



Magna Carta: King John and the Barons' War

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Magna Carta: King John and the Barons' War h a culley REVIEWS OF H A CULLEY'S PREVIOUS BOOKS

I'm not usually somebody who will read a book from cover to cover in one sitting but I couldn't put this one down.

Another solid, good read from H A Culley.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book from start to finish.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

After the disastrous defeat of his continental allies at the Battle of Bouvines and the loss of much of his Angevin Empire, King John faces revolt by his barons in England. Eventually he is forced to sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede but he immediately repudiates it and, supported by the Pope, starts a bitter armed struggle, known as the Baron's War.

Throughout this vicious conflict, during which half the country is pillaged and devastated, William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and the most famous knight of his time, keeps faith with his duplicitous and venal king, despite John's failure to reciprocate, and acts as mediator trying to bring the two sides together. His loyalty is sorely tested, especially after his daughter-in-law is murdered and his eldest son joins the rebels. The barons pledge their fealty to Prince Louis of France and seek to place him on the throne of England but the barons and Louis' French army soon fall out. After John's death William Marshal, now a man of seventy, becomes Regent and fights to secure the throne for the boy king, Henry III; finally defeating Prince Louis and the rebels at the Battle of Lincoln. Henry III then endorses the provisions of Magna Carta. The story is told through the eyes of two men – William Marshal himself and Simon FitzRanulf, the bastard son of the Earl of Chester, who comes to play a leading role in both the armed struggle and the political machinations that underlie it.



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