

a tale of three kings

a tale of three kings is a timeless narrative that explores themes of leadership, humility, brokenness, and forgiveness through the lives of three biblical figures: King Saul, King David, and King Absalom. This article delves into the origin and significance of "A Tale of Three Kings," its literary impact, and the lessons gleaned from each king's journey. By examining the historical context, core messages, and the book's application to modern leadership and personal growth, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why "A Tale of Three Kings" remains a powerful resource for those seeking wisdom in handling authority and conflict. The following sections provide a detailed analysis of the book's background, character studies, key lessons, and practical implications, making it an essential reference for anyone interested in spiritual development and effective leadership.

- Background and Origin of "A Tale of Three Kings"
- Overview of the Three Kings: Saul, David, and Absalom
- Key Themes and Lessons from "A Tale of Three Kings"
- Character Studies: Leadership, Brokenness, and Forgiveness
- Impact and Application in Modern Life
- Why "A Tale of Three Kings" Remains Relevant

Background and Origin of "A Tale of Three Kings"

"A Tale of Three Kings" is a widely acclaimed Christian book written by Gene Edwards in 1980. The author's intent was to address issues of spiritual authority and church division, drawing parallels from biblical accounts of King Saul, King David, and King Absalom. Set against the backdrop of ancient Israel, the narrative uses these historical figures to illustrate the complexities of leadership and the pain caused by authority misused or misunderstood. The book emerged during a period when many churches and organizations faced internal conflicts, making its message timely and transformative for readers seeking guidance on handling difficult relationships and power struggles.

Gene Edwards crafted this tale using a unique blend of storytelling and biblical exposition. By creating a narrative that is both allegorical and deeply rooted in scripture, he provides readers with a framework for understanding how to respond to unjust authority, betrayal, and personal ambition. The story's enduring popularity can be attributed to its universal themes and the clarity with which it addresses spiritual wounds and leadership challenges.

Overview of the Three Kings: Saul, David, and Absalom

The central figures in "A Tale of Three Kings" are Saul, David, and Absalom. Each king's story serves as a case study in leadership, character, and the consequences of choices made while in positions of power. Their lives are interwoven with lessons on obedience, humility, and the dangers of revenge.

King Saul: The Tragic Leader

Saul represents the archetype of a leader who falls from grace due to pride, insecurity, and disobedience. Chosen as Israel's first king, Saul initially displays promise but is soon consumed by jealousy and fear. His relationship with David is marked by suspicion and hostility, ultimately leading to his downfall. Saul's reign teaches about the destructive nature of holding onto power without humility or trust in divine guidance.

King David: The Broken Vessel

David's journey is central to the narrative, depicting a leader shaped by hardship and brokenness. Despite enduring betrayal and unjust treatment, David resists the urge to retaliate against Saul. His willingness to submit to God's timing and refrain from vengeance showcases profound humility and strength of character. Through David, readers learn the value of patience, forgiveness, and reliance on higher authority.

King Absalom: The Rebellious Son

Absalom, the son of David, embodies the dangers of unchecked ambition and rebellion. Driven by resentment and a desire for recognition, Absalom attempts to usurp David's throne, igniting division and conflict. His story highlights the consequences of seeking power through manipulative means and the pain caused by fractured relationships within families and organizations.

- Saul: Insecurity, jealousy, loss of favor
- David: Endurance, humility, trust in God
- Absalom: Ambition, rebellion, relational destruction

Key Themes and Lessons from "A Tale of Three Kings"

The book unpacks several core themes relevant to anyone navigating authority and conflict. By drawing from the lives of Saul, David, and Absalom, "A Tale of Three Kings" provides guidance on how to respond to difficult leadership situations and personal betrayals.

Brokenness and Humility

One of the most prominent lessons is the necessity of brokenness and humility in leadership. David's story, in particular, illustrates how enduring trials can mold a person into a compassionate and wise leader. Instead of seeking revenge or asserting his rights, David chooses to trust God's sovereignty, demonstrating that true greatness often comes through surrender and self-restraint.

Authority and Submission

The narrative emphasizes the importance of respecting authority, even when it appears flawed or unjust. Through David's response to Saul's persecution, readers are encouraged to avoid rebellion and to wait for God's timing. This theme resonates in workplaces, churches, and families, where navigating authority with wisdom and patience is essential for harmony and growth.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness is another central theme. Despite severe mistreatment, David refrains from retaliating against Saul and mourns Absalom's rebellion. The book suggests that genuine reconciliation often requires letting go of bitterness and trusting in a higher purpose, even when restoration seems impossible.

Character Studies: Leadership, Brokenness, and Forgiveness

"A Tale of Three Kings" offers profound character studies that reveal the complexities of human nature and spiritual growth. Each king's story provides a unique perspective on what it means to lead with integrity and respond to adversity with grace.

Saul's Leadership: Fear and Control

Saul's leadership is marked by fear and an obsessive need to control outcomes. His inability to trust others or accept God's direction leads to isolation and paranoia. Saul's journey serves as a warning against allowing insecurity and pride to dictate leadership decisions, reminding readers of the importance of self-awareness and accountability.

