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Queen Hereafter: A Novel Of Margaret Of Scotland



Synopsis

Refugee. Queen. Saint. Based on the lives of Saint Margaret of Scotland and her husband, King Malcolm III, in eleventh-century Scotland, a young woman strives to fulfill her destiny despite the risks...
Shipwrecked on the Scottish coast, a young Saxon princess and her family—including the outlawed Edgar of England—ask sanctuary of the warrior-king Malcolm Canmore, who shrewdly sees the political advantage. He promises to aid Edgar and the Saxon cause in return for the hand of Edgar's sister, Margaret, in marriage. A foreign queen in a strange land, Margaret adapts to life among the barbarian Scots, bears princes, and shapes the fierce warrior Malcolm into a sophisticated ruler. Yet even as the king and queen build a passionate and tempestuous partnership, the Scots distrust her. When her husband brings Eva, a Celtic bard, to court as a hostage for the good behavior of the formidable Lady Macbeth, Margaret expects trouble. Instead, an unlikely friendship grows between the queen and her bard, though one has a wild Celtic nature and the other follows the demanding path of obligation. Torn between old and new loyalties, Eva is bound by a vow to betray the king and his Saxon queen. Soon imprisoned and charged with witchcraft and treason, Eva learns that Queen Margaret—counseled by the furious king and his powerful priests—will decide her fate and that of her kinswoman Lady Macbeth. But can the proud queen forgive such deep treachery? Impeccably researched, a dramatic page-turner, *Queen Hereafter* is an unforgettable story of shifting alliances and the tension between fear and trust as a young woman finds her way in a dangerous world.

Book Information

File Size: 6177 KB

Print Length: 354 pages

Publisher: Broadway Books; Reprint edition (December 7, 2010)

Publication Date: December 7, 2010

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003E8AJ9M

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #79,808 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #78

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this historical novel about Queen Margaret of Scotland. It was based on an era in the British Isles history that was full of conflict . The story , although it had its fictional characters, gave a strong feel of the people of its time , and of the political factions of the day . Anyone who enjoys early British Isles history would probably enjoy this. Well written.

My son bought it and is loving it. He has been working on the family's tree and on my family's side, he Margaret's and Malcolm's 43rd Great Grandson and through this book he his learning a lot about the family; both about Malcolm and Margaret and her family. He is at the part where they seem to be falling in love, where Margaret and Malcolm meet each other in the tower and she finds out he isn't what he seems, not the crude man when he is around his soldiers.

I knew nothing about Queen Margaret of Scotland, which is why I had selected this book. My biggest surprise was that her royal family came from Hungary. Ms. King's novel definitely filled me on the struggles between England, Scotland, Wales and the mistrust of each with the other. From the character Eva I learned about the life of a Welsh harpist and the place of music in a warrior's household. The descriptions of the daily lives of women in this household were details that brought home how constricted they were. Strong Margaret had a knack for working around that. She transformed an ill-kept, ill-run castle into a home for the ambitious King Malcolm. Her days were informed by her impressive regimen of prayer as she adjusted to married life although she felt suited to a cloistered life.

If you like history, this is interesting, but not a happy book. It's biographical, basically, but even the fictional characters don't get a happy ending. Slow moving and sort of sad.

This was a fictional account of the true story of Margaret who became Queen of the Scots. The book was well-researched and takes the reader through Margaret's life, her joys and troubles. It

walks us through a turbulent time in history and helps us to understand what life was back during that time. A great read and just whets the reader's appetite for more books by Ms. King, which I will definitely do.

I enjoy historical fiction so this was a nice introduction to Margaret of Scotland, about whom I knew little. After a really good start to what I thought would be a book I loved, it got bogged down too much in the historical detail and not enough in the understanding of Margaret. The author chose a narrator to tell the story of Margaret from a third person perspective. I think a better approach would have been to examine Margaret from her own perspective - an extremely devout woman who had no real choice in her marriage or future and yet managed to become one of the more successful medieval women of her time.

Loved this book! I am getting into the history of Scotland and I enjoyed this writers style. The book appears to be quite well researched.

This is my second book by Susan Fraser King and I will eagerly seek out more. King has the skill of taking impeccable research and creating a story that makes the characters come alive. I suppose it doesn't hurt that I read this book after returning from Scotland and seeing St. Margaret's Chapel at the Edinburgh Castle - I was able to vividly envision the settings. But that being said, I think I would have lost patience quickly with a book that didn't ring true to the story or characters. Highly recommended if you like historical fiction!

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