



Trinity

Conn Iggulden

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The brilliant retelling of the Wars of the Roses continues with Trinity, the second gripping novel in the new series from historical fiction master, Conn Iggulden.

1454: King Henry VI has remained all but exiled in Windsor Castle, struck down by his illness for over a year, his eyes vacant, his mind a blank.

His fiercely loyal wife and Queen, Margaret of Anjou, safeguards her husband's interests, hoping that her son Edward will one day know the love of his father.

Richard Duke of York, Protector of the Realm, extends his influence throughout the kingdom with each month that Henry slumbers. The Earls of Salisbury and Warwick make up a formidable trinity with Richard, and together they seek to break the support of those who would raise their colours in the name of Henry and his Queen.

But when the King unexpectedly recovers his senses and returns to London to reclaim his throne, the balance of power is once again thrown into turmoil.

The clash of the Houses of Lancaster and York will surely mean a war to tear England apart . . .

Trinity Details

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Author : Conn Iggulden

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From Reader Review Trinity for online ebook

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

The Book Queen says

Well, that was fabulous.

#TeamMargaret

Donna says

This was only 3 stars for me....I was expecting it to be a little higher because it was Conn Iggulden. I thoroughly loved reading the first two books in his Conqueror series as well as the first one in his Emperor series. This one just didn't grab me as much as the others. I think it felt lopsided. To me that means that it was super heavy on the historical facts and light on the fiction side.

I liked Margaret of Anjou though. I appreciated her strength and conviction and I even found myself feeling a little miserable for her.

Inés says

Mucho más ágil de lectura que el anterior y plagada de actitudes sorprendentes de los personajes principales. Esperando impaciente el desenlace.

Justin says

This series just gets better. I so appreciate the historical accuracy, too. Great and complicated characters.

Olethros says

-Todo sigue pareciendo "artificial".-

Género. Novela histórica.

Lo que nos cuenta. En el libro La Guerra de las Dos Rosas. Trinidad (publicación original: War of the Roses.

Trinity, 2014), con el rey Enrique fuera de juego, es Ricardo de York, protector y defensor del reino, quien está al frente de Inglaterra y sus afinidades marcan recompensas y castigos entre la nobleza. Pero la repentina recuperación del rey cambia la situación de manera inesperada, por lo que se van dando las situaciones que llevan hacia la Primera Batalla de St. Albans y el comienzo de la Guerra de las Dos Rosas, la guerra civil, que traerá más combates y muertes. Segundo libro de la saga La Guerra de las Dos Rosas.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com/...>

happy says

With this second volume of his Wars of the Roses series, Mr. Iggulden has once again done a very good job of telling the story of the rivalry between two branches of the English Royal House. In this volume the author tells the tale of the opening stages of the multigenerational feud that tore apart the House of Plantagenet.

The story begins in 1454 with the feud between the houses of Neville and Percy. One of the first scenes is Thomas Percy, the younger son of Earl of Northumberland, raiding the wedding of the sons of Neville's with the express goal of killing the head of the House of Neville, the Earl of Salisbury. The novel ends with the Battle of Wakefield that was fought in December of 1460. Mr. Iggulden writes some good battle sequences, including the 1st battle of St. Albans and the Battle of Wakefield.

In telling the story, Mr. Iggulden divides the story into two parts. The first part telling the story of Henry VI's recovery from his stupor and culminating in his removing Richard of York as Lord Protector of England. This takes place in 1454-5. The second part of the book takes place 5 yrs later and tells the story of York and Salisbury attempting to reverse the bill of attainder that has branded them as traitors. While temporarily successful, they eventually lose the Battle of Wakefield and as a result literally their heads.

I felt in this novel Richard of York is treated much more sympathetically than he was in the first novel. While he doesn't treat Henry and Margret with deference, he doesn't usurp the crown in spite of numerous opportunities to do so. Salisbury is presented as urging Richard to take the throne – all in the name of good governance of course. Richard is presented as more motivated by giving England good governance and later redeeming his honor and recovering his inheritance, not with malice towards Henry or the house of Lancaster

On the Lancaster side of the novel, his portrait of Henry VI is sympathetic. Henry's awaking in the winter of '54 is well done. He awakens after being completely unaware of his surrounding for several years and is even unaware he has a son. His determination to resume his duties is well presented. In the second half of the novel, his determination seems to be mainly inspired by his wife Margret. He is depicted as almost childlike. By the time the second part of the novel begins he has an almost pathological aversion to blood which frustrates the people around him who are trying to make him act as a king.

