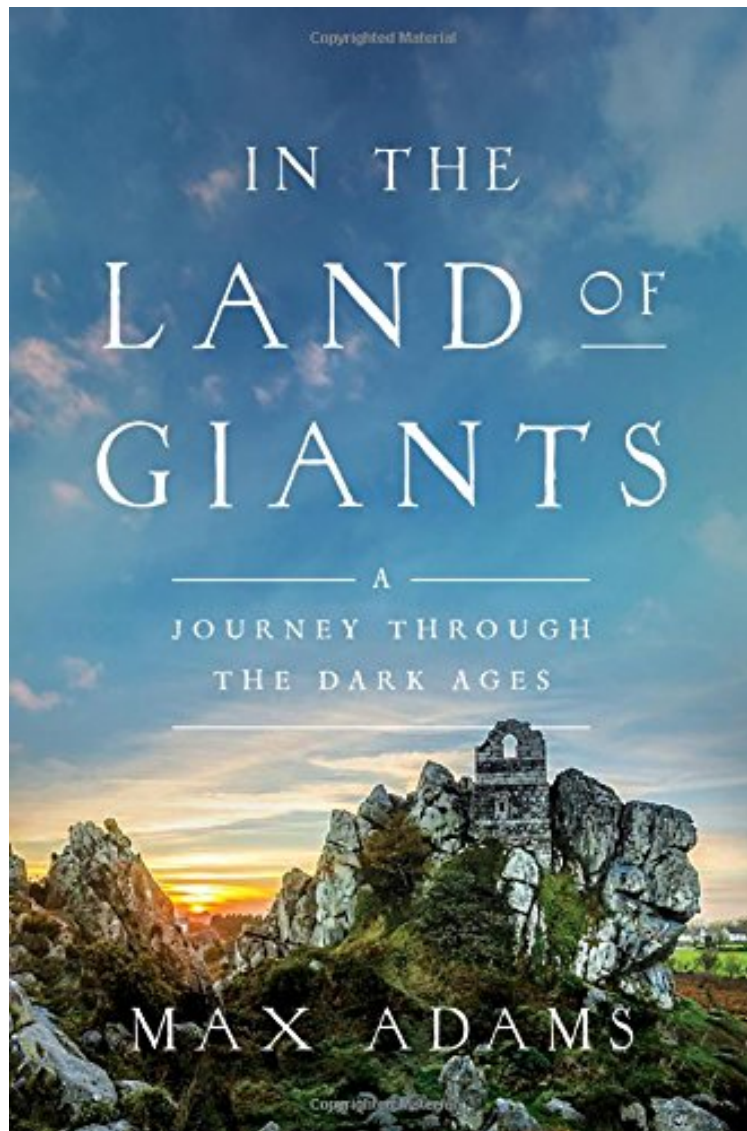


(Read now) In the Land of Giants: A Journey Through the Dark Ages

In the Land of Giants: A Journey Through the Dark Ages

Max Adams

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#972847 in Books 2016-10-11 2016-10-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.40 x 1.50 x 6.401, .0 #File Name: 1681772183416 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Max Adams : In the Land of Giants: A Journey Through the Dark Ages before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Land of Giants: A Journey Through the Dark Ages:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Joyful JourneyBy Linda JSA joyful journey of discovery by foot, boat, and even rebuilt motorbike, which connects the tumuli dots of Britain's landscape, river crossings, stones, sacred and trading places via the eyes of a seasoned archeologist and fine writer. His narrative chapters bring to life the technological developments of the monasteries, using the tides to grind grain, for example, side by side with kingship

and its divinity, yet never losing sight of the common people. We can rejoice that, though much was lost with Henry's sacking of the monasteries, much remains and is found.⁸ of 8 people found the following review helpful. A challenging but worthwhile read

