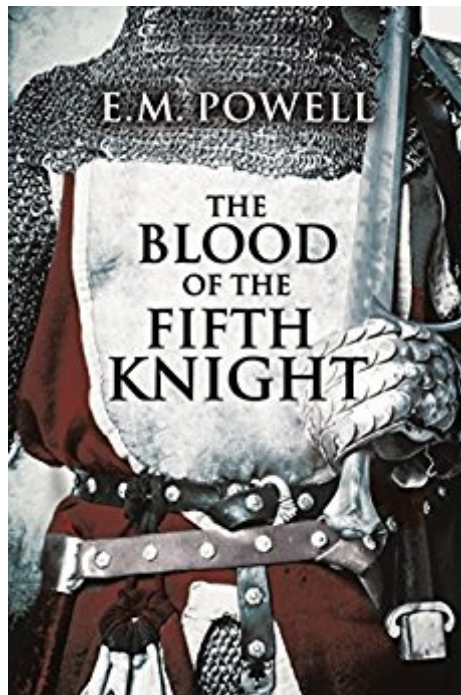




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The Blood Of The Fifth Knight (The Fifth Knight Series Book 2)



Synopsis

England, 1176. King Henry II has imprisoned his rebellious Queen for attempting to overthrow him. But with her conspirators still at large and a failed assassination attempt on his beautiful mistress, Rosamund Clifford, the King must take action to preserve his reign. Desperate, Henry turns to the only man he trusts: a man whose skills have saved him once before. Sir Benedict Palmer answers the call, mistakenly believing that his family will remain safe while he attends to his King. As Palmer races to secure the throne for the King, neither man senses the hand of a brilliant schemer, a mystery figure loyal to Henry's traitorous Queen who will stop at nothing to see the King defeated. The Blood of the Fifth Knight is an intricate medieval murder mystery and a worthy follow-on to E.M. Powell's acclaimed historical thriller The Fifth Knight.

Book Information

File Size: 2247 KB

Print Length: 369 pages

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer (January 1, 2015)

Publication Date: January 1, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00LAE5DN4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,376 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction #24 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers #27 in Kindle Store > Prime Reading > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery

Customer Reviews

The Blood of the Fifth Knight follows as the second in the series of novels about Sir Benedict Palmer and his wife Theodosia. He is a humble, loyal and valiant knight. She is the daughter of King Henry II, but she is not the offspring of his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine, but of Henry's secret

first marriage. The great motivator, the great secret task of Sir Benedict is to protect Theodosia from the allies of Eleanor, who wishes to eliminate all possible threats to one of her son's taking Henry's throne. The book begins with Sir Benedict being called away to duty by Henry, tasked with finding out who is trying to kill his current favorite mistress, and why. Meanwhile, at Benedict's humble home, his family is being threatened by a greedy Landlord who begins a search for a witch who is killing livestock. Benedict's investigations of the hidden assassin at court focuses on someone inside the Royal household. The search for the witch becomes narrowed down to Theodosia. The novels are historical mysteries merged with historical fiction. I have enjoyed both of them. The Blood of the Fifth Knight is action filled, with a plot driven by treachery. Both Sir Benedict's and Theodosia's lives are put in danger by a dynastic plot. Worse, they have no inkling of the depths the adversaries of the King will go to succeed. With a good sense of historical background and life in the dark ages, the author captures the reader's interest and holds it right up to the crackling finish (a bit of a hint, there). Recommended to those who enjoy good historical fiction blended with mystery. For those who might be tender-hearted: a bit of lustful adultery and "Dallying". Also a rather tense time for Sir Benedict under interrogation, medieval-style.