David's Brokenness: Strength Through Suffering

David's path is defined by suffering and perseverance. Rather than retaliate when wronged, David chooses humility, seeking solace in his faith. His brokenness becomes a source of strength, enabling him to empathize with others and lead with compassion. David's example encourages readers to view hardships as opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Absalom's Ambition: The Cost of Rebellion

Absalom's ambition ultimately leads to tragedy. His manipulation and quest for power disrupt the unity of Israel and result in personal loss. The study of Absalom's character warns against seeking leadership for selfish gain and highlights the destructive impact of rebellion on relationships and communities.

1. Learn from Saul: Avoid leadership driven by fear and insecurity.
2. Emulate David: Practice humility and forgiveness in the face of adversity.
3. Beware of Absalom: Reject ambition that harms others and divides communities.

Impact and Application in Modern Life

The enduring relevance of "A Tale of Three Kings" is reflected in its widespread use in leadership training, church ministries, and personal development. The book's principles are applicable in various contexts, from corporate environments to family dynamics, where individuals encounter authority, conflict, and the temptation to retaliate.

Readers are encouraged to apply the lessons of brokenness, humility, and forgiveness in daily interactions. Whether facing a difficult boss, a strained relationship, or internal struggles, the wisdom from "A Tale of Three Kings" offers practical strategies for navigating challenges without compromising integrity or unity. By choosing humility over vengeance and forgiveness over resentment, individuals can foster healthier relationships and more effective organizational cultures.

Why "A Tale of Three Kings" Remains Relevant

Decades after its publication, "A Tale of Three Kings" continues to resonate with audiences worldwide. Its universal themes transcend religious boundaries and speak to the core of human experience. The book remains a vital resource for those seeking insight into the dynamics of leadership, authority, and personal growth.

The narrative's lasting impact can be attributed to its ability to address real-life issues with honesty

and compassion. By presenting timeless truths through compelling storytelling, Gene Edwards has provided readers with a guide for navigating the complexities of leadership and relationships. "A Tale of Three Kings" stands as a testament to the transformative power of humility, brokenness, and forgiveness in every sphere of life.

Q: What is the main message of "A Tale of Three Kings"?

A: The main message of "A Tale of Three Kings" is about responding to unjust authority and conflict with humility, brokenness, and forgiveness, drawing lessons from the biblical lives of Saul, David, and Absalom.

Q: Who wrote "A Tale of Three Kings"?

A: "A Tale of Three Kings" was written by Gene Edwards, a Christian author known for his books on spiritual growth and church life.

Q: How does "A Tale of Three Kings" apply to modern leadership?

A: The book's principles of humility, patience, and forgiveness are highly applicable to modern leadership, helping individuals navigate authority, conflict, and organizational challenges with integrity and wisdom.

Q: What lessons can be learned from King David's story?

A: King David's story teaches the value of enduring hardship with humility, resisting retaliation, and trusting in a higher purpose, making him a model for compassionate and wise leadership.

Q: Why is brokenness important according to "A Tale of Three Kings"?

A: Brokenness is portrayed as essential for spiritual growth and effective leadership, as it fosters empathy, reliance on God, and the ability to lead without pride or vengeance.

Q: How does the book address church division and conflict?

A: "A Tale of Three Kings" uses biblical allegory to guide readers in handling church division and conflict by advocating for humility, submission to authority, and forgiveness instead of rebellion.

Q: What distinguishes Absalom's leadership style in the book?

A: Absalom's leadership is characterized by ambition, manipulation, and rebellion, which ultimately leads to division and personal downfall, serving as a cautionary example against selfish leadership.

Q: Is "A Tale of Three Kings" relevant for non-religious readers?

A: Yes, the book's universal themes of humility, forgiveness, and ethical leadership are relevant to all readers, regardless of religious background.

Q: What impact has "A Tale of Three Kings" had in organizations?

A: The book has been widely used in leadership training and organizational development, helping individuals and groups resolve conflicts and build healthier cultures through its timeless principles.

Q: What is the historical context behind "A Tale of Three Kings"?

A: The book draws from the biblical history of ancient Israel, specifically the reigns of Saul, David, and Absalom, to explore the dynamics of authority, conflict, and the human heart.

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A Tale of Three Kings: Unraveling the Power, Intrigue, and Legacy of Three Iconic Monarchs

Introduction:

Have you ever pondered the vast differences in leadership, the weight of crowns, and the enduring impact of royal decisions? "A Tale of Three Kings" isn't just a catchy title; it's an exploration into the lives and legacies of three historically significant monarchs, each navigating their reign with unique challenges, strategies, and ultimately, leaving behind indelible marks on their kingdoms and the world. This post delves into the fascinating narratives of these kings, analyzing their triumphs, failures, and the lasting consequences of their choices. Prepare to be captivated by a compelling comparison of power, ambition, and the complex tapestry of kingship.

H2: King Solomon: Wisdom, Wealth, and the Weight of a Divided Kingdom

King Solomon, renowned for his wisdom, inherited a unified kingdom from his father, David. His reign is often romanticized as a golden age. He presided over a period of unprecedented prosperity, famously depicted in the biblical accounts. His vast wealth, acquired through extensive trade and shrewd governance, cemented his power. However, his later years were marred by increasing internal strife and the seeds of division sown by his many wives and their influence. His story serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of unchecked power and the fragility of even the most seemingly invincible empires. Solomon's legacy is a complex one – a testament to remarkable achievements contrasted with the ultimate failure to maintain unity.

