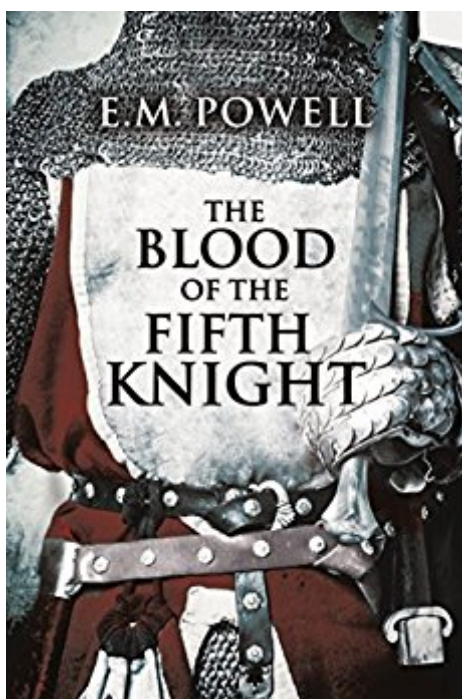


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The Blood Of The Fifth Knight (The Fifth Knight Series Book 2)



Synopsis

England, 1176. King Henry II has imprisoned his rebellious Queen for attempting to overthrow him. But with her conspirators still at large and a failed assassination attempt on his beautiful mistress, Rosamund Clifford, the King must take action to preserve his reign. Desperate, Henry turns to the only man he trusts: a man whose skills have saved him once before. Sir Benedict Palmer answers the call, mistakenly believing that his family will remain safe while he attends to his King. As Palmer races to secure the throne for the King, neither man senses the hand of a brilliant schemer, a mystery figure loyal to Henry's traitorous Queen who will stop at nothing to see the King defeated. *The Blood of the Fifth Knight* is an intricate medieval murder mystery and a worthy follow-on to E.M. Powell's acclaimed historical thriller *The Fifth Knight*.

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Customer Reviews

I received a free, advance copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my unbiased review. E.M. Powell's *"The Blood of the Fifth Knight"* is more than just a great book; it's an adrenaline rush. In this sequel to *"The Fifth Knight,"* we meet again the first book's heroes, Sir Benedict Palmer and Theodosia. The happy couple has begun a family and settled into a quiet farming life when

they, along with many others, venture to Canterbury to witness King Henry II's public penance for the murder of Thomas Becket. Palmer, Theodosia and King Henry are certain no one has figured out their potentially life-threatening secret (which is revealed in "The Fifth Knight"). But, it isn't long before an attempt is made on Henry's mistress' life, and he requests Palmer's help in guarding her and attempting to find out who tried to kill her. All the while, Theodosia discovers her little village isn't as inconspicuous and safe as she thought. She has her own battles to fight - and her children to protect - while Palmer is away on the King's mission. The result is a breathless ride full of twists, turns and surprises. I carried this book with me everywhere while I was reading it because if I had a spare minute in a check-out line or something, I had to know what was happening in this absorbing story. I also found myself staying up much, much later than usual to read because I couldn't put the book down. The book's setting is so realistic, it transports the reader to the 12th Century, where we can imagine and practically hear, feel and smell everything the characters experience. The characters also seem real. In fact, I miss spending time with the likable Theodosia and Palmer now that I have completed the book.

Henry II has grown to be a pathetic leader and family man! He was responsible for the murder of the beloved Thomas Becket. Now, Henry II must do public penance, or face the wrath of his kingdom for the dreadful act. Henry's marriage to Queen Eleanor has fallen to shreds. She hates him both for his infidelities as well as his reluctance to accept her sons as heirs to the throne of Britain. Eleanor, who wanted power, plots with her squire, Raoul de Faye, to overthrow Henry and his many mistresses. Meanwhile, one of Henry's most beloved and favorite mistresses is Rosamund Clifford. She is in great danger because of the underlining destructive plots against him. As a safeguard, he turns to his trusted knight and hero of the previous novel ("The Fifth Knight") Sir Benedict Palmer, to help him protect Rosamund and to discover who is at the base of the stormy threats around him. Benedict is now married to Theodosia, heroine of the previous novel, and they live quietly with their two children. But, with orders from the King, he must leave them as a loyal knight of Henry. The author, E.M. Powell, gives us two clever and simultaneous plotlines in this newest novel: while Palmer is off to solve a murder mystery, Theodosia, surrounded by superstition and the appearance of Benedict's sister, has many battles to fight as well: the biggest battle will be to protect her family. This is the second Benedict/Theodosia adventure from E.M. Powell. The first novel, "The Fifth Knight", released in serial form, introduced us to Sir Benedict Palmer and his rescued nun Theodosia, both survivors of the massacre of Saint Thomas Becket. Powell does not hold back reverence for Thomas Becket.

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