

# Welcome to the page for Gary Mitchell's Quasi-Historical Novels

## 'Amazon'

Set in 725 BCE 'Amazon' is an erotic Greek tragedy, a quasi-fantasy adventure. It is the story of a single sex society forced to confront its values.

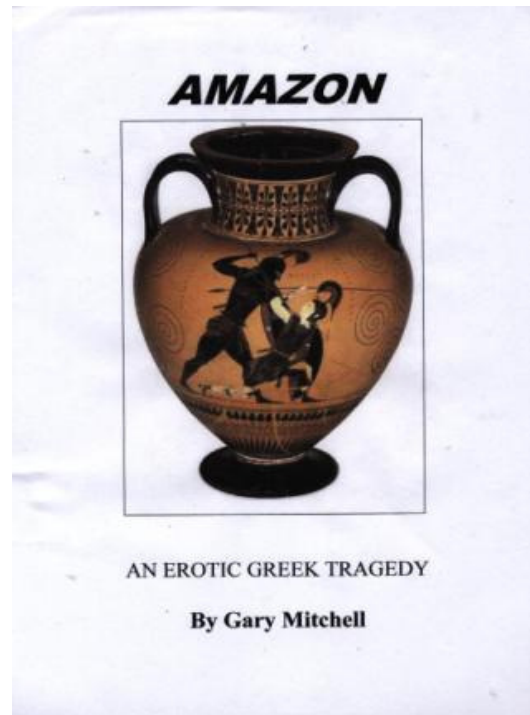
'Amazon' is an adult novel and throughout explicit references are made to Greek sexual values of the period . These are counterposed with those of the mythical Amazons to suggest both societies mirror each other in the way they clash and contrast generally accepted 21st century *mores*.

The novel has been researched from a variety of historical sources to describe a society that, while familiar to aficionados of 'sword and sandal' epics, nevertheless reflects the bleakness of the ancient Greek 'Dark Age'.

The story concerns two Athenian sailors, Nicius and Menon, shipwrecked on the shores of the Black Sea. Becoming lovers they are soon captured by a quartet of Amazons - *'every Greek's worst nightmare - women totally out of their rightful place in society'* . Taken to the Amazon capital Themiscrya they struggle to survive palace intrigue. With the help of his new lover, an Amazon called Hippo, Nicius escapes, determined to live or die together as equals.

The way is left open for a sequel.

*Gary has also had published an historical gaming article called 'The Amazons - Girl Power To The Nth Degree' in 'Miniature Wargames #309' (Jan. 2009) - see 'Wargames' .*



## 'Pax Romana'

'Pax Romana' is the 'novelisation' of a mythic Hollywood mini-series that films the true life story of Roman officer, Drusus Marcella.

Based on scrolls discovered near The Dead Sea the epic describes Drusus' life and times, from the crucifixion of 30 CE to the capture of Masada in CE 73. The work has been extensively researched to concord with known historical fact, and to draw on Gary's research work as historian and wargamer.

*Episode One* sees Drusus officiate at Christ's crucifixion. Here he encounters Abigail, younger sister of Jesus, and is subsequently sent to Nazareth to help suppress the growing Christian sect. Knowing he is in love with Abigail Drusus saves her family from an angry mob, but on returning to Jerusalem finds King Herod has carried out a politically motivated kidnap and forcibly made her his interpreter. Drusus does not mistreat Abigail, and she in turn comes to depend on him when they discover Jesus' family and followers have gone underground. Despite herself Abigail reciprocates Drusus' attraction and they marry by Jewish law - a move that stalls his career. As the episode ends their union produces twins, Julian and Claudia.



In *Episode Two* the family are posted to Rome. By befriending a former patroness (fallen on hard times) Drusus is transferred to the palace guard during the dangerous reign of emperor Caligula. He finds himself a pawn in palace intrigue but is instrumental in saving the life of future emperor Vespasian. Discovering Abigail's family background the emperor's evil sister Drusilla determines to use her alleged 'supernatural power' to control Caligula - almost destroying the Marcella family. Drusus rescues Abigail - only to find her driven to insanity by the traumas inflicted by Drusilla. In hiding at Vespasian's villa he meets retired vestal virgin Silvia Sulla who secretly banishes Abigail to an asylum, faking her death in order to marry Drusus and adopt his children. After several years Abigail is discovered and rescued by her family, who escape overseas to avoid the ongoing persecution of Christians. Caligula is killed and the new emperor Claudius orders a prestige invasion of Britannia.

