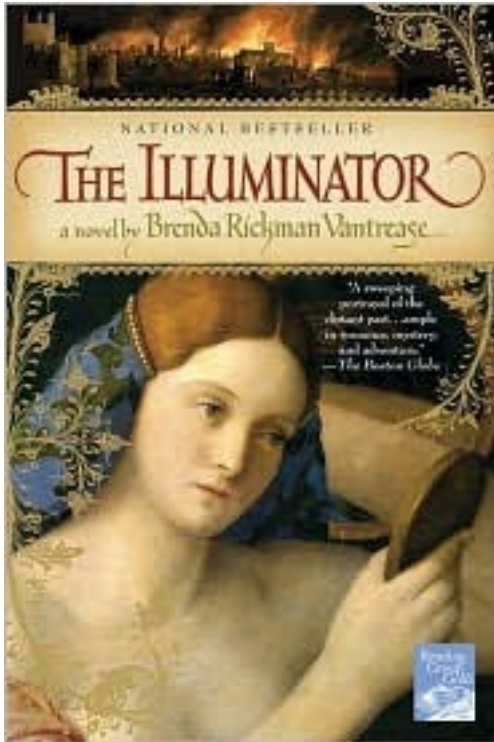

Brenda Rickman Vantrease

The Illuminator (The Illuminator #1)



Title: The Illuminator (The Illuminator #1)

Author: Brenda Rickman Vantrease

Format: Paperback

Language:

Pages: 406

Publisher: St. Martin's Press, 1135638000

ISBN: 0641802609

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.8 MB

Download: allowed

Description

"It is England, in the late fourteenth century, a time when the whim of a lord or the pleasure of a bishop can seal nearly anyone's fate. The printing press has yet to be invented. Books, written only in Latin or Norman French, are rare and costly, painstakingly lettered and illuminated with exquisite paintings - far beyond the reach of ordinary people." "But there are cracks in the old feudal order - and in the absolute power of the Church. Finn is a master illuminator who works not only for the Church but also, in secret, for the heretical Oxford cleric John Wycliffe. Under the nose of the powerful Abbot of Broomholm, Finn illuminates pages for Wycliffe - an English translation of the Bible, meant to bring the word of God to the masses. And Finn has another secret, one that will lead both himself and his beloved daughter into ever-increasing peril." Lady Kathryn, the mistress of Blackingham Manor, is a widow who finds herself caught between the King's taxes and the Church's tithes. To protect her sons' inheritance, she strikes a bargain with the abbot - Kathryn will take in the illuminator and his daughter and gain the monastery's protection. What begins as a hesitant friendship between Finn and Lady Kathryn grows into a passionate alliance that touches off a chain of betrayals, tragedies, and unexpected acts of heroism.

Insightful reviews

Katie Ann: Christians forget that the Bible was not available to the mass market for many many years. This novel tells about the start of the John Wycliffe movement that changed the face of Christianity forever.

Betty Strohecker: Set in late 14th century England, this first novel by Brenda Rickman Vantrease is a masterful telling of medieval society with its strict mores regarding cultural, political, and religious life. As a widow, Lady Kathryn must struggle to hold onto her land and provide a future for her children while following the dictates of church and king. She agrees to house widower Finn, a master illuminator, and his daughter as a favor to the local abbot while Finn illustrates manuscripts for the church. Secretly, Finn is copying a forbidden English translation of the Bible that would put all of their lives in danger if discovered. As Kathryn and Finn grow close, treachery, deceit, and betrayal threaten to destroy all they have hoped for.

This novel tells in graphic detail events of the time and keeps the reader wondering from the beginning to the end how it will turn out. Characters are bold, brave, and unforgettable as the reader becomes involved in their story. This was a wonderful book filled with plot twists and emotion.

Natalie: Odlična! Sve u jednom; povijest, ljubav, izdaja, problematična djeca :), dobar rasplet...Baš uživancija.

Maria Spatafora: an attractive examine the facility of the Church, the disparity among sessions and among males and women. Finn is an illuminator who decorates holy books for the church and illegally interprets the gospels into English. woman Kathryn is a noblewoman left susceptible after the dying of her husband. the 2 meet and even though they're from diversified

classes, they fall in love. a narrative of love, betrayal and intrigue. The e-book discusses the keep watch over of the church over its fans by way of proscribing their figuring out and information of church writings. It introduces the reader to John Wycliffe and the stream to translate bible writings into English in order that the typical guy might learn them with out an intermediary, a priest.

