



The Lost Years of Merlin Epic Books 1 - 5 of *The Merlin Saga*

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About the Series

Do you ever wonder just who you are, or who you could become in the future? What kind of experiences do you think would help you as you are growing up? The young Merlin faces these very questions in his search for his true identity and the secret of his powers. Like everyone, Merlin has to learn who he is and who he could become. He confronts his deepest dreams, his darkest fears, and his greatest lessons about life.

The journey begins in book 1, *The Lost Years*, when a young boy washes ashore on the coast of ancient Wales. He has no memory—not even his own name.

The saga continues in book 2, *The Seven Songs*, in which Merlin finally encounters his mother and discovers the dark side of his powers.

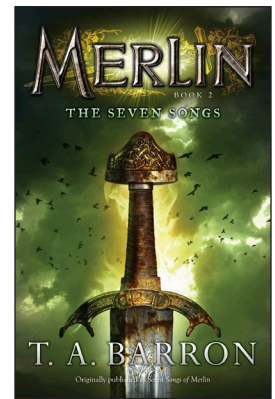
In book 3, *The Raging Fires*, the boy encounters fire in various forms, most particularly in the form of the ancient dragon Valdearg, who is awakened and threatens to wreak havoc on all of Fincayra.

In book 4, *The Mirror of Fate*, the young wizard gains a greater understanding of his powers and his essential humanity—as well as the great destiny that awaits him.

And, at last, we come to book 5, *A Wizard's Wings*. Merlin discovers new aspects of his own spirit and gains even more mastery over his powers. In the surprising conclusion, Merlin must make the most difficult choice of his life.



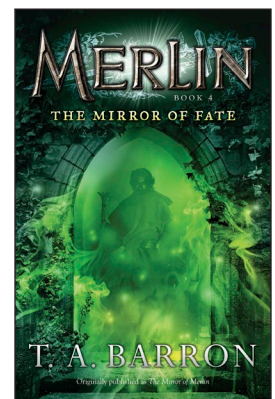
Merlin: Book 1
The Lost Years
978-0-142-41889-5



Merlin: Book 2
The Seven Songs
978-0-142-41920-5



Merlin: Book 3
The Raging Fires
978-0-142-41921-2



Merlin: Book 4
The Mirror of Fate
978-0-142-41922-9

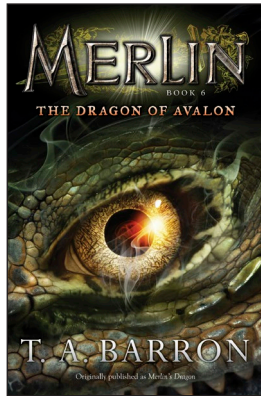


Merlin: Book 5
A Wizard's Wings
978-0-142-41923-6

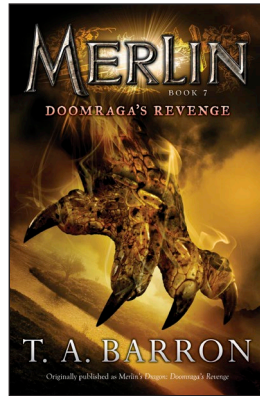
1. Like all fantasies, The books of *The Merlin Saga* carry you into other worlds, allowing the reader to go “outside” his or her life. However, the Merlin books also explore many inner worlds, such as the meaning of life and who you are as a person. Are there lessons you take from the series that may help you learn more about yourself and your dreams?
2. Throughout the series, what aspects of himself did Merlin have to discover—and why—in order for him to grow as a wizard and as a man? Think about the journey Merlin took to discover his essential humanity. Do you think you know yourself or do you have things you need to discover about yourself? In *The Mirror of Fate*, young Merlin looks into a magical mirror and faces the person he least expects to see. What kind of person do you think you will become? How can you find out? Where and how do you picture yourself in five years? What about ten years?
3. As he began writing *The Raging Fires*, T. A. Barron discovered that Merlin’s path to self-discovery would take longer than the three books he’d originally planned. As you look at the different parts of your life, think about the goals you have set for yourself so far. Did you realize you were setting them at the time? Do you feel that you have met many of your goals, or has it taken you longer than you had thought to fully realize your potential?
4. When Rhia and Emrys talk about home in *The Lost Years*, she asks him, “Where then is your home?” He doesn’t know; he has no memory of his past. “Isn’t your home wherever you are?” she asks. “You aren’t serious. Home is the place you come from. The place where your parents live, where your past is hidden,” Merlin answers. Why is he so intent on finding what he calls “home” and how does this influence him throughout his adventures? How does your home affect your life and personality? Does it influence your relationships with other people?
5. What does the blight that threatens to destroy Fincayra in *The Lost Years* represent? How might you relate it to your own world?
6. What does Dagda mean in *A Wizard’s Wings* when, after telling Merlin of Fincayra’s greatest peril, he says, “Heed well these words young wizard: Fincayra’s fate has never been more in doubt. You may find unity in separation, strength in weakness, and rebirth in death, but even that may not be enough to save your world. For in certain turns of time, when all is truly gained, all is truly lost.” Have you experienced what you think is a victory, only to realize that it may not be one after all?
7. Sometimes authors pull back from their main characters in order to let them take the center stage, to take on lives of their own, which can make them seem very real—like people you could talk to and interact with. In his Author’s Notes in each of the five books, T. A. Barron tells us that Merlin himself is the guide, that Merlin invited him to be his scribe. Can characters develop their own personalities and take over the story? Is this what makes a character easy to relate to when you’re reading the story? Imagine holding your own conversation with Merlin. What would you talk about?