His queen, Margret is presented as very determined to preserve her and her husband's position, even when his brings her into conflict with the Duke of York. Her attempts to make her husband act like a king are well done.

Finally, I felt the book flowed well, but is a little slow in spots. Mr. Iggulden does stay reasonably close to

the actual history. What changes he has made are explained in his authors note. The changes mainly consist of telescoping some events, specifically Henry's recovery and putting Margret at the scene of Wakefield. All in all I found this a solid 4 star read

Linda says

Conn Iggulden is just so readable! His writing mechanics are perfect, giving the reader all the signals he needs to follow the unfolding action. He does not junk up the book with excessive descriptions of nouns. The book's said action was several fold but focused on the wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster which began in the mid-1400s, and that is as technical as I plan to get in this review. Less noble houses than those of York and Lancaster were responsible in part for the wars by their infighting. The author does not take sides in this book, or any other book of his that I have read. The scenes that I especially liked in the present book were when York could not murder his king. The job was his to do, but he could not do it. Why? Was it loyalty to the crown or love for the king whose hold on reality was fleeting? I liked Margaret's honesty when she admitted to herself that she was tired of tending to Henry as though he were a child. I shuddered, yes shuddered, when the Crown issued the Writs of Attainder. Stripping a man of his property is a drastic measure, and Margaret, acting for Henry, made an error in judgment in issuing the Writs. I felt that the war escalated by that action. The epilogue tells a story in a few words. Read it carefully.

Thank you, Mr. Iggulden, for a Good Read!

Bookdragon Sean says

This book contains one of, if not **the best battle sequences I've ever read**: it was just that good. The battle at St Albans was told from alternating point of views capturing the field superbly. The action is described simply yet vividly. For a moment, I was there; I was fighting beside the Kingmaker: The Earl of Warick; I was in his daring charge, across the alleyways as he rushed to capture King Henry VI.

The Kingmaker from The White Queen TV series as portrayed by James Frain

I could not recommend this book series more highly!

This novel carries on from where the first one left of; Henry is still in his stupor, Calais is the last English foothold in France and Richard Duke of York is lord protector. Both sides of the war, York and Lancaster, are portrayed creating a complete picture of the turbulent times.

Derry Brewer is many things; a spymaster for the house of Lancaster, Henry VI most loyal man, sworn enemy of Richard Duke of York and first and foremost a survivor. This is one of the few characters in the book that is actually fictional and also my personal favourite. The stuff this man goes through is almost funny; how he survives it is a miracle. He somehow scrapes through the French advance to arrive back in England and then to be persecuted by York's men. My only major criticism for this novel is: give me more Derry Brewer!!

From a young age the Duke of Somerset had where he would die. He was told by a travelling seer or a gypsy (I cannot remember which). He was to die in “the castle”. The way in which the Conn Iggulden executes this is brilliant, bordering on genius: I loved it. Obviously this is based upon history but it was grand nonetheless.

Henry IV has my sympathies. He was a good man but didn't have the strength of character or will to be able to rule effectively. That combined with his frequent bursts of illness left him as a completely useless king. He was controlled by whatever political faction had hold of him as they dominated him. I liked the way the author has portrayed him as capable for a time but then his decline came again as the stresses of his burden were felt. Without Derry Brewer and his loyal wife, he would have been usurped many years before he actually was.

Margaret of Anjou is portrayed as a fierce queen, a strong woman and being brutal towards her enemies, namely The Duke of York. Moreover, she is convinced her side of the war is justified. It's unsurprising that the characters/figures never realised that this is a war with no right or wrong side and is just a simple struggle for power.