Bridget: relatively very likely the stupidest booklet I learn the entire method through. Oh wait, no, that used to be The Little Book. yet simply barely.

CatarinaG: assessment from ceruleana (Manhattan, NY) at amazon.uk:At the tip of the fourteenth century, England was once riddled with plagues, wars, uprisings, and political and spiritual strife. King Richard II, son of Edward the Black Prince, used to be topped in 1377, while he used to be simply ten years-old. His uncles, John of Gaunt, and Thomas of Glouster, vied for strength through the Protectorate, the younger King's minority. in the meantime all Christianity used to be anguish in the course of the nice Schism. Pope Boniface VIII and King Philip the reasonable of France heavily quarreled, to place it mildly, approximately Church tithing and taxation. Finally, Boniface declared the primacy of the Church over secular authorities, the prevalence of Popes over kings. eventually this ended in Popes, one in France and one in Rome. The Church, which had large energy in England, desired to gather extra wealth via tithing. The monarchy wanted to tax the Church's substantial property, and institute an extra ballot tax at the people. As always, the terrible have been penalized most. nearly a century before, in 1297, a mob of villagers and serfs burned out a bunch of Benedictine clergymen who withheld non secular services, together with the Eucharist, pending choices they can no longer afford. Now the peasants have been able to rebellion opposed to the newest tax licensed by means of John of Gaunt. In Oxford, English theologian and reformer John Wycliffe criticized the Church's abuses and fake teachings. because the novel begins, he's engaged on an English translation of the Bible - the 1st eu translation performed in over 1,000 years. because the printing press had now not been invented yet, in simple terms the rich had entry to the hand printed, superbly illuminated copies of the Bible. "The Word" used to be written in Latin, or in Norman French, and the poor, and most ladies of all classes, didn't examine languages nor may perhaps they read. Wycliffe, subsidized by way of John of Gaunt, believed that everybody must have entry to Holy Scripture - that God isn't really anything the clergy had a correct to maintain for his or her particular use. those ideals have been thought of heretic. because the author, Brenda Rickman Vantrease stresses, heresy used to be no longer the genuine factor right here - the purchase of strength and wealth were. This was once basically "a subject of alliances and appearances," and of mass political and religious oppression. Finn, a grasp illuminator, works for the Church, adorning hand-written pages of scripture with gloriously painted miniature works of art. he's shortly illuminating writings of the apostle John for the strong Abbott of Broomholm. Finn can also be secretly hired by means of Wycliffe, whom he doesn't charge, to demonstrate his English translation. one of many Broomholm Abbey's extra venal clergymen pressures girl Kathryn of Blackingham Manor to offer the artist and his daughter lodgings. She is frightened of the results if she doesn't agree. lately widowed, with dual fifteen year-old sons to support, in addition to her serfs and villagers, woman Kathryn has little cash left to offer to the Church, not to mention to feed and dress her family, and pay taxes and tithes. Fearing for her sons' inheritance, she makes a spot at her manor for Finn and his daughter. Her choice to take action will switch the process her life, and the lives of all who depend upon her. this can be a richly

textured novel, jam-packed with a mess of colourful images, sounds, smells, events, and human tales which painting the pageantry and the cruelty of English lifestyles within the center Ages. The narrative additionally houses in on one specific noble family, and their dependents, illustrating the workings of feudal lifestyles up shut and personal. Ms. Vantrease explores, via her narrative, the feudal approach with an emphasis at the roles of varied contributors of medieval society and their position within the social hierarchy. She additionally seems on the function of faith and that of the Church, in addition to man's greed for wealth and the purchase of private power. There also are fabulous descriptions of the illuminating process. "The Illuminator" is peopled with a resplendent solid of characters and their interactions with family, friends, lovers, servants, and enemies, are printed within the narrative. Obviously, there is Finn the Illuminator, and his attractive younger Rose; girl Katheryn; her dual sons Colin and Alfred; Half-Tom, a dwarf and a hero; Hugh Despenser, the greedy, corrupt Bishop of Norwich; Sir man de Montaigne, the Sheriff of Norwich, who's reason on marrying Katheryn for her land; Julian of Norwich, an anchoress full of love and compassion, who has committed her lifestyles to God and to bare Him to those that search her out; the evil overlord Simpson; John Ball a charismatic peasant priest who preaches for "ecclesiastical poverty and social equality" for clergy; and such a lot of others. the writer quite brings those participants to existence at the page, with all their foibles and complexities - she illuminates them.

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