In *Episode Three* Drusus joins Vespasian in the invasion of Britannia (for a vignette of this see 'freebie' *'The Good, the Bad And The Ugly'*). Abigail has now recovered her wits but not her memory. After the conquest of the province Drusus sends for his family: Claudia has grown into an eligible beauty and Julian into a truculent adolescent. The Marcellas settle into colonial life, little knowing Abigail is being held but a few miles away, a prisoner of the barbaric Druids. She remarries and a further trauma restores her memory. Drusus'

**children become adults and his wife Silvia dies of smallpox. He retires from the army only to find himself recalled for the attack on the Druid's stronghold of Mona. Here he is reunited with the now widowed Abigail in time for he and Julian to take part in the suppression of Boudicca's revolt. After two years of renewed domestic happiness the episode ends with Abigail's death from a cancer and ambitious son Julian's promotion to Vespasian's staff in Africa.**

**In *Episode Four* Vespasian is charged by emperor Nero with crushing the latest Jewish revolt. Having previously served in the province Drusus finds himself posted back to Judea. The years have changed him and, appointed to a field command, he endeavours to moderate Roman cruelty. He falls in with a religious group, the Essenes, and disapproves of his son Julian's ruthless ambition. Vespasian becomes emperor and Julian distinguishes himself during the sack of Jerusalem. During the long siege of Masada Drusus writes his autobiography and discovers Abigail's youngest brother, Judas, is one of the Zealot leaders. Soon after the siege Drusus dies of old age and is buried along with his memoirs by his Essene friends.**

*An extract of this novel, 'Crossing To Mona' appears on Gary's CD 'Suddenly... I'm An Award Winning Novelist' - see ['Shop'](#)*

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## *'The Legend Of Arthur'*

Based upon extensive research - and a lot of invention - *'The Legend of Arthur'* is the tale of the 'once and future King', re-told in plausible historical context, yet without sacrificing the key elements of magic and belief that coloured much of Dark Age society (see *'Wargames'* for Gary's pedigree in this arena).

Covering the period c.410-c.560 the novel tells the history of the coming of the English, narrated from the perspective of a 'native British' scribe, the Welsh monk Gildas. Each volume also contains a comprehensive timeline, and a family tree of all major characters.



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*Volume One - 'Forging A Kingdom'* comprises three 'books'. Book One - *'The Rise Of The Pendragons'* tells how Arthur's father, Uther, became King of Britain. Book Two - *'The Coming Of The Boar'* describes Arthur's troubled succession. The volume concludes with Book Three - *'The Boar At Bay'*, which covers the loss of major eastern cities to the *Anglish*, and the establishment of a British *renaissance* following Arthur's decisive victory at Mount Badon.

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*Volume Two - 'The Fellowship Of The Round Table'* also comprises three 'books, each of which includes some of the knights quests. Central to the volume is the rivalry between cousins Merlin and Morgan Le Fay for control of the court, their struggle both bitter and ideological. Book Four – *'The Penultimate Knight'* describes the founding and honourable ideals of the Round Table, Arthur's quest for an heir, and the arrival of Lancelot. In Book Five – *'Merlin Eclipsed'* the succession issue dominates as Arthur resorts to legally adopting his own bastards. In Merlin's decline Le Fay places her Dark agents at court - and Lancelot begins the quest for the Holy Grail. In Book Six – *'The Gathering Darkness'* the corruption of Camelot grows. With Merlin destroyed Le Fay seeks out Mordred, Arthur's evil illegitimate son, and the scene is set for the continuing story of Volumes Three and Four...

*An extract from Chapter 30 of this novel appears on Gary's CD 'Suddenly... I'm An Award Winning Novelist' - see 'Shop'.*

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*Volume Three - 'Camelot Undone'* also comprises three 'books, each of which includes some of the knights quests. Central to the volume is the use of power of Arthur's incestuous bastard Mordred, as true heir Dafyl dies in battle against the advancing English powers.

