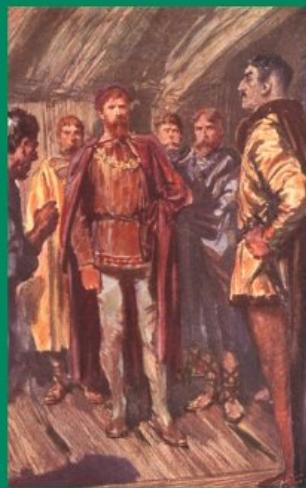


Wulf The Saxon



A Story of The Norman Conquest

by
G. A. Henty

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The story of a young thane who wins the favor of Earl Harold and becomes one of his retinue. When Harold becomes King of England Wulf assists in the Welsh wars, and takes part against the Norsemen at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. When William of Normandy invades England, Wulf is with the English host at Hastings, and stands by his King to the last in the mighty struggle.

Wulf the Saxon: A Story of the Norman Conquest Details

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Mary says

My first Henty book remains my favorite (and it's the only way I passed history in high school). These books follow young British boys on adventures in history around the world. Some are better than others; my favorites (aside from this one) are By Right of Conquest, Beric the Briton, Won by the Sword, and Facing Death. Facing Death is probably the most interesting considering it is one of Henty's shorter works. In most stories, the British boy is an orphan or somehow separated from his parents; he picks up a sidekick of some sort during the story, and he sometimes marries a girl at the end. Along the way, he does great and glorious things, winning honor for Great Britain and showing how much better he is (and other Britons are) than the natives.... yeah. But I suppose that was a part of the common philosophy when Henty was writing. Historically, the books are fantastic: they usually include battle maps, a thorough run-through of all the important action, and an accurate description of the events leading up to the conflict. Definitely more interesting than my Streams of Civilization textbook. Yurg.

Cody says

I have loved G A Henty's books ever since I could read (8, 9 or 10 years now) I have read this book so many times, and I love the Historical as well as the Fictional sections.

I think G A Henty was a great Author!

Hannah says

Reading to Douglas

Wulf the Saxon gives a wonderful glimpse into the life of the Saxon monks, thanes, lords and peasants in the early eleventh century, as well as into the homes of Norman lords. The story is interesting and well written, filled with historical characters and events. The only thing that slightly annoyed me is that Henty seemed to go out of his way to give Wulf opportunities to distinguish himself.

I particularly appreciated the pureness of Edith and Harold's relationship, and their honorable behavior when he had to marry Ealdgyth. I also really appreciated the respect Harold shows to all men, and how Duke William is portrayed as being no worse than most rulers of that time (though many of his actions are clearly shown as wrong) and as having a few admirable qualities.

Cormacjosh says

This novel was written in 1894 for a juvenile audience, but as I guessed the writing style was far above juvenile literature today. A well written tale, which as far as I can tell is historically accurate; it is an

entertaining light read for late summer.

Penny says

This is my second Henty, I read this aloud to my 9 year old. It follows a young thane who is in Harold Godwinson's service in the lead up to the Norman Conquest of 1066. It has a great amount of detail on the causes of betrayal of Harold by his brother Tostig and the battles of Stamford Bridge followed by Hastings. There is a fair bit of historical detail I was unaware of - for example, whether Edward the Confessor promised the throne to Harold or William neither could rule, nor be crowned, without the approval of the Witan - an early form of democracy. Once accepted - as Harold did - if you went back on your acceptance of rule you would be sent into exile.

This story is very fast-paced and fun for an older child. As an adult and this being my second Henty, I found it almost identical in the background stories that the historical events were 'placed' on, as the book based on King Alfred. The main protagonist is a brilliant fighter who survives against all odds. He usually has little family and becomes a self-made man through bravery and loyalty. He then proceeds to get land and of course the girl he wants!!

However, in the absence of books that are child accessible and cover well-researched history, I will continue with some more Henty for my child's sake. As an adult I prefer the same era written by Valerie Anand.

Jax says

A bit hard going as written over 100 years ago. Fairly sympathetic to the Normans and William of Normandy although very much in praise of Harold. Fiction as the story of the young Wulf, but factual re lots of incidents and the amazing trks up and down the country of the fighting men in defence of Harold.