H3: Solomon's Wisdom: Myth and Reality

While the stories of Solomon's unparalleled wisdom are legendary, separating fact from folklore is crucial. Historical records suggest a highly organized and efficient administration under Solomon, implying a level of strategic intelligence and administrative prowess. The "wisdom" might not be solely mystical but also a reflection of effective governance and diplomacy.

H4: The Divided Kingdom: A Legacy of Conflict

Upon Solomon's death, the kingdom fractured into Israel and Judah, setting the stage for centuries of conflict and ultimately contributing to the fall of both kingdoms. This highlights the transient nature of even the most powerful empires and the importance of succession planning.

H2: King Louis XIV: The Sun King and the Absolute Monarchy

Louis XIV, the "Sun King," embodied absolute monarchy in 17th-century France. His reign, the longest in European history, was marked by an unparalleled centralization of power. He meticulously controlled every aspect of French life, from the arts and culture to the economy and the military. The Palace of Versailles became a symbol of his power and a tool to control the nobility. While his reign brought a period of cultural flourishing and military success, it also came at a high cost, leading to economic hardship for many and the seeds of future revolutions.

H3: Versailles: A Symbol of Power and Control

Versailles wasn't just a palace; it was a carefully crafted instrument of control. By inviting the nobility to reside at Versailles, Louis XIV effectively neutralized potential opposition and kept them under constant surveillance. This demonstrates a masterclass in political manipulation, even if ultimately unsustainable.

H4: The Burden of Absolute Power:

While Louis XIV's reign was undeniably successful in many aspects, the absolute power he wielded ultimately proved to be a double-edged sword. The heavy taxation needed to fund his extravagant lifestyle and ambitious wars led to widespread resentment among the French populace, ultimately contributing to the events leading up to the French Revolution.

H2: King Ashoka: From Conquest to Compassion: A Transformation in Leadership

King Ashoka, the emperor of the Maurya Empire in ancient India, represents a unique narrative of transformation. Initially a ruthless conqueror, Ashoka's victory at the Kalinga War brought about a

profound change in his worldview. He abandoned his violent ways, embracing Buddhism and dedicating his reign to promoting peace, non-violence, and dharma. His edicts, inscribed on pillars and rocks across his vast empire, spread his message of compassion and ethical governance, leaving a lasting impact on Indian society and culture.

H3: The Kalinga War: A Turning Point

The brutality of the Kalinga War deeply affected Ashoka. Witnessing the immense suffering it caused led to his conversion to Buddhism and a complete shift in his governing philosophy. This illustrates the power of personal experience to fundamentally alter even the most powerful individuals.

H4: Dharma and the Spread of Buddhism:

Ashoka's commitment to dharma - righteous conduct - became the cornerstone of his later reign. He actively promoted Buddhism through missionaries, edicts, and public works, spreading its message of peace and compassion across a vast geographical area. This exemplifies the power of a leader to shape the moral and spiritual landscape of their kingdom.

Conclusion:

The stories of King Solomon, King Louis XIV, and King Ashoka offer diverse yet compelling narratives of kingship. They reveal the complexities of power, the consequences of decisions, and the enduring impact of leadership. While their approaches to governance differed drastically, each king left an undeniable mark on history, demonstrating that leadership, whether benevolent or tyrannical, shapes not only the fate of a kingdom but also the course of human history. Their legacies continue to inspire discussion and analysis, reminding us of the enduring power of human ambition and the transformative potential of individual choices.

FAQs:

1. What makes these three kings so significant for historical study? These kings represent vastly different eras, cultures, and governing styles, providing valuable comparative material for understanding the dynamics of power, leadership, and societal impact.
2. How did religion influence the reigns of these monarchs? Solomon's reign was shaped by the established Jewish faith. Louis XIV used religion to consolidate his power. Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism drastically altered his rule, transforming it from conquest to compassionate governance.
3. What were the major challenges faced by each king? Solomon faced internal strife and the threat of division. Louis XIV dealt with economic hardship and the ever-present risk of rebellion. Ashoka initially grappled with the ethical implications of conquest before transforming his approach.
4. How did each king's legacy impact subsequent generations? Solomon's legacy of division continues to shape the historical narrative of the ancient Middle East. Louis XIV's absolutist model influenced later monarchs, while also contributing to the French Revolution. Ashoka's emphasis on non-violence and dharma remains a powerful influence in Buddhist traditions and Indian culture.
5. Are there any modern-day parallels to the leadership styles of these three kings? While direct parallels are difficult to draw, the themes of ambition, power struggles, and the ethical

considerations of leadership remain relevant in modern politics and governance. The complexities faced by these historical monarchs continue to resonate in contemporary issues.

a tale of three kings: A Tale of Three Kings Gene Edwards, 2011-06-14 This best-selling tale is based on the biblical figures of David, Saul, and Absalom. For the many Christians who have experienced pain, loss, and heartache at the hands of other believers, this compelling story offers comfort, healing, and hope. Christian leaders and directors of religious movements throughout the world have recommended this simple, powerful, and beautiful story to their members and staff. You will want to join the thousands who have been profoundly touched by this incomparable story.

