



## The Blood of The Fifth Knight

*E.M. Powell*

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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*.

## **The Blood of The Fifth Knight Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2015 by Thomas & Mercer

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Author : E.M. Powell

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## **From Reader Review The Blood of The Fifth Knight for online ebook**

### **Stephanie says**

First, I'd like to say that this stories setting and time is one of my favorites in English history. A year ago when The Fifth Knight came out, I was truly impressed with the book and the author's writing style, her grasp of England's medieval history and culture had me thoroughly engrossed. Not only that, her characters were wonderfully written, so intriguing and I was engrossed with the characters plights. What an adventure! Waiting a year for the next installment of this story was extremely taxing...in a good way. Is that possible?

I do love a good mystery thriller and a historical one to boot. The Blood of the Fifth Knight was to my expectations and more. I was so thrilled to be reading about Benedict and Theodosia again! They are two characters you will love and will always remember. Fantastic book cover. Atmospheric. True to culture. The historical details plunges you in England 1176 and you will not want to come back to your reality for a while! A must read.

Stephanie M. Hopkins  
Layered Pages

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### **Jasher Drake says**

E.M Powell is probably one of my favourite writers of all time. When reading her books, you don't feel like you are just reading about the story, you feel like you're part of the story. When reading The Blood of the Fifth Knight, I felt part of the world, I could see everything that was happening, could hear everything that was said and sometimes could even smell or taste what the characters were experiencing. The Blood of the Fifth Knight is a non-stop, action packed, adrenaline-filled thrill ride that I found oh so very hard to put down. It had a little bit of everything action, adventure, romance, mystery, fantasy and Powell made them all work amazingly well with each other. It has a fantastic cast of characters and a fantastic storyline that will have you double guessing yourself every second. I didn't expect the conclusion in the slightest, but now looking back it all makes perfect sense! You gotta read this book, but make sure to read the book before this (The Fifth Knight) first!

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### **Melissa says**

I won this book for free on Goodreads.com. This book is the sequel to the book "The Fifth Knight", but can stand alone with only a few questions that get answered as you read this book. As a historical fiction book, this book does have quite a few people in it that really lived in the 1170s. The storyline was very well done and flows very well. The fictional characters fit in wonderfully with the real people. Again, this book is very well done and I enjoyed reading it. I think that anyone who loves historical fiction would enjoy this book and I highly recommend it. Enjoy!!

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## **Dianne Ascroft says**

I was delighted to receive an advance copy of The Blood of the Fifth Knight in exchange for an honest review of the book. Since I thoroughly enjoyed the first book in the series, The Fifth Knight, I was eager to step into the lives of Benedict and Theodosia once again.

Like the first novel, this book is a fast paced historical thriller. It picks up the Palmers' story several years after the close of the first novel with a convincing plot and lots of action. Reading about leopard attacks, preparations to burn a convicted witch and a fight to the death between two determined women had me gripping my chair and trying to turn the pages of my Kindle reader.

As in the first novel in the series, the story is driven by the characters, their emotional lives providing a backdrop of passion, warmth and humour. Benedict is still a brave, loyal servant of the King and now also a devoted husband and father. Theodosia has matured into a loving mother without losing her valiant spirit. Memorable characters such as the tempestuous King Henry and the steadfast Sister Amelie return as well as a host of new ones, both trustworthy and treacherous. Two of my favourite minor characters were the messenger, Hugo Stanton, who learns some difficult lessons, and the Palmers' outspoken neighbour, Enide Thatcher, a staunch friend to them.

The author evokes medieval life in the village, the Royal household and a cloistered nunnery all with equal skill. The sights and sounds are vivid.

The medieval era isn't my preferred historical period to read but EM Powell has once again tempted me back to that time and place and I enjoyed every second I was there. I can wholeheartedly recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys a good story and to all lovers of historical fiction.

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## **Terry says**

Oh what a knight... Sir Benedict Palmer.

Having not read the previous book, The Fifth Knight, I was a little apprehensive starting this one, but my concerns were unnecessary. It's probably better to read The Fifth Knight first, but not necessary - this book will stand alone. (I do however plan to go back and read the first book for 2 reasons - this one was fantastic, and I want to read the backstory of Benedict and Theodosia).

This is an intricate, well planned out novel. The writer did her research. She loves writing, (and this story), as is evident in her book. Her characters were fleshed out and it became easy early on to care about them. The plotting is perfect. The storyline branches off, twists and turns - it's easy to follow, but not easy to figure out the solution to the mystery. Draws the reader in and holds attention through a series of events based on historical facts, yet through creative license keeps the story from ever becoming boring.