The Saga Continues...

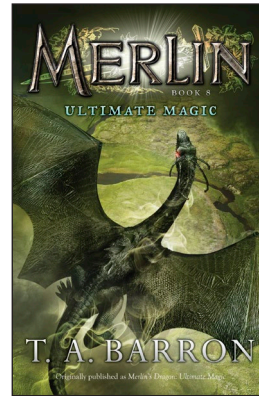
Don't miss the rest of the story! *The Merlin Saga* continues with the *Merlin's Dragon* trilogy (books 6 - 8), the *Great Tree of Avalon* trilogy (books 9 - 11). The saga concludes with *Merlin: Book 12 - The Book of Magic*. This special treasury for devoted fans of Merlin describes the characters, places, and magical objects found in *The Merlin Saga* books.



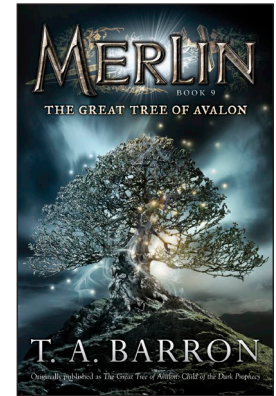
Merlin: Book 6
The Dragon of Avalon
978-0-142-41924-3



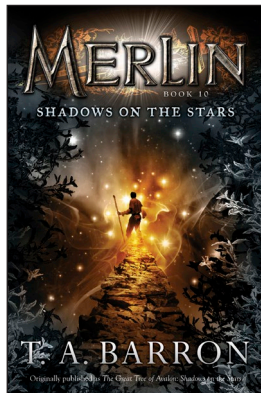
Merlin: Book 7
Doomraga's Revenge
978-0-142-41925-0



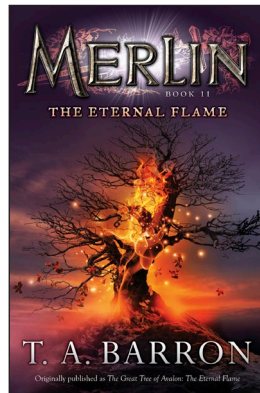
Merlin: Book 8
Ultimate Magic
978-0-142-41926-7



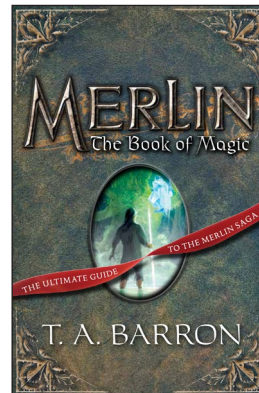
Merlin: Book 9
The Great Tree
of Avalon
978-0-142-41927-4



Merlin: Book 10
Shadows on
the Stars
978-0-142-41928-1



Merlin: Book 11
The Eternal Flame
978-0-142-41929-8



Merlin: Book 12
The Book of Magic
978-0-399-24741-5