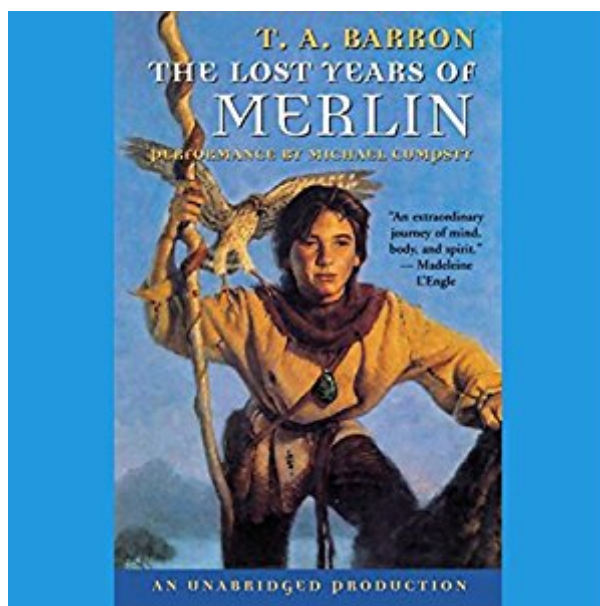


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# The Lost Years Of Merlin: The Lost Years Of Merlin, Book One



## Synopsis

Washed up on the shores of ancient Wales, the boy had no home, no memory and no name... he was determined to find all three. This best-selling series follows the adventures and training of young Merlin on the mist-shrouded isle of Fincayra, an enchanted land between earth and sky that is being destroyed by blight. With this land's inhabitants to guide him, the boy will learn that Fincayra's fate and his own quest are strangely intertwined. He is destined to become the greatest wizard of all time--known to all as Merlin. "Fans who have followed young Merlin through his many adventures will still enjoy trekking with him." (The Horn Book) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

Great book! I was disappointed by some Merlin books that were not magical enough and were not wholesome enough for my children. These books are wonderful and did not drag in the garbage that some authors did.

When I was a kid I had a very, very hard time finding books to read that I found enjoyable. I was lucky enough to come across this series of books and it made meeting the reading requirements for school much easier. This series is one of the few I have truly enjoyed. The thing I love about T.A. Barron is that he doesn't overdo it with the magic, his use of magic is far more subtle. That's not saying the magic is "weak", he just doesn't beat you over the head with it. Which is a good thing! Many years later I decided to rediscover that magical book series I read as a child. It took

some time but I finally found the author and title of the series and purchased all the hardcovers. The cover you see above is the specific re-publication series I purchased. The artist who did the new covers did a fantastic job. I recommend anyone who likes fantasy novels, magic, stories of a young hero discovering himself and his place in the world to give this series a read. I also recommend looking into a few of T.A. Barron's other books. \*Side note\* There are things that the main character does that actually makes me upset/angry, but I still enjoy the series. If anything the fact I get upset with the main character shows the series made me invested in the character and his actions.

Out of all the books I've read in my 20-year lifetime, the most obscure is probably the Lost Years of Merlin series. As a fan of the Arthurian Legend, my mom and sister thought it would be nice to get me books 2-5 of this series at a hand-me-down store. The only problem was, I am the type who likes to read books starting at the beginning, so I checked this one out at the local library to start off. From there on, I was not disappointed. This book (and series) is a clever take on the classic tale of the wizard Merlin, this time as his origins as a young boy. Full of unexpected plot twists and a wonderfully crafted backstory with plenty of amazing people and places, this is definitely worth the curiosity of reading.

This book tells the origins of Merlin, the magician in the King Arthur stories. The book starts with a young seven year old boy and a woman washing up on the rocky coast of Wales. He takes a good whack to the head on a rock and has no memory of his life before this point. Five years later, at the age of twelve, young Emrys, which the woman says is his name, starts to develop magical powers. He has very little control of these new powers and they terrify him. After a terrible accident, in which young Emrys' face is burned and his eyes are left sightless, he decides that he must seek out the answers to the questions of his origins. While on this quest, he encounters a great evil, which must be overcome. This is well-written classic good vs. evil story and I enjoyed it very much.

This is the tale of the early years of Merlin, the great wizard of Arthurian legend. We first encounter him before he's discovered any of the magic within himself, and follow him through its first awakening and development. Merlin is a likeable character, and we can see hints of the greatness to come. Other characters we encounter are equally interesting and well-developed, as are his adventures, battles, and magical episodes. Barron does a great job of maintaining consistency between the Merlin of the Arthurian legends and the early escapades of an immature, untried, and untutored wee-wizard. This is a fun read for both kids, and adult fantasy lovers. The story is

engaging, the characters endearing, and the promise of future installments makes it an even better read. The rest of the series is just as good!

The author has created a fantasy childhood for Merlin the Magician. The death of King Arthur is generally placed in the period from 518 to 540 AD (yes, there really was such a person, but only brief accounts remain. At least one of Arthur's sisters, or possibly two, are among my legendary ancestors). Merlin, Arthur's legendary teacher, would therefore have been a child sometime in the later 5th century, after the invasion of the Saxons which started in 429 AD according to St. Germanus. The present story includes some extraneous references which are out of place, e.g., St. Columba died in 597 AD, well after Merlin's childhood. The book starts out in jumps, like the arthur is in a hurry to move on, with flashbacks to explain what transpired. Emrys (Merlin) eventually starts out at the age of 12 to seek his origins. Alice in Wonderland fell through a looking glass into a strange kingdom. Emrys is swallowed up by waves in the sea and cast ashore in an equally strange kingdom. He then has a series of adventures as he crosses the kingdom to save it from evil. The author has borrowed some scenarios from other writers, which readers will probably recognize. The story has a surprising ending. The story is written for slightly older children, or adult readers, perhaps in the age range of Harry Potter fans.

I chanced upon the 4th book of this series almost 6 years ago, and after such a long time, I finally found it on ! One of the best fantasy novels available, which can even compete with Tolkein's Lord of the Rings to an extent. Amazing read: A must for all fantasy lovers!

This has become a book that my 9 year old daughter reads to me because it is a story she wants to share. We both enjoy the story unfold and learning how Emrys learns who he is. It is quite an adventure and his compassion makes us want him to find what he is looking for. We will definitely be reading the subsequent stories and eventually King Arthur!

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