**Book Seven – ‘Heir Of Incest’** recaps the return from obscurity Mordred. Also recounted are Sir Lancelot’s adventures in exile from Camelot. The Book focuses around events in the Breton forest of Paimpont, and the struggle between Christianity and the old Druidic religion as it seeks to pass on its power and rituals to new generations of Merlins and Morgans. Arthur and his followers intervene to assist the Dukes of Brittany in repelling a Frankish invasion, and as the Book climaxes Mordred’s success in battle leads to his appointment as protector of his younger half-brother Dafyl, Arthur’s true heir, and therefore a step nearer the throne...

In addition to the main plot **Book Eight – ‘The Deeds Of The Knights’** - is laced with tales of the Round Table’s deeds and quests (some in Dark Age style verse). These include also Lancelot’s wanderings and the adventures and coming of age of his son, Sir Galahad the Pure. In this Book the Saxon English seek further expansion in the ‘Cold War’ against Arthur’s Britain, the witch Morgan Le Fay working with her ‘true love’ Mordred to ensure his succession. As the book ends Arthur’s heir Dafyl dies in battle against the English as the war glows ‘hot’, leaving dark Mordred the only Pendragon heir...

In **Book Nine – ‘The Quest For the Grail’**, Arthur and Merlin seek to rally Britain after defeat and the loss of territory, the King and his wizard launching the quest for the Holy Grail as an act of national renewal. The adventures of the Grail seekers are recounted, as is Galahad’s eventual ‘triumph’, he dying soon after, unaware the whole quest is but a sham, a set-up by Merlin. It is this deadly secret that will lead to Camelot’s eventual eclipse...

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*Volume Four - 'Twilight Of The Cymru'* comprises five 'books'. Central to this volume is the story of Mordred's usurpation and the final downfall of the Cymru in the face of Anglo-Saxon Wessex, from whom will spring the true heirs of Britain.

In **Book Ten, ‘The Winter Queen’**, Britain’s ‘cold war’ with Saxon neighbour Wessex continues. Prince Mordred develops a plot to usurp King Arthur, after securing a male heir - and Sir Lancelot is sent as ambassador to Wessex to ‘bring out’ its dowager queen, Arthur’s estranged sister Igraynia – by so doing to refute the Saxon’s claim to a place in Arthur’s succession. Mordred’s wife, Princess Mafanwy, assassinates his lover Morgan Le Fay when their first child is born a girl. Taking the blame for this Merlin flees to the druidic complex of Paimpont, where a new force emerges upon his disappearance to threaten the stability of Arthur’s land. With Igraynia’s ‘abduction’ by Lancelot war erupts between Britain and Wessex – a winning draw for Arthur’s realm. ‘Winter Queen’ Igraynia dies by her own hand, believing Lancelot dead in the battle.

In **Book Eleven, ‘The Road To Rebellion’**, Lancelot returns from disappearance. Blaming Arthur for Igraynia’s death he commences a full-blown affair with Guinevere. Mordred

secures a male heir in Prince Uther, and is crowned 'Regent' in Arthur's own lifetime. While Arthur is away in Cornwall forging a Pact to unite the Cymru against Saxon incursion, Mordred helps engineer a liaison between Lancelot and Guinevere - which he then exposes as part of his plan to undermine and usurp his father. Arthur returns, tries Lancelot and Guinevere, and sentences both to death – but the knight is able to rescue his love and go on the run. Arthur pursues them at any cost to Wales, and while he is away Mordred uses this as excuse to engineer a 'popular' coup and usurp the throne.

In Book Twelve, *'The Great Civil War'*, Mordred and Arthur weaken each other – enabling Wessex is able to decisively intervene in Britain's affairs. Arthur dies in the fateful Battle of Camlann – Mordred surviving to become King. He is obliged to negotiate a humiliating peace with the West Saxons, and the scene is set for Book Thirteen with the arrival in Camelot of witch Carys The Small, determined to bend Mordred to her plans of total evil...

In Book Thirteen *'Downfall'*, the depraved corruption of Mordred's kingdom is revealed. He falls – literally – under the spell of Carys. He tries to execute Mafanwy for Morgan's murder, but she is rescued. This causes her father's land of Cornwall to make common cause with Wessex, and as his knights revolt against Mordred's excesses he and his infant son Uther die. Gildas narration ties-up all loose ends in the tale – though Arthur is prophesised to one day return.

Book Fourteen, 'The Return Of The King' is but a short coda. It is 2535, and the long seeded descendants of Merlin and Morgan prepare the way for 'once and future king' Arthur's return – a story continued in the author's sci-fi series - see *'Space Vixens From Mars'*.

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