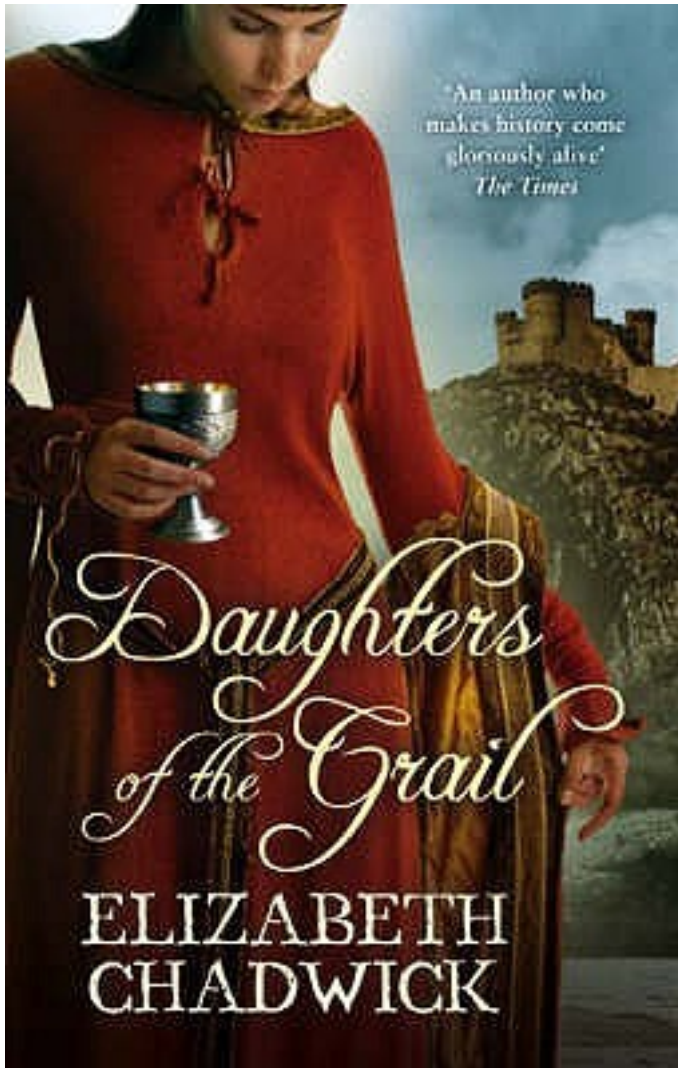

Elizabeth Chadwick

Daughters of the Grail



Title: Daughters of the Grail

Author: Elizabeth Chadwick

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Description

Thirteenth-century France. Bridget has grown up mastering the mystical gifts of her ancestor, Mary Magdalene, whose unbroken female lineage has kept a legacy of wisdom alive for a thousand years. But the all-powerful Catholic Church has sworn to destroy Bridget for using her healing talents and supernatural abilities.

Bridget's duty to continue the bloodline leads her into the arms of Raoul de Montvallant--a Catholic. But when the Church's savage religious intolerance causes Raoul to turn rebel, a terrible vengeance is exacted by Simon de Montfort, the unstoppable Catholic leader of a crusade against peaceful "heretics."

As war rages on, it is the children of these passionate souls, Magda and Dominic, who must strive to preserve the ancient knowledge for future generations, and find the love and courage to endure....

Insightful reviews

Lisa: An interesting change from some of the reoccurring themes in most of this author's books. A very tragic period that one is thankful for the freedoms of belief that we mostly take for granted, that still some in this world do not have.

Margaret: Elizabeth Chadwick é uma das minhas escritoras de eleição quando penso em ficção histórica medieval. Ela dá atenção aos pormenores, as cenas de batalha são muito realistas e os personagens são credíveis. No entanto, neste livro, ela enveredou pelo esoterismo e o resultado não foi tão excelente como é normal.

