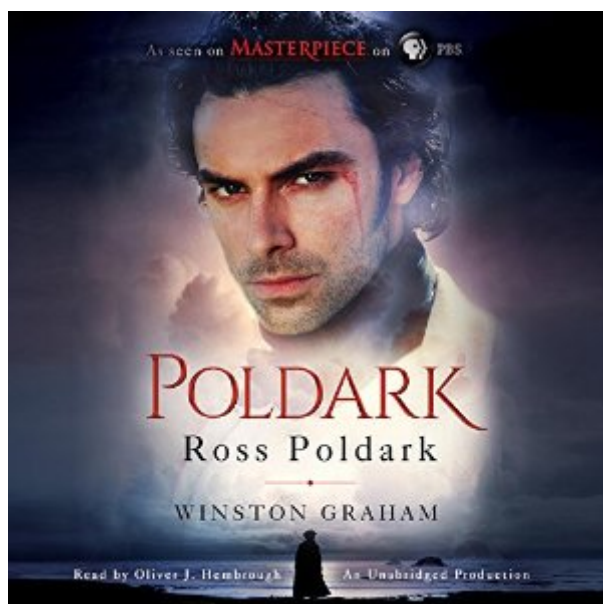


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# Ross Poldark: A Novel Of Cornwall, 1783-1787



## Synopsis

Ross Poldark is a heartwarming, gripping, and utterly entertaining saga that brings to life an unforgettable cast of characters and one of the greatest love stories of our age. Ross Poldark returns to Cornwall from war, looking forward to a joyful homecoming with his family and his beloved Elizabeth. But instead, he discovers that his father has died, his home is overrun by livestock and drunken servants, and Elizabeth, having believed Ross dead, is now engaged to his cousin. Ross must start over, building a completely new path for his life, one that takes him in exciting and unexpected directions.... Thus begins an intricately plotted story spanning loves, lives, and generations. The Poldark series is the masterwork of Winston Graham, who evoked the period and people like only he could, and created a world of rich and poor, loss and love, that listeners will not soon forget.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

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## Customer Reviews

I first encountered the Poldark story on PBS Masterpiece Theatre 25 years ago. This series is written over four decades by a master craftsman of history and character detail. Set in Cornwall just after the American Revolutionary War, it opens with the return of Ross Poldark to England after being wounded and thought dead in that war. He returns to find his father dead, his finances in disarray, his fiancée now engaged to his cousin, the Warleggans have taken over much of Cornwall, and his house full of livestock and drunken servants. Books 1-4 are found in the video series Poldark. Books 5-7 are covered in the video series Poldark 2. I did not know Graham had written additional books in this series until a search on turned up the others. Books 8-12 cover the children

of Ross and Demelza, and they are amazing. Most writers get into a rut and create the same novel over and over again. Winston Graham keeps finding fresh things to say and innovative things for his characters to do in these books. This picture of Cornwall at the turn of the 19th century rings true from beginning to end. The love, passion, struggles, and lives of this family are so engaging that I could read these books over and over again. The perils and joys of mining and seamanship, farming, religion, banking, courting, medicine, justice, war, all form a backdrop for the day-to-day details as this time and place come to life. These people love and hate and dispise each other, they forgive each other, and sometimes learn to live with each other. Through each book the cast is expanded with wonderful characters full of quirks and individual personalities. But the Poldarks remain: Ross and Demelza, his cousin Francis and Elizabeth; his arch-enemy George Warleggan and their children: Jeremy, Clowance, Bella, Geoffrey Charles, Valentine and Ursula. Each grows and develops, matures and becomes seasoned as the story moves through rebellion, lost love, marriage, business, sickness, death, war, success, and tragedy. The series books in order are: 1. Ross Poldark (1951, original title *The Renegade*) 2. Demelza (1953, original title *Elizabeth's Story*) 3. Jeremy Poldark (1954, original title *Venture Once More*) 4. Warleggan (1955, original title *The Last Gamble*) 5. *The Black Moon* (1973) 6. *The Four Swans* (1976) 7. *The Angry Tide* (1977) 8. *The Stranger from the Sea* (1981) 9. *The Miller's Dance* (1982) 10. *The Loving Cup* (1984) 11. *The Twisted Sword* (1990) 12. *Bella Poldark* (subtitled *The Final Poldark Novel*!) I hope that you will have the opportunity to enjoy them as much as I have.

I am glad to see the Poldark novels are back in print. I had to beg, borrow and seek out a complete set in used bookstores. I won't take time to give a plot synopsis or even much of a review, but let me say this: The Poldark series is the most powerful reading experience I have ever had. I read all 11 books (this was before the 12th came out) in just under two months. I did nothing but read, day and night. I am a "literary professional" and very demanding of high standards in the books I read; I don't read a lot of popular fiction. But I could not put these books down. I can't quantify or analyze or explain why the Poldarks are so magnificent. They just are. And everyone I have recommended the books to has had the same experience. They will take over your life. You will dream about these people and catch yourself thinking about them as if they were real. If you treasure such reading experiences, brace yourself and dive in. I envy anyone who gets to read the Poldarks for the first time.

Any copy of a Winston Graham novel is an adventure waiting to happen. The first novel in the

Poldark saga is a must read. My criticism is with this edition by Sourcebooks. It is full of typographical errors. One of the main characters has his name spelled wrong through most of the text and there is a significant error in one chapter where the sentences are mixed and the paragraph makes no sense. I read books with an intense pleasure in both the work of the author but also with a pleasure in the actual book itself. It is frustrating to be so distracted by the mistakes, all of which could have been found by a simple proofreading of the text. I will be writing to Sourcebooks to tell them of this since I actually like the edition otherwise. The publisher has used a good quality paper, a very readable font size and in general I like the Sourcebook editions of its reprints. They really need a better proofreader. In this case, go for the Pan published edition of the Poldark saga. With that said, do read all the Poldark books. I have loved this series since I first had a chance to know about it in 1975 (this book was written in the mid 1940's). If you loved the PBS/BBC series, you will enjoy the books even more. By the way, the new DVD set that is out is also wonderful. They have used the master tapes and the DVD's are of an excellent quality. Most impressive is the sound quality which is much improved. Read Ross Poldark and get hooked on this epic journey. You'll never regret the decision.

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