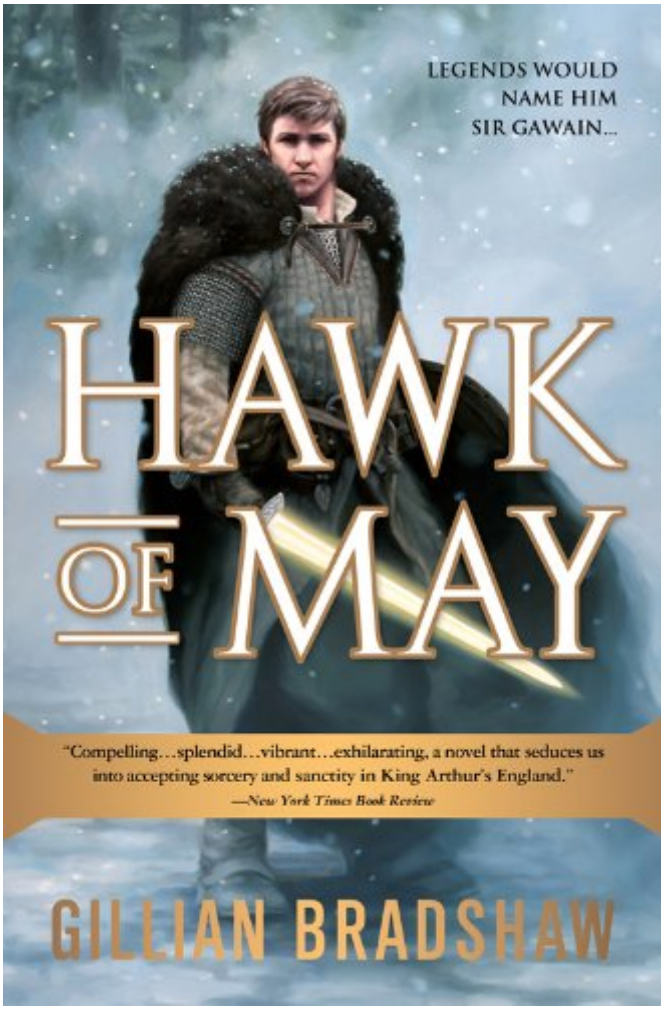
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# Hawk Of May (Down The Long Wind Book 1)




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## Synopsis

"Intelligent and imaginative...even the magic convinces." -Mary Renault, author of The King Must Die On The Path Toward Greatness, Every Hero Makes a Choice Legends sing of Sir Gawain, one of the most respected warriors of King Arthur’s reign and one of the greatest champions of all time. But this is not that story. This is the story of Gwalchmai, middle son of the beautiful, infinitely evil sorceress Morgawse, and gifted student of her dark magical arts. A story of an uncertain man, doubting his ability to follow his elder brother’s warrior prowess and seeking to find his own identity by bonding with his frightening and powerful mother. Disappointed in himself and despised by his father, Gwalchmai sets out on a journey that will lead him to the brink of darkness... A tale of loss, redemption, and adventure, Hawk of May brings new depth and understanding to Sir Gawain, the legend of King Arthur, and the impact of choices made-and the consequences that follow. "A welcome new light on the horizon of popular Arthurian legend...delightful...a strong sense of love and mysticism...a ripping adventure tale." -Booklist "Will appeal to those who have enjoyed Tolkien’s works." -Library Journal "Compelling...splendid...vibrant...exhilarating...a novel that seduces us into accepting sorcery and sanctity in King Arthur’s England." -New York Times Book Review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I must admit to a bit of confusion about the way  is referring to this book, since it’s subtitled "Down the Long Way 1), but apparently the series title is "Down the Long WIND".At any rate, it takes a fresh look at the Arthurian Legend, approaching it through the eyes of young Gwalchmai ap Lot, whom readers may more readily recognize as Gawain. As the son of King Lot of Orkney and the sorceress / general s*** disturber, Morgawse (Morgan LeFay), young Gwalchmai has a pretty tough row to hoe in general, and being notably untalented in the warrior department doesn’t make things any easier. Ultimately he sets off on a journey which -- not surprisingly -- ends in manhood and acceptance to Arthur’s warband.It’s a long, cold, violent trip to Arthur’s inner circle, however, and Bradshaw does a good, if somewhat slow, job getting him there. There are many of the magical traditions of the Arthurian cycle present here, but Merlin, Lancelot, Guinevere, and Excalibur are notably absent. Arthur is mostly offstage except for the last third of the novel, and when he does appear, he’s presented as a stubborn, suspicious, and surprisingly ill-tempered young monarch. One must wonder why Gwalchmai is going to all this trouble to win a place at his side.All in all, it’s an engaging read. Bradshaw includes introductory information to help readers tackle the pronunciation of some of the more difficult words, though in the Kindle edition, it’s a bit cumbersome to refer back to them. Arthurian completists will probably want to go on to the next two books, but the casual reader can be satisfied with this story as a stand-alone tale.