Para esta história, a autora foi buscar um episódio negro da Igreja Católica – a cruzada contra os cátaros no século XIII. Esta seita tinha uma maneira diferente de viver a religião, promovendo os valores originais do cristianismo, tais como a humildade e a caridade, em forte contradição contra a Igreja poderosa e licenciosa da altura. Os nobres do norte da França aceitam entrar na cruzada não por causa da fé, mas para se apoderarem das terras ricas do sul e, com um poderio militar superior, arrasam tudo à sua passagem, finalizando a devastação com a conquista da fortaleza cátara de Montségur.

O toque de misticismo nesta história é dado com a personagem Bridgit, uma curandeira poderosa que se diz descendente de Maria Madalena e que a Igreja também quer destruir. Depois da moda de Dan Brown, confesso que fiquei um pouco saturada das histórias de Maria Madalena e do Santo Graal. Na verdade, por incrível que pareça, todas as personagens femininas deste livro são pouco apelativas, demasiado místicas e esotéricas, sem garra ou paixão, mas movidas pelo “seu destino”.

Mas, tirando o mulherio, o livro tem muita ação, padres odiosos e guerreiros de barba rija. Um verdadeiro festim!

Sarah: I've never read anything about the Albigensian Crusade nor about Cathars before. I

mean, I've read mentions of them when reading medieval non-fiction, but it was only in passing and as footnotes. Yet, Elizabeth Chadwick brings it to bold and brilliant life in this book. I felt the peace the Cathars felt as they went willingly to their deaths, the never-ending fear of being forever hunted by a fanatical sector of the Roman Church, and the love that springs between individuals despite the horror of persecution. Chadwick's talent at world building and transporting her readers into the past shows itself again with wonderful skill.

Elizabeth Chadwick brings her characters to vivid life again, as well. I especially enjoyed Magda and her romance with Dominic. One of those fated loves are always a joy to read for me. Magda isn't afraid to stick up for what she wants in life, a man who will walk life with her and not only father a child on her. Raoul also was a character after my own heart. A man who devotes his life to his people and his family, trying to better their lives and protect them to the best of his ability given the harsh circumstances of a Crusade against them. I was not especially in love with Bridget, though. I found her very hard to connect with. She seemed almost too good to be true, too sure of her place in life and where that life is to go. There only seemed to be that one goal in life and almost no other direction for her character. Probably why I feel more connected to her daughter than her.

The use of fantastical elements like the Sight and hands on healing actually worked fairly well. I went into the novel expecting to have to grit my teeth and skim over those parts for the beauty of the historical setting that I knew would be there, given the author. However, I was pleasantly surprised. The use of these magic elements were woven into the narrative in a way that presented them as just another thread in the tapestry of the story. They weren't front and center; Magda and Bridget were pretty blasé about them actually. And while some of the other characters seemed a little *too blasé* at times (I mean, your girlfriend can heal with a touch and you just blink in a medieval setting?!?!), that part wasn't really that big a part. Things kept flowing on story wise and everything was woven into the overall plot nicely.

I vastly enjoyed this addition to my medieval historical fiction shelf. Elizabeth Chadwick does it again with talent and aplomb. And while some of the characters were a bit hard for me to connect with, everything else came together to create a fantastic story.

Rusty: it is attention-grabbing to determine how others see a ebook i actually enjoyed. For example, i discovered that the time period Cathars utilized in this novel used to be really coined later than the interval for which the ebook was once written. The time period Bon Hommes was once the 1st used to consult individuals with their humble beliefs. The Albigensian campaign pit a strength from northern France opposed to the gang and systematically wiped it out within the identify of the Catholic church. Of course, the church confiscated the lands and estate of the southern lords who sheltered the groups. it truly is 1207 while Bridget's mom dies from being tortured for her heresy, leaving Bridget a proceed the bloodline. Raoul de Montvallant is a newly wed younger southern lord, (Catholic), whose kin has lengthy safe those that reside of their area. Bridget and her daughter Magda who think that they're descended from Mary Magdelene, be aware of therapeutic those that want their talents. requested to campaign opposed to the Cathars by way of Simon de Montfort (the elder) Raoul consents first and foremost – as he sees it because the basically method to retain his land from the invading northerners. However, however the Inquisition's savage assaults reason Raoul to rebel. Bridget should have a toddler

