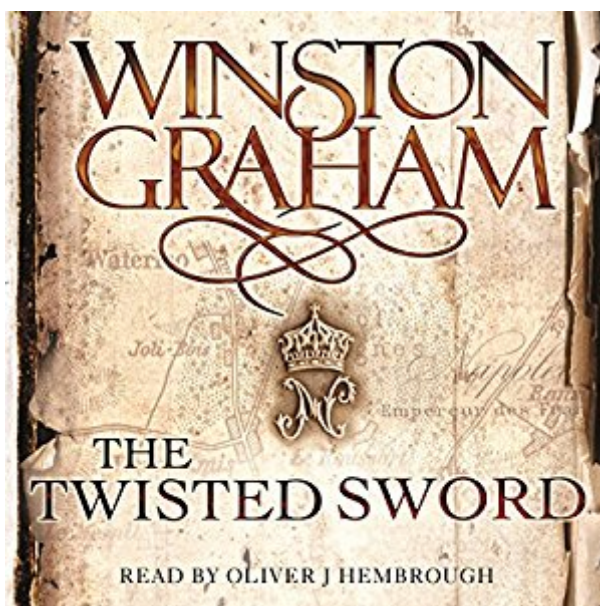


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The Twisted Sword: A Novel Of Cornwall 1815: Poldark, Book 11



Synopsis

The Twisted Sword is the 11th in Winston Graham's sweeping series of Cornwall, Poldark. Cornwall, 1815. Demelza sees a horseman riding down the valley and senses disruption to the domestic contentment she has fought so hard to achieve. For Ross has little option but to accept the summons - and travel to Paris with his family as an 'observer' of the French armed forces. Parisian life begins well, with an exhilarating round of balls and parties. But the return of Napoleon brings separation, distrust and danger to the Poldarks...and always for Demelza there is the shadow of the secret she does not share even with Ross.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ross and Demelza are the stars of one of the most fascinating historical romance series of the twentieth century. The author is the late Winston Graham. The books have been serialized on BBC many years ago and a new version is now being produced for Masterpiece Theatre. The books are gems with the reader can immerse herself/himself in high adventure, colorful descriptions of nature and many intriguing characters to keep one reading until the end. In this late volume in the series we see Ross and Demelza still in love after over thirty years of marriage. Ross is knighted in this novel by the government of Lord Liverpool the Prime Minister of Great Britain. He is personally knighted while on a court visit to the Prince Regent the future George IV. The plot is complicated with many characters and stories. Among those stories are:

- The married life of the Polkdarks son Jeremy a soldier who is wed to the fetching Cuby.
- Their daughter Clowance is wed to Stephen

Carrington. Carrington is involved in seagoing vessels in Cornwall. He confesses to fathering a young man named Jason who comes to live with the Carringtons. He has engaged in robbery and smuggling. Their young teenager daughter the fetching Bella finds herself in love with a young English officer whose name is Havergal. The court of Louis XVIII is shattered when Napoleon returns to France from his exile in Elbe. Demelza and Ross are forced to flee in separate coaches as the Bonaparte legions approach Paris. This is one of the best and most exciting of the Poldark novels. Flights by night from soldiery; the battle of Waterloo; the exciting story of young lovers in peril all make for a heady brew of enjoyable reading! Along the way we learn about the customs and sites of interest in Paris and in Belgium in the exciting time of Waterloo. The book was published in 1990 and is an excellent historical romance by the master Winston Graham. Excellent!

This is the eleventh in a series of twelve novels about the Poldark family of Cornwall. This one takes place in 1815, and the Napoleonic war appears to be over. So Ross and Demelza Poldark head off to Paris with their youngest daughter, Isabella. This is the first novel in which Isabella is featured more prominently. Unfortunately, Napoleon returns to France, having escaped from Elba. This throws Paris into turmoil, and some of the Poldarks find themselves at Waterloo, while others flee for their lives. Great sorrow looms in the future. The characters are three dimensional, and the author, a born storyteller, maintains authenticity of time and place. As always with this series of novels, I find myself riveted to its pages. Those who enjoy well-written historical fiction, will love this series of novels.

The Poldark Series of books are definitely true historicals in the sense that the events running throughout the books serve to give the reader a deeper understanding of the current events of the day in which the books are based whether it's relative to the mining industry or the war between England and France. In this 11th book in the series, England believes the war with Napoleon is a thing of the past and the nation must now look toward rebuilding. In the midst of this, a horseman comes with a message for Ross. He's needed in Paris for his erstwhile diplomatic skills so off to Paris Ross, Demelza and Bella go where Demelza, as usual, fascinates the gentlemen which gives Ross the opportunity to nearly come to fist cuffs with a close comrade of Joseph Fouché, 1st Duc d'Otrante. Although their encounter falls short of dueling, it is an encounter that the entire family will soon have reason to regret. Jeremy at last persuades Cuby to marry him even though he's now serving in the army, stationed in Brussels. They are madly in love and have some fabulous months together before Napoleon escapes from Elba and enters

into France with the citizens of France falling to their knees before him and the French Army falling alongside him as they give up their loyalty to the undeserving Bourbons. It's interesting to see these events played out through the eyes of the Poldark family even as they make plans to get out of Dodge as quickly as possible. They become separated with Demelza and Bella making it home to England whereas Ross is delayed due to an encounter with Fouché, resulting in his imprisonment for three long months. He finally escapes just in time to go through Waterloo at the side of Wellington and his officers while serving as a type of courtier. ****Spoilers**** There is much sadness in this book as yet another family member departs this earth. Yes, our boy Jeremy who at last found happiness in the arms of his love, battles valiantly at Waterloo but falls never to return home, dying in his father's arms, being buried in France leaving Cuby pregnant with his baby. Ugh! This is hard to take. The Poldarks are eventually reunited at Nampara. I particularly enjoyed this book due to the fact it included some great interaction between Ross and Demelza. I can't seem to get enough of these two.

In the 11th volume in the Poldark saga, we (through the Poldarks) encounter many prominent historic figures at the end of the Napoleonic wars. On the English side are: the Earl of Liverpool (Prime Minister), Robert Stewart--Viscount Castlereagh, Lord FitzRoy Somerset, the Duke of Wellington, and George the IV--the Prince Regent. On the French side: Joseph Fouché, Jean-Lambert Tallien and Napoleon himself. We witness the historic events through their eyes, most notably the Battle of Waterloo. Mining is still important to the Poldarks, but the details take a backseat to the events in France and Stephen Carrington's shipping business. No Poldark book would be complete without a share of financial trouble, marital discord, romance, a little mystery, along with tragedy and heartbreak. The second half of the book seemed much more fast-paced and certainly more emotional than the first half. If "half-stars" were allowed, I'd give this one 4.5 stars.

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