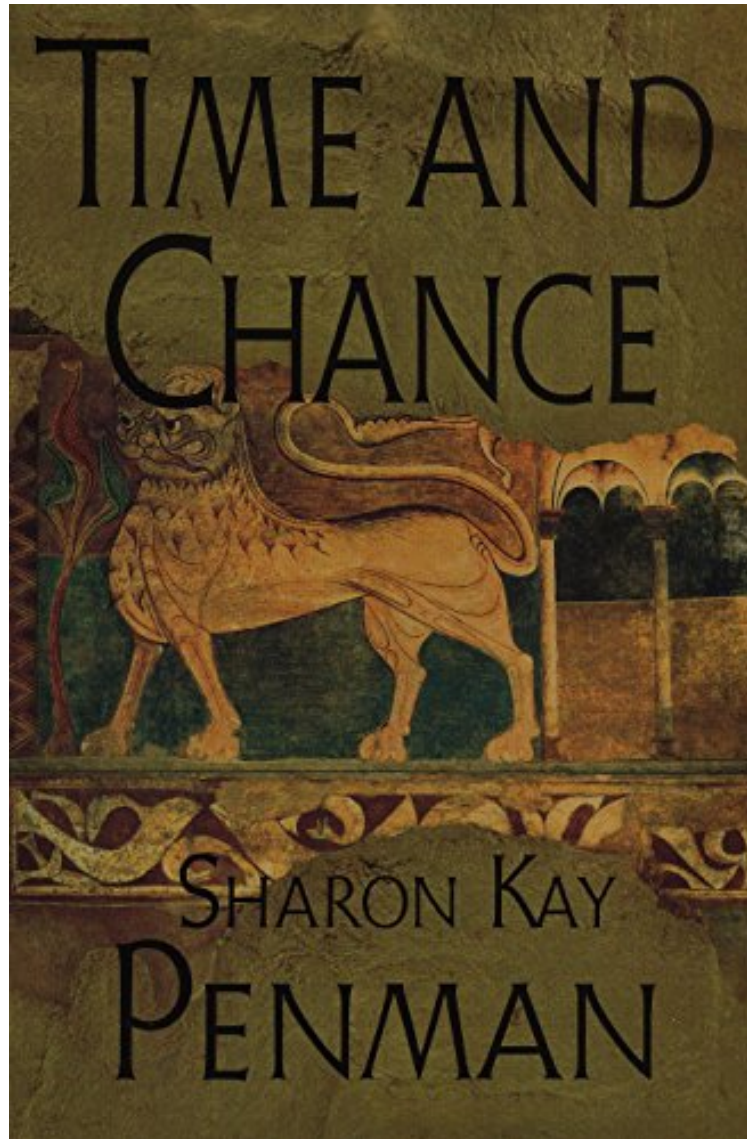


(Mobile ebook) Time and Chance (Plantagenets)

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Von Sharon Kay Penman

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Von Sharon Kay Penman : Time and Chance (Plantagenets) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Time and Chance (Plantagenets):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Marvelous - absolutely fascinating readingVon AmelrodeSharon K. Penman's reputation as one of the best modern writers of historic novels has ever since her bestselling book "The Sun in Splendour" increased only. On the cover of this book it is stated that a Penman novel is always a cause for celebration:I can only confirm that view after having

read "Time and Chance" and having enjoyed every minute of it. "Time and Chance" is the second part - the first part is "When Christ and all his Saints sleep" - of her trilogy on King Henry II and his Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. The reader will meet King and Queen at the height of their power, the most glamorous and powerful couple of the medieval world ever, ruling over an empire which covers England and half of France (Normandy, Anjou, Aquitaine and several other counties). The couple is united and their ever increasing family is proof of that. However, the seed for self-destruction there. Step by step especially Henry II. erodes the base on which his empire rests. The conflict with Thomas Becket, his friend and chancellor and then as Archbishop of Canterbury his arch-enemy is one of the decisive factors. Sharon K. Penman brings alive this conflict and shows at the very root of it is less the question whether Church or the Crown is supreme but the very personalities of the acting persons. It is quite amazing how she manages to enlighten the reader on this. The second main stream is of course Henry and Eleanor and the consequences of his famous affair with Rosamund Clifford. The description of the confrontation between king and queen on this subject is powerful. It is mere pleasure to read this. Sharon K. Penman understands to create real personalities, one can follow their destinies and feels oneself the emotions of the "heros". In a third main streak S. Penman takes up her Welsh trilogy and follows the destiny of the Welsh kingdom which is of course intertwined with the main story. The words most used will be words as son, daughter, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, son/daughter-in-law etc. as this is all played out in the family. Quite amazing!! The 470 pages of the paperback edition might seem to some a daunting prospect but I can assure you that you just will zip through. All in all: an absolute fantastic read. I am waiting with eager anticipation for the third part of the trilogy.

