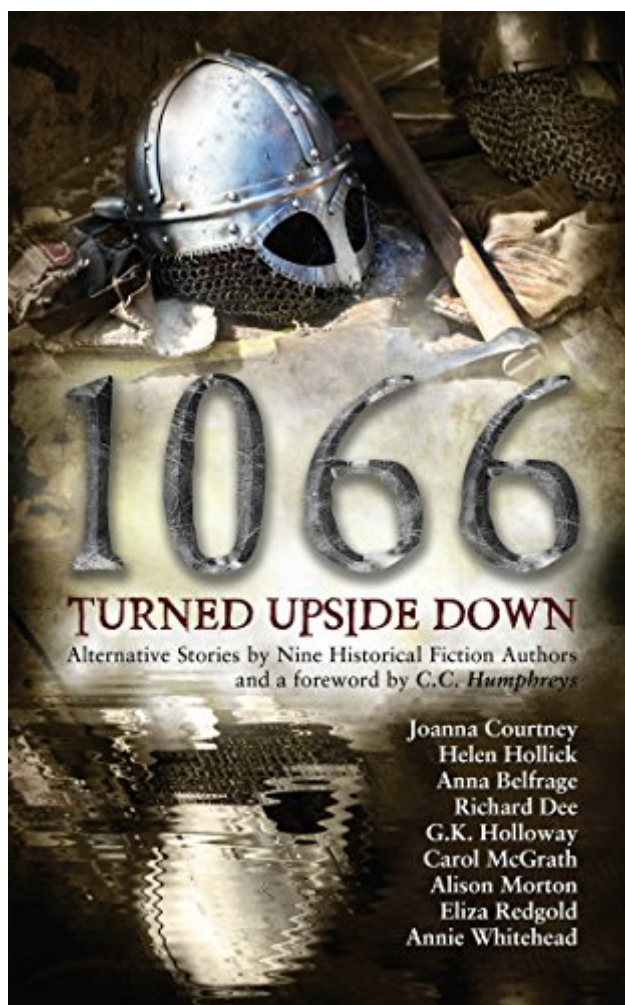


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1066 Turned Upside Down: Alternative Fiction Stories By Nine Authors



Synopsis

Ever wondered what might have happened if William the Conqueror had been beaten at Hastings? Or if Harald Hardrada had won at Stamford Bridge? Or if Edward the Confessor had died with an heir ready to take his place? Then here is the perfect set of stories for you. *1066 Turned Upside Down*™ explores a variety of ways in which the momentous year of 1066 could have played out differently. Written by nine well-known authors to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, the stories will take you on a journey through the wonderful *what ifs*™ of England's most famous year in history.

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Customer Reviews

I'm fascinated by historical fiction written by authors who wade way through dusty history books and ponder long into the night about the minutiae of the lives, and times, of historical figures, always maintaining historical accuracy, so that no-one can ever accuse them of changing, or of rearranging history. It must be a temptation though, on occasion, to have the opportunity to rearrange events to give a voice to that little mischievous murmur that whispers ever so softly | what would have

happened, if only..In 1066 Turned Upside Down, nine talented historical fiction authors , all at the top of their game in terms of historical fiction, have taken the facts, as we know them, about the tumultuous events of the year, 1066 and have given us their alternate versions of events. All of the eleven stories have an air of authenticity and each combine historical facts with a delightful twist. All of the stories are readable in short snippets , little bite sized stories, which you can comfortably read in one sitting, but which, ultimately, offer a fresh approach to a time in history that most of us feel we know really well. Whilst I am familiar with some of the authors who have contributed, others are new to me, but what convinced me about the combined quality of this book was just how seriously these committed authors take their craft. They make history come alive, and with real conviction turn fact into fiction and fiction into fact, cleverly manipulating events so that everything you read becomes totally convincing and in some cases you wish it had happened just so..

What a brilliant book this was. I just love the idea that the authors have taken a period in time and let their creative juices flow. 1066 is a fascinating period to read about and to have these authors explore the 'what if' was refreshingly a big fan of collections like this, I find them fun to read. Not only do they flow easily since they are self-contained short stories but you also get introduced to some authors you might not previously have heard of. I'll admit I've only read books by three of these authors.. that will soon change. The book starts with a forward by C.C Humphreys. I'm the first to admit I've never really understood the need for these in a book but this one has changed my mind. This forward was witty and fun and perfectly set up the book for me as a reader. Each author tackles at least one story, they each take an event that happened and twist it.. they explore the possibilities that might have occurred if things went differently. After reading other books I've always wondered about the 'what ifs' • Such as what would have happened if Harold had waited before going to war on that fateful day.. what would have happened if the rest of Harold's army had arrived in time to engage in the fight..the outcome could have been so different. One of my favourite stories had to be the tale by Richard Dee, the perfect mix of science fiction and historical fiction, where the butterfly effect is explored and that if you could travel back to the past even the slightest change could mean big changes to the future. It was really good to see Annie Whitehead take part in this book also. If you've read my reviews you'll know I'm a fan of hers and her story was particularly enjoyable to read.

An ARC of this book was offered to me for review purposes. What a very unusual concept. History was never my first love in school, and our Italian curriculum focussed on the ancient Greeks and

Romans, so I came to this with a completely open mind and no recent memory of the events that made 1066 such a pivotal year for the fortunes of what is now known as Britain, and consequently for the rest of Europe. Britain and France have a lot of shared links, conflict and alliances. In the year 1066, when King Edward died without issue, his brother-in-law was elected in his place. Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex and the second most powerful man in England, had for many years been his chief military commander, a man eminently capable but not in the royal line of descent. William, Duke of Normandy, claimed that he had been promised Britain (in what were, at best, suspect circumstances), so he started to amass a mighty invasion naval force. Harald Hardrada of Norway also saw an opening for his ambition to take over the rich lands so near his own domain. In this precarious moment in time, many things could have happened as King Harold's initial stunning victories augured well but something went terribly wrong at Hastings. To mark the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, a group of contemporary historical writers have provided their distinctive take on what might have been. The fascinating part of this exercise is that we have nine very different voices unleashing their individual imagination in eleven fictional accounts (two writers provided a double) loosely based on what meagre historical facts we have, taking all sorts of liberties, but generally staying true to the flavour of the times.

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