I highly recommend this novel for those who love medieval or historical fiction.

A copy of novel was provided in exchange for the purposes of an honest review. Thank you Thomas & Mercer publishing!

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## **HBalikov says**

This is the sequel to *The Fifth Knight*. In that book, impoverished Sir Benedict Palmer agrees to one final, lucrative job, helping King Henry II's knights seize the traitor Archbishop Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. But what begins as a clandestine arrest ends in cold-blooded murder to which Palmer is witness. The rest of the book has Palmer on the run with the other witness, Theodosia, a young woman of the local religious order.

*The Blood of the Fifth Knight* takes place several years later. Thomas Becket is now a saint; Palmer and Theodosia are married and living secretly in a remote village. Oh, did I fail to mention that she is the illegitimate daughter of Henry II?

This book opens with a delightfully well written scene in which Palmer and Theodosia (and their son) have come to witness Henry II's public penance for his complicity in Becket's murder. Powell writes with both powerful detail and compelling drama about Henry crawling along the street amid verbal abuse by the citizenry and being scourged by a bevy of priests. Unfortunately, for the reader, this is the acme of the book's reading pleasure.

We find Henry intent on addressing the attempts of his wife, Eleanor, and some of his children to take his crown. There isn't much to like in this two-dimensional portrait of the king as a man of passions and excesses. He subsequently calls Palmer back to service to discover who is attempting to murder his mistress. When Palmer goes, his wife gets abused by the local lord and eventually accused of witchcraft and sorcery. These dramas are interspersed in "now back at the ranch; now out in the jungle" fashion without much depth to the historical fiction.

The resolution is suitably dramatic with a series of near-to-death experiences for our key players before the happy ending. For me, there was little to linger over, except my disappointment.

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## **Wayne Turmel says**

### **A worthy follow up**

Second books in a series are tricky, but Powell does a fine job. The story is a good followup to *The Fifth Knight*. Some of the secondary characters don't quite hold up but those are minor quibbles in an exciting, well told story.

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## **Princess says**

### **The Blood of the Fifth knight**

I have thoroughly enjoyed this story. It has been quite some time since I had not read such a medieval masterpiece full of crimes, mystery, intrigues, and judgements against witch hunts...All in all, a very well written and beautiful masterpiece.

This is my review and personal trip to the court of Henry II in one of my favorite historical periods. Unfortunately, although I would love to write about all I read, I won't because I can't share with you the conclusion of this great adventure...I will only share a few interesting parts of the story, along with some of its key players, in the hope that you'll have as much fun as I did reading this story.

The story unfolds in 1176 AD England, during the time in which King Henry II and his Queen Consort, Eleanor of Aquitaine occupied the English throne. The plot of this novel begins four years after the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket, when King Henry II does penance on the streets of Canterbury, because he was a key suspect in the archbishop's death.

While the king does his penance, Queen Eleanor takes advantage of the situation and plots with her uncle, Raoul de Faye, to dethrone the king. Even though the king later found out about the plot and locked his queen in a castle, Queen Eleanor continued plotting against her king while in confinement. Unfortunately for the king, Henry II was surrounded by people whom he could not fully know if they were trustworthy or not. He also had a lover, Rosamund Clifford, whom the queen and her uncle wanted to "eliminate".

Realizing that his lover was in danger, the king immediately summonses his most faithful and loyal knight, Sir Benedict Palmer, to protect and serve as a covert bodyguard to Rosamund. Without Rosemund's knowledge, he then asks Sir Benedict to act as just another courtier and to satisfy Rosamund's desire for the construction of a labyrinth she wants for herself.

Aside from Rosamund's care, the king also has Geoffrey's, (who happens to be the king's illegitimate son) as well as Hugo's, who is one of the king's aids. The reason for the king's protection of all these characters is because he must leave court and travel to another location.

When Sir Benedict Palmer receives the King's summons, he worries because he won't be able to take his wife Theodosia, who also happens to be an illegitimate daughter to Henry II. Theodosia and Sir Benedict have two children, a boy and a girl.

A day before Sir Benedict's departure to court, one of his sisters (Joan) appears in town under very strange circumstances. Apparently, Sir Benedict had not met his sister before, because he had left his parents' house when she was very young. Nonetheless, Joan was very well received by her brother. He could now travel to King Henry II's court without worries because his wife and children would be in the company of his newly met sister.

During Sir Benedict's absence, strange things linked to witchcraft begin to take place in the town he left behind; but as soon as Sir Benedict reaches the king's court, Henry II explains everything to him and gives him specific instructions to follow.