This may be a biased review as I am a fan of British Legendary Figures. I enjoyed this book as I read it as a history and not as fictitious story. The characters were full of life and clearly thought out, the geography was sound, and the events following the fall of the Roman Empire were chaotic until England was united as a country by someone. Why not a legend?

Good read for adventure late at night

This is a GREAT take on the Arthurian legends, centering on the knight I believe normally called ’Sir Gawain’ but in this series is known by the old Celtic name of "Gwalchmai" (Hawk of May).The book starts out with a brief backstory of Gwalchmai as a child. Not naturally a warrior, he turns toward his mother Morgawse’s dark knowledge of sorcery before checking himself and turning to the path of the "Light." This results in his being taken to the Isle of the Blessed (aka Avalon) and being given

the tools to aid King Arthur in his quest to unite the Britains. The book and series follow Gwalchmai's struggle to do right in a barbaric age of war and inequity. There is a good bit of action in the book as well if you're after that. Overall this series is my favorite of all the Arthurian legends.Even with all three books taken together it's an easily read story and like all well written series, it ends too soon. Gillian Bradshaw did amazingly in my opinion, although these books seem to have sadly fallen out of print. I have also unfortunately not been able to locate them in digital format, nor in audio book format. These three books would make an awesome series of movies!This book 'Hawk of May' is the first book of the series. Be sure to read the second book- 'Kingdom of Summer' and then check out the final book of the series "In Winter's Shadow." It will be worth your while! If you like the Arthurian legends, you'll love these stories. If you've never read the legend before, THIS is the version to read and will likely convert you.

This is the first book of a trilogy. I guess it's time to renew the copyright, so it's being reissued. I'm glad Gillian has been able to create a legacy for her grandchildren. The worst book by Gillian Bradshaw is better then the best book by most authors! I've been collecting her books for over 20 years. She is a wonderfully good writer. In just a couple of pages, I am out of my world, and into hers. All of her books can be reread any number of times. I buy most books by Kindle these days, but for Bradshaw books, I want the real thing. When the price comes down, I buy them as gifts. I can't recommend her books highly enough, and this is one of the best. (By the way, she never uses crude or filthy language. What a relief!)

While standing in a grocery store line in the 80's I saw this book and decided to thumb through it while waiting. By the time my turn at the register came I had been transported to Llyn Gwalch (Hawk's Stream), only to be interrupted by Agravain, in the guise of a cashier, calling me away. Needless to say, I bought the book. Engaging characters, thrilling turns, believable magick, and more. Ms. Bradshaw's Morgawse is magnificent. This is the first book in a trilogy, and each book flows beautifully into the next. But come, let's join Gwalchmai at Hawk's Stream and he will tell you the rest.

Wonderously surprised to have a celtic book read with a Celtic accent (Celtic names and places spoken correctly). Gillian Bradshaw is a great author who brings our histories alive.

I managed to snag the Hawk of May during one of the many Border's closings in the Chicago

region. The book is told in first person and the author has a solid voice that keeps the pages turning. The changing of some of the names to reflect the 'old age' or origins of the time period allow the author to throw a few neat tricks and changes into the themes of the Arthurian history and the book is well told and well worth a read.

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