



# Stormchild

*Bernard Cornwell*

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## Stormchild Bernard Cornwell

“[A] page-turner....Cornwell unleashes danger and violence, from both man and nature.”

—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“Bernard Cornwell is to the yachting adventure novel what ex-jockey Dick Francis is to the racetrack thriller.”

—*Orlando Sentinel*

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Fort*, the Saxon Tales, and the immensely popular Richard Sharpe novels, Bernard Cornwell has been called, “perhaps the greatest writer of historical adventure novels today” (*Washington Post*). He demonstrates another side of his extraordinary storytelling talents with *Stormchild*, a contemporary tale of danger on the high and treacherous seas. The gripping story of a man who has lost almost everything in his life and now must race across perilous waters aboard his sloop Stormchild in a desperate attempt to rescue his daughter from the clutches of a shadowy cult and its mad leader. As relentlessly exciting as a Tom Clancy thriller, *Stormchild* is a masterwork of suspense from one of today’s most versatile and accomplished popular novelists.

## Stormchild Details

Date : Published (first published 1991)

ISBN :

Author : Bernard Cornwell

Format : Kindle Edition 499 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Adventure

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## **From Reader Review Stormchild for online ebook**

### **Regina Kuntz says**

I'm torn...it was a great story but my mom's heart was so bothered by the ending. However, good/justice prevailed and the Dad showed his strength of character in a tragic situation, which did make for an incredible story.

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### **R. says**

Enjoyed this thriller very much. It's quite a departure from the authors normal historical fiction which I enjoy so much. But I'm certain it takes much less research to write this than a book based on English history. I found Tim the Dad, not quite believable. He certainly went to great lengths to save a daughter who murdered her own mother. Then there's the people from Kalamazoo. Seems a strange place to have two characters from. Maybe it is in response to the Yes, there is a Kalamazoo campaign or maybe it's that victims of brainwashing can come from anywhere. All in all a good stand alone book. I'm so weary of book 1 of 5, I refuse to read books in a series anymore. Congrats Mr. CORNWELL.

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### **Joni says**

I became a fan of Cornwell after reading the Sharpe series, as well as The Fort. I was in Halfprice Books yesterday, checked out what they had by him and picked up a like new edition of Stormchild for 3.50. Originally published in 1991 the book I bought was printed in 2011. The book started off ok, kept me interested and even though I don't sail, I like reading about it. I was a big fan of C.S. Forrester and Patrick O'brien growing up. Anyway, as I was saying, the book started off ok but then, and I hate it when this happens, a character was introduced whom I found to be very annoying and appears will be prominent for the remainder of the story. I got through that part and to the point to where Blackburn had purchased Stormchild, refitted and provisioned her, was pulling away from the dock for his voyage to find his daughter when something happened that made me chuckle, close the book, and be thankful I paid less than four bucks for it. I may or may not pick it up again....

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### **Wayne Zurl says**

STORMCHILD by Bernard Cornwell.....

I apologize to Bernard before I get cranking. I've read everything he's written and love most of it. Then there's STORMCHILD. And here's where I need truth to trump loyalty.

The idea of a British sailing expert going off on a waterborne adventure appealed to me. I know what it takes to sail a well equipped sloop. I know Bernard Cornwell is a passionate sailor who qualifies as an expert. But I took exception at the amount of technical terms he used in the narrative of this book. I can imagine non-sailors getting lost in the over use of nautical terms.

This book was published in 1991. The style was different then; but even though more descriptive language was in vogue at the time, I wished that he didn't go on for paragraph after paragraph with descriptive details interspersed within the action that I wanted resolved or at least gotten back to. After a reasonable description was given, some of the visions of the scenery or weather or conditions on the water or the boat could have been left to my imagination. The book was 358 pages. I believe trimming it down 100 pages would produce a more enjoyable and brisker read. Don't get me wrong; I'm all for relaxing and taking time to smell the printer's ink, but this went overboard. No seamanship pun intended.

While I'm bitching, I would rather see smaller paragraphs and much shorter chapters, too.