And so it is that this story unfolds, in a rare and unusual way, where we'll see all kinds of characters, twists and turns appear and take place unexpectedly.

What is going to happen to Rosamund Clifford?

Who are the key characters behind the plots against Rosamund?

Will Sir Benedict, alongside Geoffrey and Hugo, be able to protect Rosamund from the claws of death?

What turns will this story take with King Henry II, Sir Benedict, Geoffrey, Hugo, the queen and her uncle?

What fate is awaiting Theodosia and her children, with that strange sister-in-law, when she finally realizes

that something bad is taking shape?

I'll invite all of you who enjoy medieval mystery, assassination and witch hunt plots in this beautifully written story...It will have a totally unexpected ending!!!

BRAVO, EM Powel !!!

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### **Emily says**

I received a free, advance copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my unbiased review. EM 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. The characters have distinct personalities and continue to grow and change. In "The Fifth Knight," we see Theodosia mature from a sheltered, naive nun who sees the world in terms of black and white into a complex woman who learns it isn't wrong to follow her heart in a world that isn't as simple as it might seem. In "The Blood of the Fifth Knight," we see how motherhood has changed Theodosia's thought process and world view. Palmer continues to be the strong knight with a good heart and strong sense of right and wrong we fell in love with in the first book. In this second book, we meet some slimy villains, the kind you'll love to hate; some new heroes with kind hearts and strong character who always seem to do the right thing; and some questionable characters we aren't sure what to think about.

The plot provides plenty of heart-stopping twists, challenges and peril. We aren't quite sure how - or if - the characters will be able to survive the situations they find themselves in or the evil that stalks them. The book's resolution is satisfying and not one you'll guess.

"The Blood of the Fifth Knight" is an exciting, fast-paced journey for justice. It's even better than "The Fifth Knight," and it will leave you wanting to read it all over again - and hoping for a third book to continue the series!

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## **Tom Walsh says**

\*\*\*\*\*ADVANCE COPY REVIEW\*\*\*\*\*NO SPOILERS\*\*\*\*\*

### **Do Not Go Gently Into That Goodnight, Knight**

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 sénéchal, 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 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. Personally, as he is my patron saint, this left me with a satisfaction: the people of 12th Century England felt the same admiration as I for the beloved Archbishop of Canterbury. But, as I have dubbed this an "adventure", the author has also added many ingenious elements to the saga. Powell mixes the goal of Palmer with the helpless circumstances of Theodosia to a nail-biting boil, slowly at first, and then at jaw-dropping speed.

Powell has done much research and it shows on every page, through every episode. Easily, it could be a "You Are There" TV episode for the 12th Century. The dialogue is succinct, as the last novel's intimate speech, and the mood of the country's peasants is never lost, but brought brightly to life.

Although one doesn't have to read the first novel, I recommend it, highly, if only to get a feel and background of the history which propels our protagonists. What the author chose from this complicated part of history has reduced the courtly intrigues into a wonderful cinematic saga (see Thomas B. Costain's "The Conquering Family" for the entire story.)

The morning after I finished the read of this novel, I felt as if I had lost the connection to a rich and intelligent world which captivated me and held me hostage! But, like anything lost, I will find it again whenever I hear a church bell chime, or read about Templars, chivalry or hapless British Kings and their Machiavellian Queens.

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## **Erin says**

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

It's been almost a year since I read E.M. Powell's The Fifth Knight, but her follow-up novel took me right

back. From the first page, it was as if not a day had passed since I was introduced to Benedict Palmer and Theodosia and I was very impressed with how easily the author managed to continue their story.

Like its predecessor, Blood of the Fifth Knight struck me for Powell's ability to create dramatic tension around an event I was already familiar with. Henry's relationship with Rosamund Clifford was not new to me, but Powell painted it in a new and intriguing light. The drama in her presentation nicely balances the predictability of history and legend, allowing even those in the know to be swept up in the telling.

Speaking of balance, I can't express how much I appreciate Powell's evenhanded approach to the masculine and feminine elements of this story. The social rhythms of medieval society often lend themselves to one-sided fiction and I think it remarkable that Powell was able to find middle ground with such material.

Strictly speaking I think it possible to read the books as stand-alone novels, but I personally wouldn't recommend it. Becket's legacy is as much a character of the second novel as his person was the first and I feel the beauty in that best understood by those who've tackled the books chronologically.

Bottom line, I enjoyed The Blood of the Fifth Knight as much as I did its predecessor. An exciting historical that combines murder, mystery, romance and conspiracy.