On the other side of the fence, Richard Duke of York is portrayed as honourable to a fault. I read the authors note at the back and his reasoning behind this is clear. I agree with the way he has been represented even though his decisions are frustrating. His son however, is more pragmatic as I'm sure we'll see in later books. This book ended in just the right place as Edward saw the three suns which leaves open for the rest of the Wars of the Roses.

I'm looking forward to seeing the relationship between Edward and the Kingmaker become strained. Also it will be interesting to see how the author portrays Elizabeth Woodville. I'm especially looking forward to Richard growing up and am hoping he is not cast in an all too negative light.

This book is one of the best I've read this year it's marvellous, simply marvellous. **Iggulden has captured the rivalry in the Wars of the Roses superbly.** My favourite thing about this series is we have the full picture. It hasn't begun half way through, like some other series (The White Queen), but has chronicled the whole thing. My hope is that the series ends as Henry Tudor slays Richard III at the fields of Bosworth, effectively ending the Wars of the Roses. I eagerly await the next instalment.

War of the Roses series:

1. *Stormbird*-An interesting four stars
2. *Trinity*- **A bloody four stars**
3. *Bloodline*- A strong four stars

Mark Harrison says

Excellent second book as York, Salisbury and Warwick plot against Henry, his brilliant French wife Margaret and the Houses allied to them. Lots of plotting, betrayal and breathless battles. Real life Game of Thrones but less dragons. Superb pace and very satisfying.

Samantha says

Trinity is the second installment in Iggulden's unique Wars of the Roses trilogy, which began with *Stormbird*. For inexplicable reasons, it is being released as *Margaret of Anjou* in the US. Margaret is an important character, as she was in the first book, but she is not featured any more than several others.

This book started out slowly for me. Relating the feud between the Percys and the Nevilles and its impact on the beginning of the Wars of the Roses should have been interesting as the loss of France had been in *Stormbird*, but this storyline simply fell flat for me. If the first book hadn't been amazing, I might have given up on this one. I'm glad I didn't.

Once Iggulden got to the First Battle of St Albans, this started to read like the book I had been expecting. The battle scenes are unparalleled with various points of view giving a comprehensive view of the battle without becoming confusing or bogged down in detail. The author manages a large cast of characters and complicated maneuvering with great skill.

One disappointment that was never resolved was the characterization of Richard of York. In *Stormbird*, he seemed to be a quiet villain lying in wait. Seeing the failures in Henry's policies, Richard was ready to take up the reins. Then in *Trinity* he becomes more honorable, and Salisbury works as the driving force behind the rebellion. York doesn't want to fight against his king, but truly wants to see him under better advisement. More than once, he declines opportunities to grasp at the throne or rid the country of its inept king. I don't mind either of these characterizations, but the fact that it wasn't consistent bothered me.

Though I believe Iggulden is attempting to write a version of history that is complimentary to Margaret of Anjou, there just doesn't seem to be a way to portray her as anything other than a cold-blooded, cruel woman who makes decisions to send thousands to their deaths rather than let someone who is not mentally ill rule England. In *Stormbird* I could feel sorry for the young bride who did not understand the sacrifices being made for the sake of her marriage. By the time period covered in *Trinity* she knows exactly what she is doing and does it anyway.

The last 200 pages of this were 5 star, just like the first book. Unfortunately, the first 300 were closer to 3. I expect that the final book of the trilogy, which will take up the story of Edward of York continuing his father's fight, will be quite the page turner.

Mis Lecturas says

3.5 ?

Susan Johnson says

This book is being published in America under the name War of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou.

I thought this book was historical fiction writing at its best. War of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou is the

middle book of Conn Iggulden's trilogy and it is outstanding. It can be read as a stand alone and is really much better than the first one of the series. Iggulden's expertise is writing about battles and making them come alive as he did on his excellent Genghis Khan series. You won't find the romantic scenes of Phillipa Gregory's much inferior series on the same subject.

The book concerns Henry VI's reign and the Duke of York's rule during Henry's long illnesses. I still don't know what was wrong with Henry as he was comatose for 18 months and suddenly woke up on Christmas Day with no memory of the recent past and an apparently changed man. I read that some people think he was a schizophrenic but that doesn't seem right to me. During his illness Richard, the Duke of York, ruled in his stead, apparently quite successfully.