a tale of three kings: A Tale of Three Kings Gene Edwards, 1992 Those facing pain resulting from unfair treatment by other believers will be encouraged by this powerful story of David, Saul, and Absalom. This story was turned into a play that has been performed by both professionals on stage and in simple dramas performed in church buildings.

a tale of three kings: The Story of the Three Wise Kings Tomie dePaola, 2020-09-15 Tomie dePaola's "gorgeous...sumptuous" (Horn Book Magazine) retelling of the story of the three wise kings is perfect for sharing with little ones during the Christmas season! Three wise men of the East, having seen a new star symbolizing the birth of a great king, follow the star to Bethlehem where they present gifts to the newborn Jesus. This beautiful rendition of the well-known tale is sure to delight young readers.

a tale of three kings: *We Three Kings*, 2007-10-02 An illustrated edition of the traditional Christmas song.

a tale of three kings: A Tale of Two Kings Gloria Furman, 2021-03-02 Will the Real King Please Stand Up? From the very beginning, the Bible tells a story of redemption. God made the first man to rule as king over all He created, only to see Adam's reign end before it had barely begun. God knew all this and that's why He sent the One True King, Jesus, to dwell with us and reclaim what Adam had lost, saving mankind from the penalty of sin. Bestselling author Gloria Furman makes this concept come alive for kids in this colorful and creative book comparing Adam, the archetype, with Christ, "the last Adam." Children will learn that while Adam's sin sentenced all of us to death, Jesus's crucifixion and glorious resurrection restored the promise of eternal life for all those who believe in Him. Kids will be reassured that because Jesus is still on the throne, they can trust him whenever they feel sad or scared. There's nothing that Christ their King can't do for them!

a tale of three kings: A Tale of Three Kings Gene Edwards, Rick Cain, Paul Scheibe, 1992

a tale of three kings: *The Way of Kings* Brandon Sanderson, 2010-08-31 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *The Way of Kings*, Book One of the Stormlight Archive, begins an incredible new saga of epic proportion. Roshar is a world of stone and storms. Uncanny tempests of incredible power sweep across the rocky terrain so frequently that they have shaped ecology and civilization alike. Animals hide in shells, trees pull in branches, and grass retracts into the soilless ground. Cities are built only where the topography offers shelter. It has been centuries since the fall of the ten consecrated orders known as the Knights Radiant, but their Shardblades and Shardplate remain: mystical swords and suits of armor that transform ordinary men into near-invincible warriors. Men trade kingdoms for Shardblades. Wars were fought for them, and won by them. One such war rages on a ruined landscape called the Shattered Plains. There, Kaladin, who traded his medical apprenticeship for a spear to protect his little brother, has been reduced to slavery. In a war that makes no sense, where ten armies fight separately against a single foe, he struggles to save his men and to fathom the leaders who consider them expendable. Brightlord Dalinar Kholin commands one of those other armies. Like his brother, the late king, he is fascinated by an ancient text called *The Way of Kings*. Troubled by over-powering visions of ancient times and the Knights Radiant, he has begun to doubt his own sanity. Across the ocean, an untried young woman named Shallan seeks to train under an eminent scholar and notorious heretic, Dalinar's niece, Jasnah. Though she genuinely loves learning, Shallan's motives are less than pure. As she

plans a daring theft, her research for Jasnah hints at secrets of the Knights Radiant and the true cause of the war. The result of over ten years of planning, writing, and world-building, *The Way of Kings* is but the opening movement of the Stormlight Archive, a bold masterpiece in the making. Speak again the ancient oaths: Life before death. Strength before weakness. Journey before Destination. and return to men the Shards they once bore. The Knights Radiant must stand again.

Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson *The Cosmere* *The Stormlight Archive* ● *The Way of Kings* ● *Words of Radiance* ● *Edgedancer* (novella) ● *Oathbringer* ● *Dawnshard* (novella) ● *Rhythm of War* *The Mistborn Saga* *The Original Trilogy* ● *Mistborn* ● *The Well of Ascension* ● *The Hero of Ages* *Wax and Wayne* ● *The Alloy of Law* ● *Shadows of Self* ● *The Bands of Mourning* ● *The Lost Metal* Other Cosmere novels ● *Elantris* ● *Warbreaker* ● *Tress of the Emerald Sea* ● *Yumi and the Nightmare Painter* ● *The Sunlit Man Collection* ● *Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection* *The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series* ● *Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians* ● *The Scrivener's Bones* ● *The Knights of Crystallia* ● *The Shattered Lens* ● *The Dark Talent* ● *Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians* (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● *The Rithmatist* ● *Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds* ● *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England* Other books by Brandon Sanderson *The Reckoners* ● *Steelheart* ● *Firefight* ● *Calamity Skyward* ● *Skyward* ● *Starsight* ● *Cytonic* ● *Skyward Flight* (with Janci Patterson) ● *Defiant* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

a tale of three kings: *Baboushka and the Three Kings* Ruth Robbins, 1960 *Baboushka*, verse by Edith M. Thomas, music by Mary Clement Sanks: p. [26]-[27].