Then there was Tim Blackburn, former ocean sailor and world record holder turned gentleman boatyard owner. Tim's daughter takes up with a charismatic leader of a group of environmentalists who turn into eco-terrorists. Tim believes she's been brainwashed and wants to find her and offer her the opportunity to come home. But Tim's wife dies in a suspicious boating accident. He and the police blame the eco-terrorists, but can prove nothing.

So, Tim sets off to find out just where in the world this group, known as Genesis, might be. Along the way he meets a fledgling American journalist who helps him track down some possible areas where he might find his daughter.

And the story goes into the realm of improbability from there. Not that Tim couldn't navigate a [relatively] small boat from England to Patagonia, but that a self-reliant ocean sailor and man with abilities beyond the average guy, and survival skills to match, would make such a complete ass of himself time and time again.

We all know that a protagonist can't be perfect. He/she has to have flaws. He/she has to put themselves in jeopardy at least once in a book to keep the reader interested and, at times, gritting their teeth with tension or anticipation and concern for the hero's safety. But Old Tim makes so many miserable decisions, so many foolish choices, takes so many asinine chances, that we might infer that he may not be able to safely paddle a canoe across a small Scottish loch much less circumnavigate the globe.

I wasn't looking for a documentary. I didn't need something with absolute reality. But I would have liked to see something at least remotely plausible.

2.5 stars.

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## Arty Mist says

A story which starts with "The sea was weeping" has captured me already! I couldn't put this book down - one of Bernard Cornwall's best. Only a person who knows the sea intimately could have written this book. Forget the plot, intriguing though it was, read this book for the sheer pleasure of seeing a master wordsmith at work.

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## **Marilyn says**

Great author!

Kind of like Dick Francis only in the boating/sailing arena. Intense excitement.

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## **Dave says**

This was a very good story but... Unless you're up to date on all your nautical terms in regards to sloops, catamarans and boats in general you might get lost in a few chapters plus the ending was a bit sappy for me!

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## **Aubrey Smith says**

**Another superb story.**

Bernard Cornwell never lets the reader disappointed, always bringing one through the book at break neck speed and unable to leave the page until one must eat & sleep.

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## **Kate Quinn says**

Bernard Cornwell is better known for his historicals, but he has an excellent smaller series of modern sea-faring thrillers. "Stormchild" is the best of them, following the desperate search of a father for his daughter. Tim is a deep-water sailor and Stormchild is his boat; he has lost his son to an Army accident and his wife to a bomb, and he is determined to find his daughter Nicole, the one member of his family still alive. Nicole has disappeared into a cult-like group of environmental fanatics, and Tim crosses the ocean to find her, acquiring an enterprising female journalist on the way. Tim is a likeable hero, crusty, tough, and appealing, and there is a great deal of comedy in his interactions with the journalist who is a non-smoking non-violent yoga-practicing vegan (based, I understand, on Cornwell's own wife). The book's greatest asset is the unseen Nicole, and the slow revelation that she may not be the victim her father imagines her to be. A read that will have you aching to head out to sea.

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## **Ken Cartisano says**

This is a splendid book. Cornwell's description of sailing will take your breath away. The book is somewhat dated, having been written in 1998 (I believe) but it's a real page turner, and anyone who has an interest in sailing would very likely enjoy the vivid descriptions of the various sights, sounds, glories and perils of sailing the high seas.

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## **Sam says**

A witless dad having a mid life crisis ,a deranged daughter ,an eco terrorist group and a young weird vegan female who does not like guns and loves sprouts .Had to struggle to finish this one.Can be avoided.

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**Noel Hughes says**

**Could not put it down.**

Exciting and a great read. I read it over two days as I like not put it down. Looking for more like it.

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**Baustman says**

I am a huge Bernard Cornwell fan! However, this adventure novel set in modern times is quite ho-hum. Except for excellent descriptions of the ocean and the ways of seafaring life, this was your average action-adventure novel. Bring on Sharpe and Uhtred!

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**Debbie says**

Brilliant yet harrowing

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**Christophe says**

Easy reading action and adventure. Some nice imagery and authentic sailing scenes which help to give it substance. Don't expect too much from this book, but if you're nautically inclined and looking for some entertainment, this would fit the bill.

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