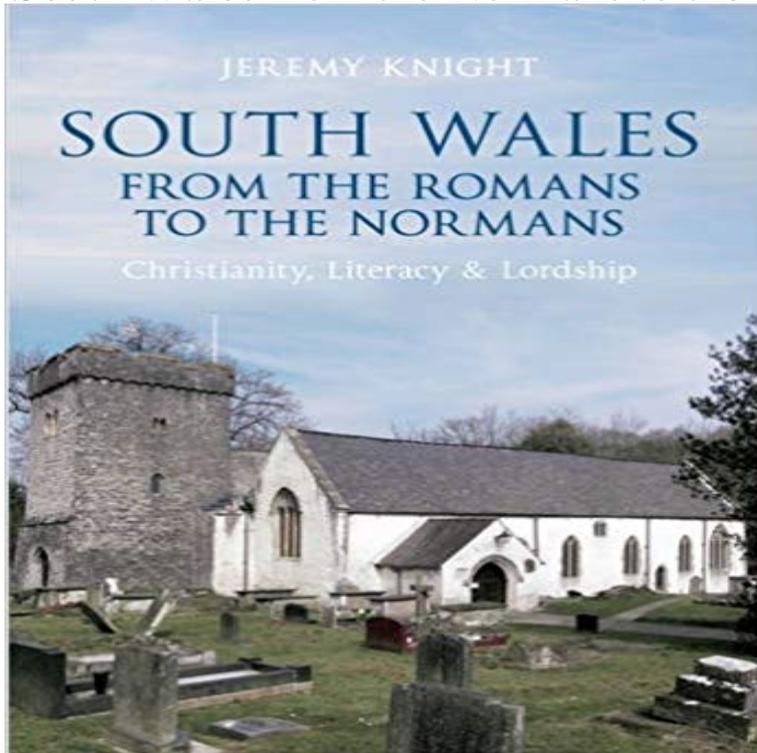# South Wales from the Normans to the Romans

Knight uses recent archaeological and historical work to examine the emergence of Christianity, literacy and lordship in south WalesIn the centuries after the end of Roman rule England and Wales emerged as literate and Christian peoples from the debris of the former Roman provinces. This book zooms in on one small area to trace the process from late Roman times to the advent of the full medieval period in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. South Wales is a particularly good area in which to examine this transition. It has the trappings of Romanization in the form of villas and towns but without subsequent English settlement. The story begins in the fortress of the Second Augustan Legion at Caerleon in 244 with the core of the legion making a ritual sacrifice. Over the next century and a half, the fortress fell into disuse. After Roman rule in Britain unraveled, new secular and ecclesiastical power structures began to form.South Wales from the Romans to the Normans examines these new structures using recent archaeological and historical work, including the cults and lives of founder-saints, patterns of pastoral care and Cambro-Norse influence. The Anglo-Norman conquest saw radical change in a time of climatic improvement, settlement expansion and new forms of religious life. This led to the medieval parochial and settlement pattern and in south Wales represented far more than mere military conquest.

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