Brittany says

This was really good, however the history is better than the actual story. I have read 4 or 5 Henty books so far, and they are becoming very predictable. A stronger than average boy becomes the right hand man of the historical hero. He will be faced with eminent death about 2 times per book, and will be miraculously rescued at the last moment. And often to end with, he will marry happily ever after.

Jamie Godsafe says

I enjoyed this book even though it was quite a diversion from my recent fare. It seemed to be historically well-researched but I felt let down when it brought in known historical outcomes after the time of the narrative. This only had the effect of jolting me out of the moment and made me aware of the author. Also, despite my own enthusiasm and sympathy for the Saxons I found this story far too anti-Norman.

Andrew Votipka says

The grown man that was reading the book to me refused to alter his voice for the different characters, so I'm very confused about who said what. And half the people were named Harold or William or a name that sounded like Harold or William. But in either case, this is a great read!

Very good historical fiction, and what an interesting and horrible time period! Monarchies were so great. The way siblings spent their entire lives invading each others territories and killing all the peasants. Makes me nostalgic.

What other time period could you have a king that tells a foreign king "sure you can have my country when I die," then that foreign king captures an earl, extorts an oath of allegiance from him after holding him hostage, the hostage earl escapes, the stupid king dies and the earl is elected to be the king of England, then the foreign king convinces the pope to excommunicate the newly elected king because he broke a promise that had been extorted from him on a holy relic, the foreign king builds an army of "religious" mercenaries, invades the country, slaughters everyone, and when it's all said and done!!!!.....Wulf and the other aristocrats are like, "yeah, cool. No hard feelings. These things happen. That's what Kings are supposed to do, you know, invade and kill and conquer. I'll take a Norman wife, no problem. Tut tut."

Makes my American blood boil thinking of these idiots.

Bill Suits says

Very good. The author did a sensational job trying to meld in all the historical data with the story. I'm definitely going to read more by this author. What I liked the most was the part about Wales. But generally I learned a lot of things I did not know about English history. The preface to the book was correct it was important.

Abigail Rasmussen says

I read this book when I was 14 years old. Henty books are rather on the "boyish book" side but many girls I know (including myself) enjoy them as well.

You can find many G. A. Henty books on LibriVox: <https://catalog.librivox.org/search.p...>

A friend of ours, Jim Hodges, has recorded many G. A. Henty books and we own them all and my brothers have listened to everyone of them. <http://jimhodgesaudiobooks.com/>

Jeremy Stoll says

This was an interesting story about a young Thane living among people who had at one time been enemies. He must learn to balance his temper with his knowledge and aspire to become a great man who is living in a world where it is important to know that your enemies do not always remain your enemies, and your allies can become enemies at any time. I liked this book, and I enjoy reading G.A. Henty's historical fiction novels. He has a flair for throwing our awkward situations that would have been common during the time periods he writes his characters into.

Heather says

I never realized the story of the Norman Conquest including descriptions of battles could be made incredibly dull and boring, but GA Henty did his best and definitely succeeded with Wulf the Saxon. I actually found myself making excuses not to read the book, and had I not been pre-reading it for my son for school, I am pretty sure I would've stopped reading it completely... something I've only done with exactly one book ever. I will say, though, that my house was incredibly clean by the time I finished reading it so I guess it was good for something.

Amy Simon says

Excellent book

I really enjoyed how this book portrayed the proud English people, and their struggle against the Normans. I would recommend this book to anyone

John Barbour says

This is a great way for a child to learn history; whatever the age of the child from 6-96. All the G.A. Henty books are good. They are historical novels designed to introduce a child to important events in history. This book covers the time surrounding 1066 and the Norman Invasion of England. It centers on King Harold of Wessex, who was defeated by William the Conqueror, and his fictional page, Wulf. Wulf comes of age during this time all the while in Harold's service. He becomes a Thane and has many heroic adventures including the shipwreck of Harold, whereby William gets Harold to swear that he will be the next king of England, to the Welsh wars, the attempted assassination, the invasion from the north, and yes, the Norman invasion by William.