This has been the best medieval murder mystery I have read in a long time! I recommend this novel. I have thoroughly enjoyed this story. It has been quite some time since I had not read such a medieval masterpiece full of crimes, mystery, intrigues, and judgements against witch hunts... All in all, a very well written and beautiful masterpiece. This is my review and personal trip to the court of Henry II in one of my favorite historical periods. Unfortunately, although I would love to write about all I read, I won't because I can't share with you the conclusion of this great adventure... I will only share a few interesting parts of the story, along with some of its key players, in the hope that you'll have as much fun as I did reading this story. The story unfolds in 1176 AD England, during the time in which King Henry II and his Queen Consort, Eleanor of Aquitaine occupied the English throne. The plot of this novel begins four years after the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket, when King Henry II does penance on the streets of Canterbury, because he was a key suspect in the archbishop's death. While the king does his penance, Queen Eleanor takes advantage of the situation and plots with her uncle, Raoul de Faye, to dethrone the king. Even though the king later found out about the plot and locked his queen in a castle, Queen Eleanor continued plotting against her king while in confinement. Unfortunately for the king, Henry II was surrounded by people whom he could not fully know if they were trustworthy or not. He also had

a lover, Rosamund Clifford, whom the queen and her uncle wanted to "eliminate". Realizing that his lover was in danger, the king immediately summonses his most faithful and loyal knight, Sir Benedict Palmer, to protect and serve as a covert bodyguard to Rosamund. Without Rosemund's knowledge, he then asks Sir Benedict to act as just another courtier and to satisfy Rosamund's desire for the construction of a labyrinth she wants for herself. Aside from Rosamund's care, the king also has Geoffrey's, (who happens to be the king's illegitimate son) as well as Hugo's, who is one of the king's aids. The reason for the king's protection of all these characters is because he must leave court and travel to another location. When Sir Benedict Palmer receives the King's summons, he worries because he won't be able to take his wife Theodosia, who also happens to be an illegitimate daughter to Henry II. Theodosia and Sir Benedict have two children, a boy and a girl. A day before Sir Benedict's departure to court, one of his sisters (Joan) appears in town under very strange circumstances. Apparently, Sir Benedict had not met his sister before, because he had left his parents' house when she was every young. Nonetheless, Joan was very well received by her brother. He could now travel to King Henry II's court without worries because his wife and children would be in the company of his newly met sister. During Sir Benedict's absence, strange things linked to witchcraft begin to take place in the town he left behind; but as soon as Sir Benedict reaches the king's court, Henry II explains everything to him and gives him specific instructions to follow. And so it is that this story unfolds, in a rare and unusual way, where we'll see all kinds of characters, twists and turns appear and take place unexpectedly. What is going to happen to Rosamund Clifford? Who are the key characters behind the plots against Rosamund? Will Sir Benedict, alongside Geoffrey and Hugo, be able to protect Rosamund from the claws of death? What turns will this story take with King Henry II, Sir Benedict, Geoffrey, Hugo, the queen and her uncle? What fate is awaiting Theodosia and her children, with that strange sister-in-law, when she finally realizes that something bad is taking shape? I'll invite all of you who enjoy medieval mystery, assassination and witch hunt plots in this beautifully written story... It will have a totally unexpected ending!!! BRAVO, EM Powel !!!

This book is now one of my all-time favorites. Hard to put down. Did not want to leave the characters. Wanted the story to go on forever.

I loved this book! The intrigue surrounding Sir Benedict Palmer and Theodosia is an engrossing blend of suspense, romance, and history. This book continues the love story between Benedict and Theodosia, who came together in *The Fifth Knight*. The characters and their connection to an actual

event in history--the murder of Thomas Becket--grab you from the beginning. It's not necessary to have read *The Fifth Knight* first, but you should because that book is such a literary treat. The writing and story line in *The Blood of the Fifth Knight* is a seamless narrative that masterfully shows the personalities of each of the characters--so that you feel you know them, for good or for bad--and also the events that bind one character to the other. All done with page-turning action. One of my favorite characters was Geoffrey, the bastard son of King Henry whom he makes the Bishop of Lincoln. Geoffrey should have his own book because he's so multi-dimensional: imposing, stalwart, loyal, ruthless. His interactions with Benedict--often hair-raising--are among my favorite scenes in the book. You should start reading today; you won't be disappointed!

So few books have captured my interest in the past few years, but *The Blood of the Fifth Knight* certainly did. Intriguing characters, devious plots, and I learned some history points I hadn't known before. I enjoy Powell's writing style and found that for the first time in a long time, I was glued to my chair, flipping pages while the rest of the world got put on hold. I read the first book, *The Fifth Knight* and recommend that too, but a reader could pick this installment up without having read the first and they wouldn't be lost. I'm looking forward to reading more from this talented author.

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