2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hervorragend recherchiert und detailreich

Von nigma

Dieser zweite Band von Sharon Penmans Trilogie um Henry II und Eleonore von Aquitanien deckt die Jahre 1156 bis 1171 ab. Im Zentrum des Romans stehen gleich drei miteinander verwobene Handlungsstränge: 1. Die Ehe und Familie des Knigspaares. Zwischen 1156 und 1167 bekam das Knigspaar fünf Söhne und drei Töchter, die bis auf den ältesten Sohn alle ihre Kindheit erlebten. Das Buch beschreibt die zunächst sehr harmonische Ehe und die gelungene Zusammenarbeit der Eheleute auch während der häufigen räumlichen Trennungen. Die Affäre des Knigs mit der berühmten Rosamund Clifford leitet den Prozess der Entfremdung ein, Eleonore kann aber bedeutungslos hinwegsehen, nicht aber über eine öffentliche Affäre, die den ihr vom Ehemann geschuldeten Respekt vermissen lässt und ihre Ehre verletzt. 2. Das Verhältnis zwischen Henry II und Thomas Becket. Ursprünglich waren die beiden Herren gut befreundet und Becket war dem Knig ein hilfreicher Lordkanzler. Seit Beckets Ernennung zum Erzbischof von Canterbury ging es mit der Freundschaft allerdings rapide abwärts, da Becket sich nun in erster Linie den Interessen der Kirche und des Papstes verpflichtet fühlte und den weltlichen Interessen Henrys entgegenhandelte. Es gab kaum eine Frage, über die nicht erbittert gestritten wurde. Schließlich gipfelte der Konflikt in der Ermordung Thomas Beckets, an der Henry zumindest indirekt die Schuld traf, auch wenn er den Mord nicht in Auftrag gegeben hatte. 3. Die Geschichte Wales'. Der Leser erlebt die vergeblichen Versuche der Engländer, Wales unter ihre Oberhoheit zu bringen und schließlich auch die chaotischen Zustände in Wales, nachdem der vom verstorbenen walisischen Knig Owain ap Gruffydd designierte Nachfolger von seinen Halbbrüdern umgebracht wurde.

Meine Meinung

Auch dieser Roman ist wieder hervorragend recherchiert und erweckt die längst Verstorbenen nach acht Jahrhunderten gekannt zum Leben. Wie schon im ersten Band (Thronkrieg zwischen Matilda und Stephen) wird auch der Konflikt zwischen Henry und Thomas Becket so dargestellt, dass man als Leser kein schnelles Urteil abgeben kann, sondern beide Kontrahenten bis zu einem gewissen Grade verstehen kann. Die einzelnen Streitfälle hätten etwas geraffter präsentiert werden können, manchmal war die Handlung für den Nicht-Historiker ein wenig zu detailliert. "Time and chance" ist nicht ins Deutsche übersetzt worden, für Leser mit (sehr) guten Englischkenntnissen und Interesse an der englischen Geschichte des 12. Jahrhunderts möchte ich trotzdem eine Empfehlung aussprechen.

Kurzbeschreibung

The long-awaited sequel to Sharon Kay Penman's acclaimed novel *When Christ and His Saints Slept*, *Time and Chance* recounts the tempestuous marriage of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Henry II in a magnificent story of love, power, ambition-and betrayal. He was nineteen when they married, she eleven years his senior, newly divorced from the King of France. She was beautiful, headstrong, intelligent, and rich. It was said he was Fortune's favorite, but he said a man makes his own luck. Within two years, Henry had made his, winning the throne of England and exercising extraordinary statecraft skills to control his unruly barons, expand his own powers, and restore peace to a land long torn by banditry and bloodshed. Only in one instance did Henry err: Elevating his good friend and confidant Thomas Becket to be Archbishop of Canterbury, he thought to gain control over the Church itself. But the once worldly Becket suddenly discovered God, and their alliance withered in the heat of his newfound zeal. What Becket saw as a holy mission-to protect the Church against State encroachments-Henry saw as arrant betrayal, and they were launched inevitably on the road to murder. Rich in character and color, true to the historical details, sensitive to the complex emotions of these men and women, *Time and Chance* recreates their story with all the drama, pain, and passion of the moment. It is Penman at her best.

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The *Sunne in Splendour* confirmed Sharon Penman's place in the upper echelons of historical novelists, combining a breathtaking panoply of the past with an acute psychological

observation of her characters. *Time and Chance* is the second part of her trilogy about Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, beginning in the glory years of their reign. Penman conjures for us an astonishing era in which Henry battles with the Welsh and the French king, appoints Thomas Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury and, by taking a mistress, makes a bitter enemy of his wife. Novelists are all too conscious of the pitfalls of the second book in a trilogy--traditionally, the weakest before the rallying of the final volume. Penman deals with this problem with panache. We knew from her earlier work the scalpel-like precision of her character building, but the emotional lives of Henry and the troubled Eleanor are powerfully realised. As in the first book of the sequence, *When Christ and his Saints Slept*, conflict is ever the driving force. Henry and Eleanor's remarkable partnership was proving highly fecund, both politically (as Henry created a new image of medieval kingship), and physically, as Eleanor gave birth to five sons and three daughters, laying to rest her reputation as a barren queen and founding a dynasty that was to last three centuries. But auguries of trouble ahead were apparent: war with the Welsh; acrimonious battles with Eleanor's first husband, the French King. But the truly destabilising factor was Henry's decision to appoint his friend and confidant Thomas Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry had assumed that the worldly, ambitious Becket would be the perfect ally, and was devastated when the new archbishop cast off his own worldly past as he embraced his role as Defender of the Faith, swapping dissolution for piety. As Penman vividly demonstrates, Henry saw Becket's action as a humiliating betrayal. One of the most famous murders in history ensued, with further conflict in the kingdom caused by a liaison with the daughter of a baron. In bedding Rosamund Clifford, Henry put his marriage and even his kingship at risk. As always Penman wears her research lightly: the personal drama is the engine of her narrative, with each fresh scandal and intrigue delivered with a beguiling combination of relish and restraint. She is assured in her detailing of the political and ecclesiastical clashes of the court, but it is Henry II who strides her novel like a colossus--just as he did the kingdom he ruled. --Barry Forshaw.co.uk

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