By Bookreporter It is commonly known that the Dark Ages, or the medieval period, were not really so dark. In the roughly thousand or so years from 500 CE to 1500 CE, we see the marvelous expressions of the Romanesque and Gothic, the birth of Islam, the origins of modern medicine and chemistry, and the foundations of the face that Europe will wear in the following generations. Yet, there is a darkness to the era. Many people don't know about the inventions and developments of the period, and much of the European history is known to us only through church and official documents and the ruins of once-great kings and churches. To more fully engage, explore and understand the medieval period in Britain, archaeologist Max Adams set out on foot. He sought to visit the ruins, old sacred places and political strongholds of an age when Christianity was just taking root yet the older ways were far from gone. *IN THE LAND OF GIANTS* is his often dense, sometimes funny and generally compelling record of that journey. Over a 17-month period, Adams made a series of 10 journeys as well as some smaller walks he labels "Interludes." All told, he walked over 600 miles --- and that's not counting the over 550 miles by boat and just over 600 miles on motorbike. Along the way, he saw, and recorded, not just the remains of churches and medieval settlements, but the landscape that inspired much of the identity of the inhabitants --- from the Welsh Marches to Cumbria, from Northumbria to Lindisfarne. Adams' style is a bit rambling, but like the walking, there is a method to it, even when it encounters obstacles and changes direction or path. As the book progresses, Adams seems to settle into a rhythm and thus readers can as well. Following hedgerows, Roman roads, highways and hiking trails, he encounters locals both hostile and friendly, braves many a rainstorm, enjoys much of the beauty he witnesses, and even helps a young shepherd who has lost some of his flock. Along the way, he explains place-names, history, archaeological methods, folktales and legends, and why some medieval saints were depicted carrying their own heads. As interesting as each of the journeys and interludes are, and as fun as it is to read about someone undertaking such a vast and detailed tour, Adams actually has some bigger themes in mind. At the end of the book, after sections with titles such as "Looking for Giants," "Heroes" and "Sense of Place," he asks in his "Postscript," "Who are the British?" It is an intriguing query at the end of a meaty book about the diversity of the British and the complexity of British medieval (and ancient, for that matter) history. The science of genetic geography, he relates, tells us much about who most people in Britain descended from (a small number of hunter-gatherers from the Mesolithic age). But later influxes and migrations of people --- Romans, Celts, Angles, Saxons and others --- altered the culture, linguistic traditions and sense of self, and created a diverse and rich civilization. The medieval period helped shape this civilization just as the realities of the UK today are the basis of the culture of tomorrow. Adams is great when introducing big ideas and allowing readers to make the small but essential connections between them. Shedding light on the British Dark Ages, *IN THE LAND OF GIANTS* is a challenging but worthwhile read.

Reviewed by Sarah Rachel Egelman 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. All over the place.

By R Dunbar Checked this one out of the library in 2017. This is a book that attempts to do two things and really does neither particularly well. As a history book it's all over the place as a travel log it's equally as useless. I would have a hard time recommending this to travelers because I don't think most people would travel through farms and marsh land. Even the author's girlfriend or wife it's never clearly explained, travels in a rental car part of the way. I think that this would make a much better documentary than book as a reader you don't feel that much of a connection to the land or its history. I think it would benefit from a much more visual representation. I would prefer one small area and one concise piece of history something more focused where I could feel a real appreciation for the land and its history. Instead of OK lets find food a place to sleep oh no it's raining here is a speck of history that you won't remember or care about on to the next spot. I also would have liked a better map instead of the hand drawn mess you're given. A modern map would have been better.

A cultural exploration of the Dark Age landscapes of Britain that poses a significant question: Is the modern world simply the realization of our ancient past? The five centuries between the end of Roman Britain and the death of Alfred the Great have left few voices save a handful of chroniclers, but Britain's "Dark Ages" can still be explored through their material remnants: architecture, books, metalwork, and, above all, landscapes. Max Adams explores Britain's lost early medieval past by walking its paths and exploring its lasting imprint on valley, hill, and field. From York to Whitby, from London to Sutton Hoo, from Edinburgh to Anglesey, and from Hadrian's Wall to Loch Tay, each of his ten walking narratives form free-standing chapters as well as parts of a wider portrait of a Britain of fort and fyrd, crypt and crannog, church and causeway, holy well and memorial stone. Part travelogue, part expert reconstruction, *In the Land of Giants* offers a beautifully written insight into the lives of peasants, drengs, ceorls, thanes, monks, knights, and kings during an enigmatic but richly exciting period of Britain's history. 16 pages of maps and illustrations

"In some ways like Thoreau's *Walden*, *In the Land of Giants* touches many bases. Adams has the uncanny ability to invoke and revive the past, to see as the peasants and nobles 1500 years ago might have seen. In the end, what we get from this unusual book is a stereoscopic view of today's landscape made affecting and somehow more real, touched as

it is by people and places long gone.” - Providence Journal“This richly detailed journey reminds readers that the medieval Dark Ages actually shone with creative human energies rivaling those of our own era. A distant age evoked with the thrill of fresh rediscovery.” - Booklist (starred)“The author's act of retracing these paths breathes life back into the sites and people from hundreds of years ago, and for that experience alone, it is a worthy book. Myth and ancient magic meet with solid historical ground in Adams' voyage through a largely forgotten age.” - Kirkus s“Beautifully written. An engaging and scholarly journey through Britain’s landscapes.” - The Times Literary Supplement“Part history lesson, part travelogue, and part philosophical musing, this book reminds readers of a world in which time and distance were measured differently. This is a book to savor; as readers travel with Adams, they will long to get some hiking boots and a staff to follow these forgotten trails.” - Publishers Weekly“ A meaty book about the diversity of the British and the complexity of British medieval (and ancient, for that matter) history. Adams is great when introducing big ideas and allowing readers to make the small but essential connections between them.” - Bookreporter“Adams has succeeded in creating a bold account concerned with those timeless qualities that bind people together across centuries.” - BBC History Magazine“Adams strikingly evokes the Dark Ages and reminds readers that the British landscape is dotted with far more of its remains than most would suppose. The combination of history and travel writing is always a difficult hybrid to master, but Adams has done so ably, creating a veritable gazetteer of the Land of Giants for others to follow.” - The Literary About the AuthorMax Adams is the author of *In the Land of Giants* as well as a number of other books published in Britain. A university professor, Max lives in the northeast of England.