



The Lady Agnès Mystery - Volume 1: The Season of the Beast and The Breath of the Rose

Andrea H. Japp , Lorenza García (Translation)

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1304: The Church and the French Crown are locked in a power struggle.

In Normandy, monks on a secret mission are murdered.

Young noblewoman Agnès de Souarcy fights to retain her independence but must face the Inquisition, unaware that she is the focus of an ancient quest.

The Lady Agnès Mystery - Volume 1: The Season of the Beast and The Breath of the Rose Details

Date : Published July 13th 2015 by Gallic Books

ISBN : 9781910477168

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Format : Paperback 600 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Mystery, Cultural, France, Medieval

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From Reader Review The Lady Agnès Mystery - Volume 1: The Season of the Beast and The Breath of the Rose for online ebook

Ann says

I stumbled on this book at our local library and am glad I did. Originally written in French by an author who is also a toxicologist, this well-written novel takes place in 1304 in medieval France and involves Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller (who interest me), the Inquisition, and is an engrossing, intrigue-rich thriller. I look forward to reading Volume 2. FYI besides authoring novels herself, the author Andrea Japp is the French translator of Patricia Cornwell's novels.

FrumpBurger says

2.7 starts. A large, complex, sometimes convoluted medieval mystery novel. It's hard to follow at times, has too many footnotes (some of which are missing) & has some exceedingly awkward phrasing (or awkward translation?). Still, entertaining and I would like to know what becomes of Agnes in further novels.

Jessica Bronder says

It is 1304 and Lady Agnes de Souarcy has lost her husband. She is trying to retain her independence in a world that doesn't believe a woman has that ability. It doesn't help that her half-brother may take everything she owns away from her. Then a body is discovered on her property and Agnes now must prove her innocence while facing the Inquisition. Unfortunately just being single and facing murder are not the only reason the Inquisition is after Agnes. There is a prophecy about her. Now she has to do everything in her power to survive the Inquisition to be able to fulfill a destiny she knows nothing about.

During a sensitive time in history, Agnes has lost her husband but she is determined to be independent and not let her half-brother take everything from her. But a strong, independent woman is not a normal occurrence, especially one with a prophecy about her. So the Inquisition steps up and tries to break her.

I loved how no matter what Agnes keeps fighting. The Inquisition is so horrible with the torture and trying everything to make her give up but no matter what Agnes keeps fighting. There is a lot of research done into the time period which sucked me right into the story. Andrea Japp is also a forensic scientist and you can see that woven into the story.

I did feel that the story took a while to get going but it was a good story. Although the mystery is not really solved it does lead into volume 2. I am very curious to see what happens in the next book regarding who the killer is and what how the prophecy is going to be fulfilled.

I received The Lady Agnes Mystery Volume 1 for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Lauralee says

When Lady Agnes's husband dies, Agnes knows that her half-brother may take away her dower leaving her with nothing. Agnes fights to keep her manor and her lands. However, when a corpse is found on her property the signs point to Agnes as the murderer. Soon she finds herself amidst the French Inquisition. During her trial, she finds out that there is a prophecy that involves her. She is the key player in the power struggle over the fight between the French Crown and the Church. As her enemies try to get rid of her, Agnes must survive the Inquisition at all cost so she can fulfill her destiny.

Agnes is a very strong woman. She fights for her independence from her half-brother so she can keep her dowry. Throughout the Inquisition, she faces a lot of trials that make her a stronger woman. She does not bow down to her Inquisitors. Instead, she uses her intelligence and outsmarts them. Her intelligence and stubbornness infuriates her inquisitors because she is a thorn in their side. She was supposed to be broken and compliant, but instead she is not. She never breaks her will. She does face some sadness, but she never gives up hope or her will to survive.

Overall, this book is about a woman's determination and strength as she faces her obstacles. The message of the book is that there is hope. I did find the story to be slow-paced for it was not until halfway through the book did it pick up. As for the mystery, it is still unsolved and it ends in a cliffhanger. Still, I found Agnes's trials during the French Inquisition to be fascinating enough to where I really did not care about the mystery. Her trial was raw, poignant, painful, and sad. When she survived, it was very triumphant. I am interested in reading the next book in the series. I would like to read more about Agnes's story and maybe the murder mystery will be resolved. I recommend this book to anyone interested in mysteries, historical fiction, and the French Inquisition.

(Note: I read an ARC copy of this novel in courtesy of Netgalley.)

Tracy Rogers says

Volume I of an absorbing medieval mystery that romped along at a pace. Set in 14th century France with elements of a grail quest, *The Name of the Rose*, *Labyrinth* and even *Cadfael*. Well researched and thoroughly enjoyable although the balance was a little dark in places. There is only so much poisoning, Inquisition and torture one can read before going to sleep at night and there were places when I put the book down where I felt as if I needed to immediately read something else more light-hearted before turning out the night light. To my taste I would have liked to find out more about the quest mysteries hidden within the magnificent Abbey library, the Knight's Hospitallers and the knowledge of the elderly medic and scholar Joseph that he passed on to his young bright pupil. I found the number of similar characters (such as the nuns and clerics) and the way they were introduced a bit clunky and confusing. Early on I felt I wouldn't be able to remember them all without making notes. Perhaps a list of characters at the beginning of the novel would have been helpful. I wasn't entirely convinced by some of the characterisation and felt several including Clement a little "odd". Perhaps they will become more convincing in the next volumes. Apart from this the plot was clever, the mystery tantalising and the pacing excellent. I will be moving straight on to the second volume.

Becky says

I picked this book up randomly from a library shelf because of my interest in historical fiction. I wasn't sure I would get through the book at the beginning but I was soon absorbed into the plot. Sometimes I was confused, sometimes lost in too much detail skimming torture details, but I was definitely hooked. I will be reading Volume 2.

Eileen Hall says

Whilst reading this book I couldn't help but compare the story to ones written by Agatha Christie. Both authors were trained in toxicology and both used that knowledge very well. This story is an exciting account of life in 13/14th century France during the time of plague. It is a very atmospheric tale of possible incest, torture, murder, family feuds etc. I read this story in one sitting and I look forward to reading more from Andrea Japp. This digital book was given to me by the publisher via Netgally in return for an honest unbiased review.

Suzanne says

Exceedingly compelling for such a very long book. I quite enjoyed the intertwined plot lines.

Emma says

VERDICT: Suspenseful saga set in France in the 14th century, at the time of the dreadful Inquisition. Rich in historical details and ripe with secrets powerful enough to kill or to die for.

my full review is here:

<http://wordsandpeace.com/2015/11/21/b...>

Angel Hatfield says

I just could not get into this book . It seemed to have several subplots and was slow reading as far as I am concerned. I couldn't force myself to get very far in the book it just didn't hold my interest. I received an ARC of this story for an honest review.