a tale of three kings: *The Tale of Despereaux* Kate DiCamillo, 2009-09-08 A brave mouse, a covetous rat, a wishful serving girl, and a princess named Pea come together in Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Medal-winning tale. Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out. With black-and-white illustrations and a refreshed cover by Timothy Basil Ering.

a tale of three kings: *The Divine Romance* Gene Edwards, 1993 From the grandeur of Creation to the glorious union of the Savior and his bride, God's love sweeps through eternity in the greatest of all love stories. A book of power, beauty, and grandeur. Rarely has a piece of Christian literature combined the simplicity of the storytelling art with the profound depths of the Christian faith.

a tale of three kings: *The King's Fifth* Scott O'Dell, 2006-09-04 Newbery Honor Book: A "stunning" historical novel of a teenager's journey from Spain to the New World in search of gold (Kirkus Reviews). Mapmaker Esteban de Sandoval is only seventeen years old, but he has experienced much adventure, traveling to the New World to hunt for gold with the Conquistadors. Whatever treasure they find, they were expected to give one-fifth of it to the king. But Esteban is accused of withholding the king's fifth—and of murder. As he waits for his trial to begin, he recalls the experience of his journey: the men he sailed with, the young Native American girl who guided him—and the ways that it changed him—in this remarkable novel about Spanish colonialism by the author of such classics as *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

a tale of three kings: *The Tale of the Tailor and the Three Dead Kings* Dan Jones, 2021-10-07 A chilling medieval ghost story, first written by a 15th-century monk and now retold by historian Dan Jones.

a tale of three kings: *God King* Joanne Williamson, 2002-03-01 A never-before published tale by the author of the best-selling *Hittite Warrior*, carries the reader back to Ancient Egypt and biblical Jerusalem. It is 701 B.C-rule of the Kushite dynasty in ancient Egypt. Young Prince Taharka, a very minor royal son, succeeds unexpectedly to the throne of Kush and Egypt-a divine rulership. It's not long, however, before a treacherous plot pushes him into sudden exile and into the hands of Amos, an emissary of King Hezekiah seeking help against the Assyrians. Posing as a medical

assistant, Taharka journeys with Amos to Judea where he encounters two kings in conflict. His true identity suddenly uncovered, he must choose with whom he will fight—the mighty Assyrian, Sennacherib, promising alliance or Hezekiah, the Jew who trusts in Yahweh. A novel inspired by research on the historical King Taharka and his period.

a tale of three kings: *Revelation of the Magi* Brent Landau, 2010-11-02 “A first-ever English translation and detailed analysis of [an] . . . eighth-century text uncovers a far more substantial version of the wise men story.” —USA Today Theologian Brent Landau presents the ancient account of Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar, the three “wise men” who journeyed to Bethlehem to greet the birth of Jesus. The *Revelation of the Magi* offers the first-ever English translation of an ancient Syriac manuscript written in the second to third century after the birth of Christ and safeguarded for generations in the Vatican Library. Following in the footsteps of Elaine Pagels and her exploration of the Gnostic Gospels, including the controversial Gospel of Judas, Landau delivers an invaluable source of information to a world interested in learning more about the Nativity and the life of Jesus of Nazareth. “Astonishing, delightful, and theologically sophisticated.” —Marvin Meyer, Griset Professor of Religious Studies, Chapman University, author of *Gospels of Mary* “Landau’s presentation—bright and sharp as a gemstone—emphasizes the unique challenge and radical depth of this ancient text’s theology.” —John Dominic Crossan, author of *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography* and *The Greatest Prayer* “An epic tale. In a new, lucid translation, Landau offers English readers a chance to hear this remarkable story for the first time.” —Karen L. King, author of the *Secret Revelation of John* “Landau is to be congratulated for bringing this important and unexpectedly influential work to light.” Jennifer Knust, author of *Unprotected Texts* “Landau shows, with skill and authority, how the “Revelation” contains a valuable message of tolerance that is needed as much today as in the years of its composition.” —Los Angeles Times (online)

a tale of three kings: *The King of Confidence* Miles Harvey, 2020-07-14 The unputdownable (Dave Eggers, National Book award finalist) story of the most infamous American con man you've never heard of: James Strang, self-proclaimed divine king of earth, heaven, and an island in Lake Michigan, perfect for fans of *The Devil in the White City* (Kirkus) A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Longlisted for the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist for the Midland Authors Annual Literary Award A Michigan Notable Book A CrimeReads Best True Crime Book of the Year A masterpiece. —Nathaniel Philbrick In the summer of 1843, James Strang, a charismatic young lawyer and avowed atheist, vanished from a rural town in New York. Months later he reappeared on the Midwestern frontier and converted to a burgeoning religious movement known as Mormonism. In the wake of the murder of the sect's leader, Joseph Smith, Strang unveiled a letter purportedly from the prophet naming him successor, and persuaded hundreds of fellow converts to follow him to an island in Lake Michigan, where he declared himself a divine king. From this stronghold he controlled a fourth of the state of Michigan, establishing a pirate colony where he practiced plural marriage and perpetrated thefts, corruption, and frauds of all kinds. Eventually, having run afoul of powerful enemies, including the American president, Strang was assassinated, an event that was frontpage news across the country. *The King of Confidence* tells this fascinating but largely forgotten story. Centering his narrative on this charlatan's turbulent twelve years in power, Miles Harvey gets to the root of a timeless American original: the Confidence Man. Full of adventure, bad behavior, and insight into a crucial period of antebellum history, *The King of Confidence* brings us a compulsively readable account of one of the country's boldest con men and the boisterous era that allowed him to thrive.

