

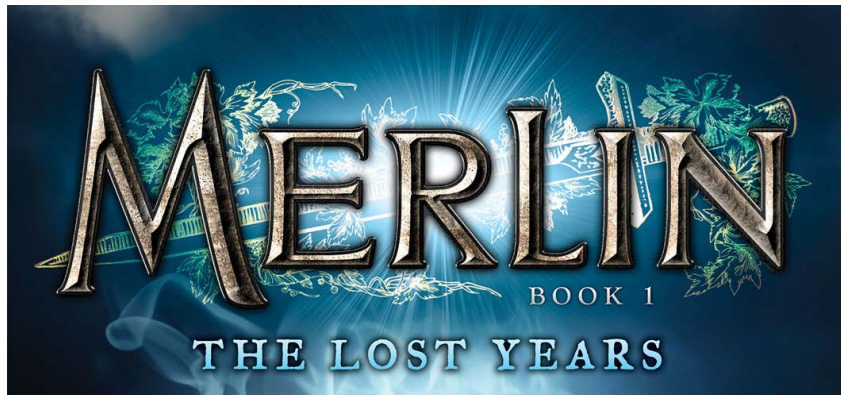


The Merlin Saga: Lord of the Rings' Philippa Boyens to Script

MOVIE NEWS

PHILIPPA BOYEN

THE MERLIN SAGA

BY **SILAS LESNICK** ON NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Academy Award winning screenwriter Philippa Boyens will script Walt Disney Pictures' The Merlin Saga

In the planning stages for some time (first at **Warner Bros.** and now at **Walt Disney Pictures**), a big screen adaptation of **T.A. Barron's The Merlin Saga** is, according to **Deadline**, moving forward today with the addition of **Academy Award**-winning screenwriter Philippa Boyens. No stranger to the worlds of literary fantasy, Boyens is best known for working with Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh on all six Middle-earth films as well as on **King Kong** and **The Lovely Bones**.

Published in 1996, *The Lost Years of Merlin* launched Barron's popular book series.

"A raging sea tosses a boy upon the shores of ancient Wales," reads the book's official description. "Left for dead, he has no memory, no name, and no home. But it is his determination to find out who he is—to learn the truth about his mysterious powers—that leads him to a strange and enchanted land. And it is there he discovers that the fate of this land and his personal quest are strangely entwined."

The Lost Years of Merlin was the first of a dozen books in Barron's Merlin Saga. It was followed by *The Seven Songs* in 1997, *The Raging Fires* in 1998, *The Mirror of Fate* in 1999, *A Wizard's Wings* in 2000, *The Great Tree of Avalon* in 2004, *Shadows on the Stars* in 2005, *The Eternal Flame* in 2006, *The Dragon of Avalon* in 2008, *Doomraga's Revenge* in 2009, *Ultimate Magic* in 2010 and, *The Book of Magic Illustrated Treasury* in 2011.

John Zinman and Patrick Masset were previously attached to script **The Merlin Saga**.

“Since this film will be based on my ‘Merlin Saga,’ they have been very inclusive of me in this process,” Barron previously wrote on [his official site](#). “All of us want this film to be true to the authentic young wizard who has captured the hearts of people everywhere. In addition, the people at [Disney](#) have been the best studio partners imaginable—hugely helpful in every way. I couldn’t be more excited!”