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### **David says**

Having read and thoroughly enjoyed The Fifth Knight, I was delighted to receive an advance copy of E.M. Powell's second book about Sir Benedict and Theodosia in exchange for an honest review.

This book picks up where the first one finished, with King Henry II paying public penance for the murder of Thomas Becket. In what I felt was a positive development from the first book, The Blood of the Fifth Knight follows the separate stories of the two main protagonists, Sir Benedict and Theodosia, after Sir Benedict is called away by the King for his help. The interwoven stories introduce us to some new, interesting, strong characters, as Sir Benedict tries to find out who is trying to kill the King's mistress, whilst Theodosia tries to deal with her own troubles.

The story uses historical fact with some excellent creative writing to give the reader an exciting, fast-paced story that has you wanting to know how things are going to turn out. There are some nice references and links to the first book, but to a first-time reader of Sir Benedict's adventures, it is not necessary to have read the first book to enjoy this one - if you haven't though, I strongly recommend you do!

I highly recommend this book and it's definitely a five-star rating from me. Roll on the next one!

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### **Kimberly says**

The Blood of the Fifth Knight by E.M. Powell is definitely my favorite read of the year so far. I know it's early in the year, but I have a feeling it will remain a front-runner, because it was truly a fantastic read. The book held me from beginning until end, and I was completely lost in the lives of Sir Benedict Palmer, his wife Theodosia, and King Henry II's life and court. The author definitely has a knack when it comes to making the words on a page come to life for the reader, and making everything completely realistic. The setting was described in such amazing detail that I could imagine myself right there with the characters, and it's been awhile since I've really gotten lost in a book like I did with this book. I loved that the author kept the reader guessing with different twists and turns in the action. You would think the plot was heading in one direction,

and then something surprising would happen and take the plot in a totally different direction. I truly liked the characters Sir Benedict and Theodosia. They were well-written and impossible not to like. As a reader you were rooting for them and for their love to make it through any hardship that was put in their way. I did not realize that this was a sequel to the first book, *The Fifth Knight*. The author did a great job at creating this book to stand alone. I did not feel that I was missing anything from the first book, except maybe a little background on Palmer and Theodosia's relationship and some other small details while I was reading. Overall I found *The Blood of the Fifth Knight* to be a great read, and I would definitely recommend it to any lover of historical fiction.

I give this book a FIVE out of FIVE stars!

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### **Marjolein says**

2.5 stars

*Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>*

I like medieval stories well enough, but when I'd hit the halfway mark in *The Blood of The Fifth Knight* is was already waiting for it to end.

In this sequel to *The Fifth Knight* (which I hadn't read) sir Benedict Palmer is called to King Henry II once again to save the day (and his precious mistress). Who exactly is playing the game of thrones?

It started quite interesting, even though I hadn't read the first book, but after some time it started to annoy me that I didn't have any connection with any of the characters. The story starts to drag a little, or I was just losing my interest as the plot twists were far from really unexpected and everyone seemed more naive than I would have been (should I've been thrown into a medieval court that is). Probably I would have enjoyed it better had I also read the first book, or perhaps this book just wasn't for me. The writing was quite nice too, but it couldn't save the book for me.

*The Blood of The Fifth Knight* is the second book in the series around sir Benedict Palmer. The first book is called '*The Fifth Knight*'.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

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### **Marsha Lambert says**

"I received a free, advance copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my unbiased review." *The Blood of the Fifth Knight* continues the adventures of Sir Benedict Palmer and his wife, Theodosia. Beginning a few years later from when Powell's first book, *The Fifth Knight* ended, Sir Benedict and Theodosia are struggling to survive in a world that is at times difficult for them but since they have each other they are content.

Their lives are interrupted when King Henry II requests Sir Benedict's help in tracking down a would be murderer of his latest mistress, Rosamund Clifford. Sir Benedict immediately undertakes the task set out for

him by his king, leaving Theodosia and his family behind. The task of uncovering who is trying to kill Rosamund will test Benedict to the extreme. The various plots that entwine the King, Rosamund, Benedict, and Theodosia are deadly and some will not survive to undercover who is behind the plots and their motives.

The story line is well thought out and has great depth. The main villain is wonderfully written as is his supporting cast of conspirators. A page turner that kept me up well into the night, I hope to see more stories from the pen of E.M. Powell and the continuing tales of Sir Benedict and Theodosia. They make a great team. Since King Henry II is my favorite king I also enjoy reading Powell's take on his character. If Powell keeps writing such fantastic books, I will keep reading them.

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