a tale of three kings: *Kings of the Court* Alison Hughes, 2017-03-14 When the Gladiators basketball team's nasty coach finally gets turfed midseason, things couldn't possibly get worse. The team hasn't won a game yet, and morale is at rock bottom. Sameer, who announces the games and keeps score, and Vijay, the team mascot, have their hands full keeping the team's spirits up. When they get promoted to assistant coach and manager, can they help a small, unathletic, Shakespeare-quoting drama teacher coach the team to victory, or at least to dignity? Or will the courtside drama eclipse even the school play?

a tale of three kings: *The Bird King* G. Willow Wilson, 2019-03-12 One of NPR's 50 Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Books of the Decade: A fifteenth-century palace mapmaker must hide his powers in the time of the Inquisition . . . Award-winning author G. Willow Wilson's debut novel *Alif the Unseen* was an NPR and Washington Post Best Book of the Year and established her as a vital American Muslim literary voice. Now she delivers *The Bird King*, an epic journey set during the reign of the last sultan in the Iberian peninsula at the height of the Spanish Inquisition. Fatima is a concubine in the royal court of Granada, the last emirate of Muslim Spain. Her dearest friend, Hassan, the palace mapmaker and the one man who doesn't leer at her with desire, has a secret—he can draw maps of places he's never seen and bend the shape of reality. When representatives of the newly formed Spanish monarchy arrive to negotiate the sultan's surrender, Fatima befriends one of the women, not realizing that she will see Hassan's gift as sorcery and a threat to Christian Spanish rule. With their freedoms at stake, what will Fatima risk to save Hassan and escape the palace walls? As the two traverse Spain with the help of a clever jinn to find safety, *The Bird King* asks us to consider what love is and the price of freedom at a time when the West and the Muslim world were not yet separate. "Wilson has a deft hand with myth and with magic, and the kind of smart, honest writing mind that knits together and bridges cultures and people." —Neil Gaiman, author of *Norse Mythology* "A triumph . . . one of the best fantasy writers working today." —BookPage "A treasure-house of a novel, thrilling, tender, funny, and achingly gorgeous. I loved it." —Lev Grossman, author of the *Magicians* trilogy

a tale of three kings: *Three Kings* Stephen Beresford, 2020 When Patrick is eight years old, his absent father returns unexpectedly for a brief but memorable encounter. Years later - recalling that meeting, and the revelations that followed - Patrick traces the events of his father's life, laying bare a journey of grandiose plans, aching disappointments and audacious self-delusion. *Three Kings* by Stephen Beresford is a heartbreaking and hilarious play for a solo actor about fathers and sons, the gifts and burdens of inheritance, and the unfathomable puzzle of human relationships. It was written for Andrew Scott to perform as part of *Old Vic: In Camera*, a series of live performances streamed from the Old Vic Theatre, London, in 2020. This edition includes an introduction by the director Matthew Warchus. 'A knockout - entertaining, sad and outrageous. [Stephen Beresford] is going to be a major name' Observer on *The Last of the Haussmans*

a tale of three kings: *Three Kings* Hyman E. Goldin, 2011-10-01

a tale of three kings: *Gilded Chain* Dave Duncan, 2009-10-13 As unwanted and rebellious boys, they find refuge in Ironhall....Years later they emerge as the finest swordsmen in the realm—A magical ritual of a sword through the heart binds each to his ward—if not the king himself, then to whomever else the monarch designates—with absolute loyalty. And the greatest Blade of them all was—and is—Sir Durendal. But a lifelong dream of protecting his beloved liege from enemies, traitors, and monsters is dashed to bits when Durendal is bonded till death to an effete noble fop at his king's orders. Yet Destiny has many strange and inscrutable plans for the young knight—for a mission, a contest, and, perhaps, a treasure await him in a faraway land. But he soon finds himself enmeshed in treason and foul intrigues, compelled to betray the king he had hoped to serve. The Blades have ways to protect their own, but death and madness haunt the path to salvation—and few ever return unscathed. As unwanted and rebellious boys, they find refuge in Ironhall....Years later they emerge as the finest swordsmen in the realm—A magical ritual of a sword through the heart binds each to his ward—if not the king himself, then to whomever else the monarch designates—with absolute loyalty. And the greatest Blade of them all was—and is—Sir Durendal. But a lifelong dream of protecting his beloved liege from enemies, traitors, and monsters is dashed to bits when Durendal is bonded till death to an effete noble fop at his king's orders. Yet Destiny has many strange and inscrutable plans for the young knight—for a mission, a contest, and, perhaps, a treasure await him in a faraway land. But he soon finds himself enmeshed in treason and foul intrigues, compelled to betray the king he had hoped to serve. The Blades have ways to protect their own, but death and madness haunt the path to salvation—and few ever return unscathed.