to proceed her line power. She believes that Raoul is the suitable father and her daughter, Magda, is born. From that time it is Magda's survival that's important. even if such powers existed, I did get pleasure from how Chadwick introduced this medieval interval to existence together with the folks and their personalities, food, sights, sounds, smells, outfits and battles. Wow!

Carol: i actually desired to like this book. there have been many reliable studies and the tale line me. I ordered it in paperback since it isn't really electronic and waited a number of weeks to get it. yet I simply could not connect to this one. i used to be very attracted to the bloodline of the Virgin Mary and the background of the Templars as tale lines. might be it was once simply me, yet i couldn't attach those tale strains with the Cathars. Their tale will be fascinating also, I simply couldn't attach the two. i used to be careworn as to why the Bridgit and Magda will be dwelling one of the Cathars. In addition, the "daughters" have mystical powers of therapeutic and "the sight" which i did not imagine increase the tale line. the writer additionally paints the entire Catholics as evil and all of the non Catholics as good, even supposing historical past exhibits us there have been poor abuses by means of the Catholic Church, there should have been a few reliable humans within the church. i used to be hoping that there will be extra symbolism concerning the Grail within the book. Also, one of many minor characters spends his existence translating previous manuscripts (gospels) for Magda to take with her, they're alleged to be very important, yet little or no time is spent exploring them. i might have loved to grasp extra approximately them within the story. I felt like this was once simply one other romance dressed up as ancient fiction. I learn Elizabeth Chadwick's " a spot past Courage.". i presumed it was once approach better. i'm going to learn extra in that tale line.

Elsa: Esta autora conquistou-me com «O Nó do Amor», mas se ainda tivesse dúvidas acerca da sua qualidade, com esta obra elas ter-se-iam desvanecido por completo. Confesso que demorei algum pace a terminá-lo, mas julgo que tal se deveu mais a factores como cansaço e falta de pace do que ao desinteresse pela obra. Porque é um livro que exige pace e concentração. Inicialmente achei que os elementos simbólicos que vamos encontrando eram demasiado óbvios e que tornavam a obra mais pesada. Continuo a manter essa opinião, mas dou a mão à palmatória, percebendo que há situações em que servem na perfeição ao dramatismo do enredo. Aliás, o "peso" da escrita é absolutamente esmagador nas partes em que o frei Bernard aparece, com todo o seu fanatismo religioso, assim como em toda a afectação psicológica de Claire. O leitor é arrastado para dentro das suas cabeças e consegue sentir a loucura, o terror de cada um deles e isso para mim, enquanto leitora, é genial quando ainda me acontece. A história começa quando a protagonista, Bridget, ainda é uma jovem e vamos acompanhando a sua história de vida ao longo de mais de duas décadas. Mas desengane-se o leitor se pensa que o enredo se sentra exclusivamente nela. A trama gira à volta de diversos personagens - uns baseados em figuras históricas, outros pura ficção - e da perseguição feroz feita pela Igreja Católica aos Cátaros. Ao longo das páginas vamos percebendo que há uma teia de acontecimentos que se vai entrelaçando até chegar ao ponto vital do enredo. Curiosamente, após ter andado cerca de metade do livro a tentar perceber onde é que a autora me estava a levar, só quando lá cheguei é que percebi. E isso é muito bom, quando lemos uma coisa e ainda não sabemos tudo o que se vai passar. Só não lhe dou five estrelas porque, apesar de tudo, gostava de ter visto uma Bridget um pouco diferente, menos "discreta" e talvez mais interveniente. Mas aconselho a quem gosta de bons romances

históricos.

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