



Emma of the Ardennes

Vittorio Pareto

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A.D. 869 to 870

Emma's future looked bright. King Charles the Bald was marrying her aunt and her father had become his chief advisor. There was even talk of a possible engagement between Emma and the king's grandson.

Then everything changed. While taking a walk on the grounds of the royal palace at Aachen, she overheard four men discussing the final details of a plot to overthrow the king and banish Emma's family from the empire. Moreover, this was no ordinary conspiracy. It involved the emperor himself, Pope Hadrian II, King Louis the German, and even Prince Carloman—King Charles's own son.

With less than a month remaining before the conspirators were planning to strike, what could a thirteen-year-old do? Without proof, who would believe her? And even if someone did, with the entire empire lined up against her family, what chance did they have?

Emma of the Ardennes tells the story of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, father against son, and brother against brother. It's a spellbinding tale of ambition, anarchy, and absolute power set against the sprawling medieval canvas of ninth century France.

Emma of the Ardennes Details

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Author : Vittorio Pareto

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From Reader Review Emma of the Ardennes for online ebook

Marie Kimmel says

Very interesting

A informative account of early medieval history. It was an account of history that little is known about. I enjoyed the format bringing to life the fictional story surrounding the actual events. Very easy to read ,and colorful characters ,a book worth reading. Not boring as some history accounts in books about this period of time.

Carlos says

Great fast paced adventure story. Nice work from a new author.

On the negative side, it has an awful lot of characters with strange names, which I found a bit confusing in the beginning. But this did became easier as I got further into the story.

The author's writing style is very visual and it he draws you in with period detail. It made me want to visit Vienne, Laon, and Aachen! I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

Renée Arielle says

This book was short and fast-paced so I absolutely flew through it. It had an engaging story, charming protagonists and I very much enjoyed the medieval setting. The author managed to make the time period come alive and give the reader a fair idea of what was going on, all while mainting the quick pace of the story.

It does still feel a little incomplete, but I'm sure that will be resolved with the upcoming sequel. Overall a very enjoyable read!

Jane says

Interesting YA novel on post-Charlemagne France. A quick read and lesson on that period, although much was fiction--the friendship of the 13-year old heroine, Emma, and William. The two discover a plot to overthrow the king and get rid of her family. The novella details their working together and foiling of the plot. A good window into that period. I liked the supplementary material.

Susan says

Old school swashbuckling adventure mixed with a political conspiracy

Enjoyable adventure romp, much like the adventure tales I read in my childhood, but sufficiently exciting and intriguing enough to satisfy an adult reader seeking a short tale of romance and danger.

Alister says

I finished it last night. The book was great. I enjoyed reading it. I was reading chapter ten on the on the commuter rail and almost missed my stop!

Emanuele says

It's a short book yet engaging. It's hard to put down and quite enjoyable. A solid work from a new writer. It starts with two kids stumbling into a conspiracy and keeps on building into a fast paced adventure story. The characters are interesting because they are neither good or evil – each behaves as they were doing what was best in their view. There is a lot of action, plots and charades, yet it is also a charming love story that builds up as the story evolves.

The historic period is quite interesting. It's during the end of the Carolingian period, when the descendants of Charlemagne fight among themselves for kingdoms while trying to contain Muslim pirates, Viking raiders and other invaders. From that turmoil, the core European states were created – France, Germany and Italy – but their foundation was unstable and bloody conflicts would continue to occur to the current day. Could it have been avoided if the empire had survived?

On the negative side, the book is too short and clearly needs a follow up. A lot happens but several mysteries remain unsolved and one feels there is more to come. I am looking forward to reading the sequel.

Fabiola Lopez says

First I love stories set in old times. So when I started this book I was immediately hooked. It's an adventurous story that all should read. The book is short but satisfying. It also includes a map which makes it another win for me. Overall it was a great book from a new writer and I'm glad I read it.

Phyllis says

Based on historical events in ninth century France, this is the story of Emma, who overhears a conspiracy of a plot to overthrow King Charles. Well written, fast paced and a quick read. Loved it!