a tale of three kings: *King Lear* Jeffrey Kahan, 2008-04-18 Is *King Lear* an autonomous text, or

a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play King Leir? Should we refer to Shakespeare's original quarto when discussing the play, the revised folio text, or the popular composite version, stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725? What of its stage variations? When turning from page to stage, the critical view on King Lear is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed, audiences preferred Naham Tate's optimistic adaptation, in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after. When discussing King Lear, the question of what comprises 'the play' is both complex and fragmentary. These issues of identity and authenticity across time and across mediums are outlined, debated, and considered critically by the contributors to this volume. Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the leading international contributors to King Lear: New Critical Essays offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of King Lear. This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship, performance research, and critical writing on one of Shakespeare's most important and perplexing tragedies. Contributors Include: R.A. Foakes, Richard Knowles, Tom Clayton, Cynthia Clegg, Edward L. Rocklin, Christy Desmet, Paul Cantor, Robert V. Young, Stanley Stewart and Jean R. Brink

a tale of three kings: The Once & Future King T. H. White, 2015-10-13 The definitive modern take on the timeless tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round table. The legends of King Arthur date back to medieval Europe, and have become some of the dominant myths of Western culture. In The Once & Future King, T. H. White reinvents the story for a modern audience. The novel starts by introducing the reader to a young Arthur – just a child, and far from the King he will become – as he is raised by the wizard Merlyn, and moves on to chronicle his rise to Kingship, the affair between Guinevere and Lancelot, and the eventual destruction of the round table. The first section, released independently as The Sword in the Stone, was adapted into an animated film by Walt Disney Pictures. Penguin Random House Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in e-book form, with the highest quality production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

a tale of three kings: A Tale of Three Kings Gene Edwards, 1980

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a tale of three kings: The Prisoner in the Third Cell Gene Edwards, 2011-05-13 Imprisoned by Herod, John the Baptist struggles to understand a Lord who did not meet his expectations—a dramatic account offering insight into the ways of God.

a tale of three kings: Fairy Tale Stephen King, 2024-06-25 Legendary storyteller Stephen King goes into the deepest well of his imagination in this spellbinding novel about a seventeen-year-old boy who inherits the keys to a parallel world where good and evil are at war, and the stakes could not be higher—for that world or ours. --

a tale of three kings: King's Shield Sherwood Smith, 2009-07-07 Acclaimed Inda series within Sherwood Smith's epic fantasy Sartorias-deles universe • Military fantasy woven with courtly politics, vast worldbuilding, and diverse characters Inda was the second son of the prince and princess of Choraed Elgaer. It had been Inda's fate, as second son, to be his family's Shield Arm and spend his adult life protecting the lands his brother would one day inherit. But powerful factions in the royal court were committed to seeing Inda fail. For eight difficult years, Inda had been at sea, using an assumed name and forcing himself to never think of all he had lost. And he had created a

new life, for the military skills that had been trained into him and his own inborn leadership ability could not be erased. After founding a mercenary marine company, he had earned a reputation for defeating dangerous pirate fleets. When Inda discovers that his home country is about to be attacked from the sea by an ancient enemy, he throws his carefully guarded anonymity to the winds and returns home. After nearly a decade at sea, Inda finds his home utterly changed. His good friend Evred, the formerly powerless and harassed younger prince, is now king. Evred has heard of Inda's martial accomplishments at sea, and is determined to make Inda his Royal Shield Arm—the person in charge of defending the entire kingdom. Though Inda is skilled, his experience is entirely naval. Can a former pirate captain alter his tactics to become a successful ground commander in time to save his endangered homeland?

a tale of three kings: A Tale Dark & Grimm Adam Gidwitz, 2010-10-28 In this mischievous and utterly original debut, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm-inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches. Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive as Hansel and Gretel learn to take charge of their destinies and become the clever architects of their own happily ever after.

a tale of three kings: The Year of Three Kings, 1483 Giles St Aubyn, 2013-01-17 Richard III has the most controversial reputation of any English king. If he was the murderer of his two nephews and (as many contemporaries thought) the poisoner of his own wife, he has a place among the foremost villains of history. If however his only real crime was to have been on the losing side, then he is the victim of an extraordinary and enduring smear campaign. Which version is correct? Whether true or false, the legend of Richard III's villainy has embedded itself in the nation's consciousness. In this clear, careful narrative, first published in 1983 (the 500th anniversary of a year in which three kings occupied the throne of England) Giles St. Aubyn relates the violent and blood-stained story, his cool, witty style contrasting with the brutality of the period he describes.

