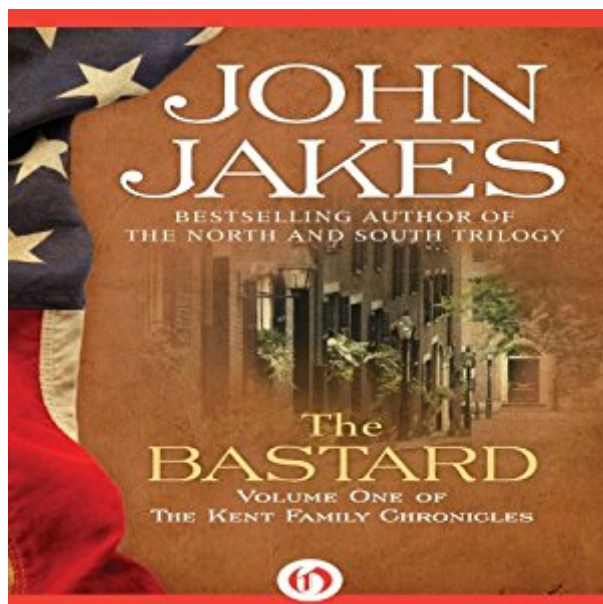


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The Bastard: The Kent Family Chronicles, Book 1



Synopsis

Set against the colorful tumult of events that gave rise to our fledgling nation, this novel of romance and adventure introduces Phillippe Charboneau. The illegitimate son of an English nobleman, Phillippe flees Europe and, as Philip Kent, joins the men who set our course for freedom. The Bastard is the first volume in the Kent Family Chronicles, a series of novels that details one family's journey in the early years of the American nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was so happy to see the Kent Family Chronicles (or better known as the Bicentennial Series in the 1970s) on Kindle. I absolutely loved this series and remember reading it when it first came out. I couldn't wait for the next book to be released. Now that my eyes aren't as good as they used to be I am not able to read the tiny words on the book. I haven't read the series since they first came out. I just saw them on Kindle and ordered the whole set. Now I will sit down and once again read about a family's journey growing with America.

Lots of books occupy this genre - the factional, or fictionalised fact, historical novel. But this series is one of the best. It is pointless to say that this is history romanticised beyond belief - Jakes has such a compelling, misleadingly simple, writing style that one is swept along in the story. There is enough historical verisimilitude around the central characters to make it feel as if one is watching history unfold. Completely and utterly readable. It is nice to read this book alongside a history book, and

look up the historical events as they play out in the story, to see how closely Jakes sticks with fact (very close indeed, by the way), but it is the fictional characters and the fictional storyline that gives the story its impetus. Highly, highly recommended.

Is always a blast. I have loved this series for years. I'm glad it has been put into Kindle format, because I remember carrying these books to school, to squeeze as much out of them in a day as possible. And so it is here. Just a wonderful series. If you missed them in 75-76 when they came out, read them now. If you read them then, read them again. For sure, they will help people remember what our country used to be, and how we've moved away.

The headline is not meant as a pejorative. One can read about history in its staid, very informative, prosaic style like that of a textbook or a scholarly thesis. Or you can read about history in a dramatized, serialized, overly romantic style of which many of our televised, dramatic programs give us like *TurN*, *Roots* or even *Shãfã |Ã Â•gÃfã |Ã Â«n*. Whichever style compels you to be want to be engaged with an epoch then read it. If it compels someone to want to know more about an era then I say that book or drama has done its part. This series brings to life all the books I read in high school and college regarding the revolutionary war. It gave a heartbeat to a time that sometimes felt like a a Frankenstein monster in its mundaneness. I've known about John Jakes Kent family chronicles for decades but never read them. I'm thrilled to have an exciting eight book (now seven) series to read

This is the second time around for the reading of *The Kent Family Chronicles*. My considerable library holds all the works of John Jakes. I only wish I had the entire set on CD's and audio books for when my eyesight or hearing fails me. This series not only entertains but provides the history of America's coming of age in such a way that the reader is so engrossed he does not even think about these books as history, but oh, how much he learns or so I have found it to be true. I have expounded the worth of Mr. Jake's writings to everyone I come in contact with that even lightly mentions reading to me. Even told John Grisham that he was a good second to John Jakes. He replied he was glad to be in the same company as Mr. Jakes. I hope someday to travel to Hilton Head to experience attending a summer theatre performance of a play and to meet Mr Jakes. As I am rapidly approaching the twilight years, I must make that trip soon!

Taking the reader from France to England to America, from November 1770 to April 19th 1775 and

the Battle of Concord leading up to the American Revolution. The novel was made into a wonderful 4 hour made for TV 4 hour movie of the same name. I read this as a new teenager, when it was first published in 1974, it was a prelude to the excitement generating for the nation's bi-centennial in 1976. I was utterly consumed with the story telling and eagerly awaited the sequel to what would become an 8 novel series (The Kent Family Chronicles or the American Bicentennial Series) stretching to Christmas in Boston Massachusetts 1890, 5 generations of the Kent family to Philippe's 48 year old great great grandson Gideon and his grown family. 17 year old Phillippe is living with his mother in France, she tells him his father is the 6th Duke of Kent and he was the result of a brief affair when she was an actress and the duke a callow youth. the Duke has now married with a 16 year old son however he has provided for Phillippe through the years. They leave for England to collect half the estate now that the duke is dying. I am amazed that I never questioned this catalyst, I can't imagine a commoner of the time would think the estate of a duke was attainable by an illegitimate son when a perfectly legitimate son was in place, but clearly I bought it hook line and sinker. The rest of the story is fabulous, mixing historic events and people with Phillip's day to day lifelike: >Marquis de Lafayette>Lord North, the British Prime Minister>Benjamin Franklin>Samuel Adams>Paul Revere I loved it.

This is a great series. I thought I would be disappointed with the "next" book when the current character's "age" out of the story, but I was so wrong. They just get better and better. I am on book 4 now and loving it.

If you love historical fiction and enjoy layers of characters painted throughout it, you'll love this first step into a great saga! One book flows into the next. Highly recommend this book and the entire seven more in The Kent Family Chronicles book series.

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