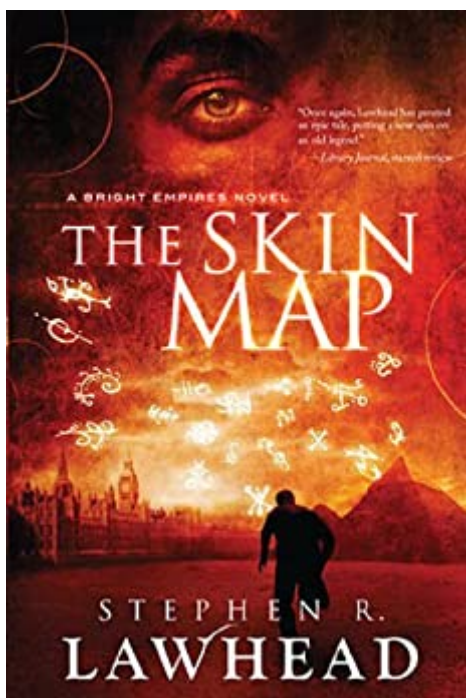


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The Skin Map (Bright Empires Book 1)



Synopsis

It is the ultimate quest for the ultimate treasure. Chasing a map tattooed on human skin. Across an omniverse of intersecting realities. To unravel the future of the future. Kit Livingstone's great-grandfather appears to him in a deserted alley during a tumultuous storm. He reveals an unbelievable story: that the ley lines throughout Britain are not merely the stuff of legend or the weekend hobby of deluded cranks, but pathways to other worlds. To those who know how to use them, they grant the ability to travel the multi-layered universe of which we ordinarily inhabit only a tiny part. One explorer knew more than most. Braving every danger, he toured both time and space on voyages of heroic discovery. Ever on his guard and fearful of becoming lost in the cosmos, he developed an intricate code—a roadmap of symbols—that he tattooed onto his own body. This Skin Map has since been lost in time. Now the race is on to recover all the pieces and discover its secrets. But the Skin Map itself is not the ultimate goal. It is merely the beginning of a vast and marvelous quest for a prize beyond imagining. The Bright Empires series from acclaimed author Stephen R. Lawhead is a unique blend of epic treasure hunt, ancient history, alternate realities, cutting-edge physics, philosophy, and mystery. The result is a page-turning, adventure like no other. "Anything but ordinary . . . Dynamic settings are mixed with unpredictable adventures [and] parallel worlds." BookPage

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Customer Reviews

So, I don't care very much for reading. I read a few pages and fall asleep. But I had an urge to get a book and hopefully it would capture my attention. This book did just that. I knew of Stephen Lawhead from his book *Byzantium*, which I loved, and decided to find another book with his name on it. This book instantly captured my attention, though some may find the beginning a little slow, but the adventure awaits. I love the style the book is written in as it divides up into multiple plots that are connected with each other. I don't want to give any spoilers, but I will say this... There was a review somewhere that I read (don't remember where) that basically related the worlds created in the *Bright Empires* Series can be seen as on par with CS Lewis' *Narnia*, or Tolkien's *Middle Earth*. Even though this is probably a stretch and many would disagree, the worlds you enter into are very well developed and fun to read about. The read is very easy and not complicated at all. There are about 400 pages and some plot twists put in. There is a little bit of darkness in the book as there was in *Byzantium*, but I'll just leave it at that so I don't give away any spoilers. Anyways, for someone who doesn't like to read I found this book easy and enjoyable. I now have "The Bone House" ready to read and am excited to continue the adventure.

Through the Omniverse of intersecting realities, how does one unravel the future of the future? The *Skin Map* is a treasure trove of alternate realities and engaging characters, containing a sense of wonder/adventure seldom seen these days. The plot does suffer from an overall lack of cohesion...what essentially is the urgency in acquiring the map? That being said though, it takes very little away from the narrative. A marvelous work with astonishment built right in! I look forward to devouring the "*Bright Empires*" series.

This book is about a bored young man in a nowhere relationship with his girlfriend who accidentally steps into the past. He meets his great grandfather who shows him how to travel to other times and alternative universes. At first he just wants to go back home. He decides to show his girlfriend why he missed his date and she reluctantly agrees to go with him. She gets thrown into a different past

then he does. He and his great grandfather go on a search to find her. There is one really bad man who is interested in power and knowledge. There is a time traveler who has figured out how to go to different places consistently and he tattoos the map on his body. In the future his great grandfather has a portion of his skin map and the bad man is trying to steal it at any cost. The story of these people intertwines. The girlfriend ends up thriving in the 1600's. He and his girlfriend find that life is no longer boring. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Lawhead has done a lot of things right in this series. I really like his characters. And by that I mean that he develops them well enough that they are tangible. What bothers me about a lot of adventure and mystery books now is that the protagonist is a whiny neurotic and somehow must save the world, the whole world, the future of mankind. Oh, and some psychotic villain is after them and perhaps there is some deep dark disgusting secret from the past and when they learn about it, things will never be the same. Get over it. They do this because they can't make a character you care about. And they can't make a narrative that can move without fear. The good people in this series are good people. The villains are villains but they have a logical origin and a logical reason for doing what they are doing. I like having them on my Kindle and I would like to meet them. Two other great things here. He weaves a lovely consistency of the concept of the multiverse into the story line and then grabs the age-old mystery and magic of ley lines as the passage ways from one universe to another. I have read the first two in the series and will be buying the third soon. After all this is over, I hope he republishes the series as a single novel. I realize that serializing is a brilliant marketing approach, but that doesn't mean that I have to like it.

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