a tale of three kings: Cinderella Is Dead Kalynn Bayron, 2020-07-07 Wholly original and captivating. - Brigid Kemmerer, New York Times bestselling author of A Curse So Dark and Lonely Girls team up to overthrow the kingdom in this unique and powerful retelling of Cinderella from a stunning new voice that's perfect for fans of Dhonielle Clayton and Melissa Albert. It's 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy tale is over. Teen girls are now required to appear at the Annual Ball, where the men of the kingdom select wives based on a girl's display of finery. If a suitable match is not found, the girls not chosen are never heard from again. Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend, than parade in front of suitors. At the ball, Sophia makes the desperate decision to flee, and finds herself hiding in Cinderella's mausoleum. There, she meets Constance, the last known descendant of Cinderella and her step sisters. Together they vow to bring down the king once and for all--and in the process, they learn that there's more to Cinderella's story than they ever knew . . . This fresh take on a classic story will make readers question the tales they've been told, and root for girls to break down the constructs of the world around them.

a tale of three kings: Homecoming King Penny Reid , 2021-12-14 Rex TW McMurtry's perpetual single-hood wouldn't bother him so much if all his ex-girlfriends didn't keep marrying the very next person they dated, especially when so many of those grooms are his closest friends. He may be a pro-football defensive end for the Chicago Squalls, but the press only wants to talk about how he's always a groomsman and never a groom. Rex is sick of being the guy before the husband, and he's most definitely sick of being the best man at all their weddings. Bartender Abigail McNerny is the gal-pal, the wing-woman, the she-BFF. She's dated. Once. And once was more than enough. Privy to all the sad stories of her customers, 'contentment over commitment' is her motto, and Abby is convinced no one on earth could ever entice her into a romantic relationship . . . except that one guy she's loved since preschool. The guy who just walked into her bar. The guy who doesn't recognize her. The guy who is drunk and needs a ride home. The guy who has a proposition she should definitely refuse.

a tale of three kings: The Grace of Kings Ken Liu, 2015-04-07 One of the Time 100 Best Fantasy Books Of All Time Two men rebel together against tyranny—and then become rivals—in this first sweeping book of an epic fantasy series from Ken Liu, recipient of Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards. Hailed as one of the best books of 2015 by NPR. Wily, charming Kuni Garu, a bandit, and stern, fearless Mata Zyndu, the son of a deposed duke, seem like polar opposites. Yet, in the uprising against the emperor, the two quickly become the best of friends after a series of adventures fighting against vast conscripted armies, silk-draped airships, and shapeshifting gods. Once the emperor has been overthrown, however, they each find themselves the leader of separate factions—two sides with very different ideas about how the world should be run and the meaning of justice. Fans of intrigue, intimate plots, and action will find a new series to embrace in the Dandelion Dynasty.

a tale of three kings: Hurray for Three Kings' Day! Lori M. Carlson, 1999 In telling the rich history of the Christmas gift-giver, Gail Gibbons draws upon many cultures. From the legend of Saint Nicholas to the Dutch Sinter Cleas, from *The Night before Christmas* to Thomas Nast's famous cartoons, her lively, well-researched text & sparkling illustrations show how the changing image of Santa became the beloved symbol of Christmas we know today.

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a tale of three kings: The Strangled Queen (The Accursed Kings, Book 2) Maurice Druon, 2013-04-11 "This is the original Game of Thrones." George R.R. Martin.

a tale of three kings: Zahhak the Legend of the Serpent King Ahmad Sadri, Hamid Rahmanian, Melissa Hibbard, 2018-10-02 For the first time ever, a tale from the Persian Book of Kings springs to life in this stunningly produced and ingeniously crafted pop up book. Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King retells the myth of the misguided Prince Zahhak who is easily swayed by the devil to murder his father and usurp the throne. Cursed with monstrous snakes that grow out of the king's shoulders, the Serpent King grows infamous throughout the land for his treachery and oppression. He rules for one thousand years before a noble and valiant Feraydun gains the strength and army to defeat the unjust King. The fantastic world of Zahhak: The Legend of the Serpent King literally pops off the page with intricately crafted spreads, two pop-up folds per page, and complex construction that will delight readers young and old with every turn of the page.

a tale of three kings: The Songs of the Kings Barry Unsworth, 2004 As the harsh winds hold the Greek fleet trapped in the straits at Aulis waiting to sail to Troy, frustration and political impotence turn into a desire for the blood of a young and innocent woman.

a tale of three kings: The Gospel According to Matthew , 1999 The publication of the King James version of the Bible, translated between 1603 and 1611, coincided with an extraordinary flowering of English literature and is universally acknowledged as the greatest influence on English-language literature in history. Now, world-class literary writers introduce the book of the King James Bible in a series of beautifully designed, small-format volumes. The introducers' passionate, provocative, and personal engagements with the spirituality and the language of the text make the Bible come alive as a stunning work of literature and remind us of its overwhelming contemporary relevance.

a tale of three kings: The Gene Edwards Signature Collection: A Tale of Three Kings / The Prisoner in the Third Cell / The Divine Romance Gene Edwards, 2021-04-06 Enjoy three classic titles from beloved author Gene Edwards, now collected in one signature edition! For decades, Gene Edwards has enriched the minds, hearts, and souls of his readers through his retellings of Scripture in allegory. Christians who have experienced pain, loss, and heartache find solace in Edwards's deep dive into the biblical figures of David, Saul, Absalom, John the Baptist, and more. His incomparable storytelling brings us closer to the majestic love of God. This new edition combines *A Tale of Three Kings*, *The Prisoner in the Third Cell*, and *The Divine Romance* into one volume at a low price.

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