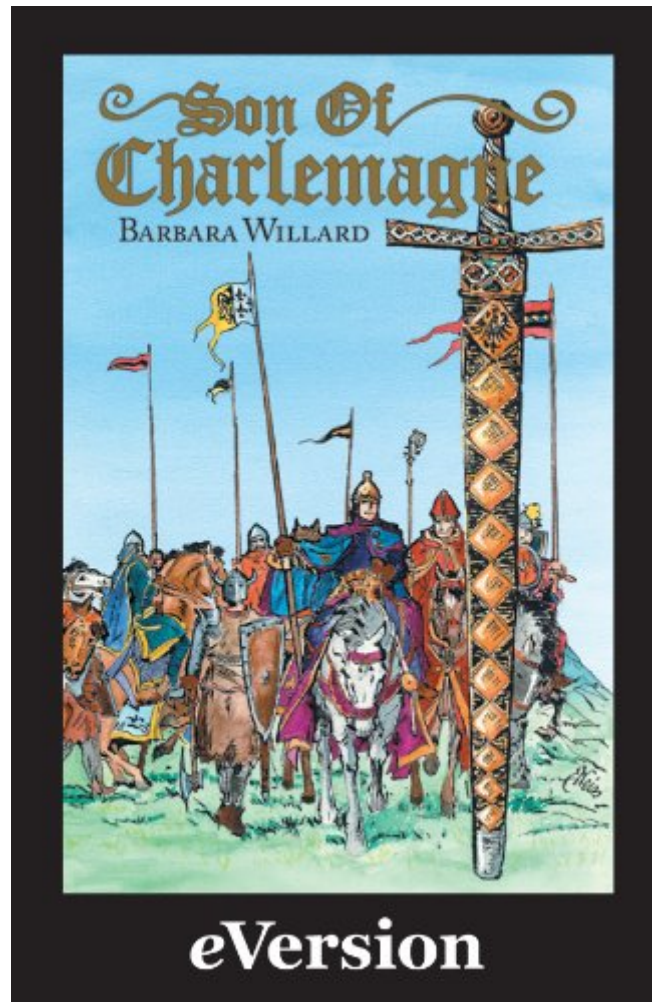


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# Son Of Charlemagne



## Synopsis

The year is A.D. 781. King Charles of the Franks is crossing the Alps with his family and court on a journey to meet with Pope Hadrian. One frosty night he speaks to his young son Carl: When we come to Rome you will know that I am naming you my heir. One day you will rule over all my lands. . . . But the King already had an heir, Pepin the Hunchback, mockingly called Gobbo. Was he to be dispossessed? Yet Carl sees that Charlemagne is determined to do what he feels is best to serve God and Europe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book tells you a lot about Charlemagne, but it is great for children because it is from a young boy's point of view. The young boy happens to be Charlemagne's son. It is well written and it gets the facts of history well in your mind without having to study! Its very interesting and I recommend everyone to read it!

We enjoyed this story of Charlemagne told by viewing the life of one of his sons, Carl. While not

intensely detailed in regards to his historical battles, though they are referenced (and one particularly brutal event is covered intensely), it gives more of an insider view with the focus on his family life. That was very interesting! This incredible world leader was a devoted family man who desired for his children to travel with him whenever possible. He humbly sought a better education for himself, his children and his subjects. This focus led to the Carolingian Renaissance. While Charles the Great certainly had flaws, those too were inspiring examples. These multifaceted qualities resulted in his rise from King of the Franks to coronation as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. *Son of Charlemagne* was written very personally, a tender glimpse into the real life struggles of a political giant.

This telling of the life of Charlemagne was clearly intended for younger readers, but I must tell you, I enjoyed it very much anyway. Told through the eyes of Carl, his second son, the story of Charlemagne is brought to life in a vivid and personal way. The tale focuses mainly on the private lives of the great King and his family, mentioning most of the great battles and campaigns only in passing. It makes plain Charlemagne's love for his family, even though the demands of rule often forced him into difficult--and sometimes brutal--decisions. I particularly liked how the author was able to convey historical detail about the time period in an interesting way without being overly didactic. The book introduces the young reader to a variety of historical personages (like Alcuin and Pope Hadrian) and ancient peoples (like the Saxons and Avars). The book makes clear Charlemagne's attachment to learning and his devotion to the Catholic Church and the Papacy in particular. Personally, I would have preferred a little more action and detail on Charlemagne's military accomplishments, but I suppose that's a man thing. If you like historical novels with a Catholic flair like this one, I would also recommend *Belisarius: The First Shall Be Last*

I think "*Son of Charlemagne*" was very interesting. Before reading the book, I didn't think that well of Charlemagne, but after reading this book, my opinion changed. This book develops the life of Charlemagne through the eyes of his son, Carl. The plot was well developed, but on the negative side, the continuing change in area was confusing. The constant change from city to city was confusing, especially when I would go a few days without reading it. There was also many main characters, and so it was hard to remember who was who. I still enjoyed it, however, because it taught history, (which i don't particularly like), in a novel setting, so it was more fun to read. I have already recommended this book to someone else. And I would recommend it to you, too, if you would like to learn more about French medeivel history. Just be prepared for some confusion,

unless you can easily hold a bunch of information in your head!!!Haley Houchens (age 13)

My sons and I enjoyed this book. It is about Charlemagne, but written from the perspective of his eldest son, so it keeps their interest. This book sparked us looking into Charlemagne in more detail, from the history books, so it was great.

I really enjoyed reading Son of Charlemagne for history. I learned more facts about Charlemagne in this book than in a regular study on him. It is a great book to read in your spare time. This book is told by his son Carl's point of view.

Too bad 13 YO can't do reviews because this book is perfect for kids in the 5 & 6 grade. My first Charlemagne biography was by Harold Lamb, another excellent source of easy reading history of famous people. This book is a great way to introduce a young person to an important phase of post Roman history. It's not perfect and if you are a well read student of this era it's not going to expand your knowledge. However in an era when history writing for young people isn't getting their interest this book might just might help. Sadly Lamb's Charlemagne is hard to find because it was great for my growing interest in history of that era.

Read-a-loud for SonLight Curriculum. 3 more chapters to go! My 11yo is having a hard time listening to it and I'm having a hard time myself. The author has too much romance for a boy's taste, more action please. Since we're not history buffs, the naming of places, rivers, regions goes in one ear and out the other. It just feels too feminine to appreciate the greatness of Charlemagne's legacy. I recommend this for a girl that enjoys history.

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