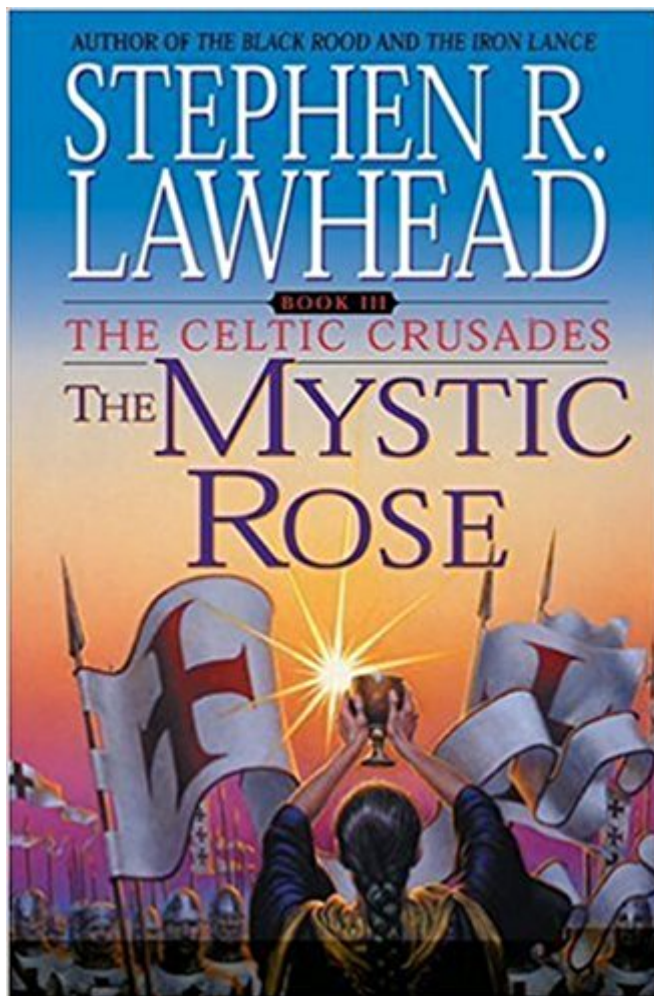


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The Mystic Rose



Synopsis

“LAWHEAD KNOWS HOW TO SPIN A TALE.”
•Booklist
A story rich in history and imagination, here is the final volume in Stephen R. Lawhead’s magnificent saga of a Scottish noble family and its divine quest during the age of the Great Crusades. A thousand years after its disappearance, the Mystic Rose—the fabled Chalice of the Last Supper—has been found, and the warrior monks of the Knights Templar, led by the ruthless and corrupt Renaud de Bracineaux, will stop at nothing to possess it. One brave, dauntless, noblewoman stands in their way . . . Born among the hills of Scotland, and raised on the Crusader tales of her grandfather, Murdo, and her father, Duncan, young Cait is determined to claim the Holy Cup for her own. Guided by a handful of clues gleaned from a stolen letter, Cait and a small band of knights follow a treacherous trail that leads from the shadowed halls of Saint Sophia into the heart of Moorish Spain and a world long unseen by Christian eyes. A journey whose end means victory . . . or death.
“THOSE LUSTING FOR THE TRUE PATH WILL EAT IT UP.”
•Kirkus Reviews

Book Information

Series: The Celtic Crusades (Book 3)

Hardcover: 422 pages

Publisher: Zondervan; 1st edition (October 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061050318

ISBN-13: 978-0061050312

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #267,127 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Science Fiction & Fantasy #566 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Historical #1876 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Lawhead, a prolific writer of historical novels, ably captures the colorful swirl of Crusader-era Byzantium and Spain in this final installment in his latest trilogy (The Iron Lance; The Black Rood). In Constantinople on a trip to the Holy Land, where her Scottish family has battled Saracen invaders

for two generations, Celtic beauty Cairn Ájona is desolate when her father is stabbed to death in the crowded cathedral of Ayia Sophia by unscrupulous Templar Renaud de Bracineaux. Eager to seek revenge, Cait steals a letter from Renaud disclosing the whereabouts of the Holy Grail, called the Mystic Rose, and sets off in her father's ship for Spain, with the Templars in hot pursuit. Romanced on the Iberian peninsula by a handsome Moorish prince, a Valentino clone lacking only a desert and a blue lens filter, Cait finds the Grail and defeats the Templars with the help of her faithful Norse sailors and the prince's men. Otherwise conventional, this historical potboiler takes an unexpected turn at its conclusion, when Cait sips "a darkly gleaming crimson liquid" from the Grail and has a vision of a da Vinci-like "Passover Feast." Blessed in the vision by a young man named Yeshua, she emerges bearing stigmata and is charged with making a distinct career change. The action drags in places, and an unnecessary early 20th-century subplot is wrapped up after the climax, but Lawhead's robust characterizations and vivid descriptions of exotic locales should satisfy fans. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

After her father's murder in Jerusalem by the Templar knight Renaud de Bracineaux, Lady Cairiona vows to avenge his death but finds herself drawn instead into a perilous journey in search of a holy treasure known as the Mystic Rose. Christian fantasist Lawhead concludes his trilogy of faith and heroism with a tale of a determined young woman whose love for her father leads her to a higher calling. Together with the other books in the series (*The Iron Lance*, *The Black Road*), this historical fantasy is recommended for most collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Absolutely anything by Stephen Lawhead is sure to amaze and inspire. I can't separate this book from any of the others but will say hand's down, he has been saving my life during a very difficult time currently in my life whereby reading is about all I can manage and I am soooo grateful I've found his books. His deep connection and understanding of Spirit threads throughout his books in a form that is not anything like stuff we all hate about Christianity, but all the stuff we want to get closer to. The Loving Light, the Great Good Presence. The Swift Sure Hand. Ancient Celtic Christianity before Rome got it's grubby hands on it. Bringing me closer to trust and faith in a time when I truly need it. I cannot speak highly enough about ALL of his books, so hence, my review is FRIGGIN' ABSOLUTAMUNDO for all of them!!!! Put another way, if you like Tolkien, you'll like Lawhead.

Love the story, characters. Encourages me as a Christian that there is always a faithful remnant.

God will always work His Will and Way!

Great story with very good character development. Fast paced with many twists and turns.

Love Historical Fiction and this is well written and very historically correct. It's a bit gory and so were the Crusades but I got enough of it early in the first book. It amazes me that people blame Christians for the crusades. They are so far from what Christ died for and I guess anyone can go behind a sign and say it is in a name but the Crusaders were Not Christians as they walked about slaughtering people and the so called priests were a farce who did not love people but only themselves and their power. Very interesting.

Amazing series on the crusades era and the dangerous world we lived in then and a story of adventure and faith by a master story teller with real facts and imagery from a world beyond belief in todays journeys. A masterpiece of research and writing.

It pains me, as a Christian, to say this, but everything Stephen R. Lawhead has written under a secular press (Harper) is phenomenal -- but when he writes for a Christian publisher, his books are dumbed down, to the shame of the Church. Fortunately, this, the third of the Celtic Crusade trilogy, isn't from a Christian publisher -- and it's phenomenal. Read this. Read all of his stuff.

I enjoyed the book. Completed the trilogy.

Lawhead just did not write a great female character for his 3 book. It is a good character, but I have a feeling it was rushed. This series could have finished very strong, but it really went out with a wimper. Still I liked it for how well the Meta plot (that links book 1 2 and 3 together) ended. Still no regrets on reading it. 3 stars for the book itself, 4 stars for it as the end to the series. (rounded up from 3.5)

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