

The SCIENCE FICTION

Book Club News

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A DREAM OF KINSHIP

Richard Cowper

A major new novel by one of Britain's leading SF writers

'Richard Cowper, who can write most other science fictioners off the map, has produced a sequel to his marvellous Road to Corlay ... It is a beautifully vivid, human, affectionate picture of our England (and Brittany), glowing like a manuscript illumination.'

The Daily Telegraph

The year is 3019, a thousand years after The Drowning which split Britain into seven island kingdoms and threw civilisation back into the Dark Ages. The Church has again created stability, but at the price of strict orthodoxy which is ruthlessly enforced by the Church's army. The Kinsfolk, followers of the martyred boy-piper and his vision of the White Bird of universal fellowship, have gathered in their castle-refuge of Corlay. One night, nearly all are slaughtered in a surprise attack: those few who escape join to build a visionary new cult of Kinship to challenge the establishment.

In the aftermath of the struggle a specially-gifted child is born. Tom — like his namesake, the martyred boy — can charm nature itself with his piping. But is he the 'lost singer of the Song of Songs' foretold in legends and eagerly awaited by the Kinsfolk? Tom's education as a musician at Corlay — during which he rescues the girl Alice from drowning — is followed by his return to the First Kingdom where he is immediately plunged into the intrigues between Church and Kin, and where his supernatural power defeats the evil designs of Alice's brother Arthur. 239pp

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REF NO 5194