The strength of this book is making the characters fully formed. They have good and bad sides and it is really hard to call one side right or wrong. You can see both points of view. Richard seemed to be quite a good guy to me. He could have had Henry murdered any time and taken the crown for himself and yet he didn't. He became the arch enemy of Henry's wife, Margaret of Anjou, and the struggle in this book is between those two people. He did take Henry under his control several times which really irritated Henry's wife.

Margaret of Anjou was really an annoying person to me. If she had worked with Richard instead of fighting, so much bloodshed could have been avoided. It makes you wonder what could have been accomplished if they could have put their differences aside and worked together. On the other hand, Margaret came to England from France at 15 years old. She was living in a foreign land, had a husband who was comatose and was trying to protect her son. I thought it was amazing how much control she exercised at such a young age.

This book presented a well balanced view of the start of the War of the Roses. I learned quite a lot from it. The writing was great, the characters were quite human and it kept my attention from start to finish. I highly recommend this book.

Bubu says

I wrote a short review for the whole series here

Beorn says

Sadly disappointed by this book.

There's none of the intrigue, treachery, subterfuge or evocative emotion of the first book, leaving what's left feeling remarkably hollow. Richard, Duke of York and one of the key protagonists, seems to have lost all trace of his backbone for no apparent reason. Derry Brewer, spymaster, is hardly used at all and everything just kind of plods along at its own pedestrian pace rather than keeping your mind buzzing and ticking over.

Even the relevance of the name of the book, 'Trinity', isn't explained until the very end, after at least two of the main characters have met sticky, or rather sharp, ends and feels more like an afterthought to tie it into the next book like sellotape rather than something directly related to the story that unfolds in the book it is the title of.

Generally rather limp, trudging and mechanical, this book is virtually everything I hoped it wouldn't be.

There's also a slightly strange moment when the author explicitly says that both Warwick and Caesar's goal was London... when London didn't even exist until almost a century AFTER Caesar's assassination.

Don't get me wrong, I'll probably still read the third instalment but this has seriously dented any likelihood of me actually buying a copy of book 3 and made me most likely to just get one from the library.

Andy says

3.5 rounded up to 4 stars

Have to say I nearly didnt read this & only did so as forgot to cancel the Library hold on it.... glad i did in the end as have to say enjoyed it far more than the first in the series "War of the Roses"

Why? Well it sticks with the theme as advertised & gets to the nub of the conflict by introducing the minor earls or should that be the major conspirators as we find it's those pesky Earls scheming/jockeying for power that force the larger pieces to come to the board & take the game to the whole country. I found myself wanting to know more about the history which is always a good thing & have to say Mr Iggulden keeps mostly on track with jus a few minor changes in the story which he does explain in the historical notes at the back.

Most of us? take the main players to be the Duke of York & Queen Margaret, but it was the likes of Lord percy & the Neville family's rivalry that brought about conflict, eventually leading to the Battle of St Albans which is excellantly told by swapping from side-2-side throughout as the battle reaches its climax. Other battles are "covered", the timeframe being 1454-1461, ending with the battle of Wakefield, but only in varying degrees & although I would have liked more of the battles to have been featured perhaps its best this way as come the end of the Conqueror series thaths all there was, no story no plot, jus endless battle upon battle.

To anyone who found the first in the series too choppy & bitty this is defo a smoother ride & as I said earlier sticks to the heart of the conflict & draws us further into the War of the Roses through historical characters & events. A series I will be sticking with.

Sud666 says

1454. It has been seventeen years of Henry VI's rule. But all is not well with Henry Vi's mind. This is causing trouble as other powerful members, especially Richard of York, plot to take the throne. Caught up in the middle is Henry's wife- Queen Margaret of Anjou.

It was interesting to see the Queen's political games after Henry's capture. While the troika of Lords opposed to the Lancaster rule -York, Salisbury and Warwick- is indeed formidable it is never wise to underestimate the power of a Queen. I think Margaret did the best she could with the the situation, since her alternative would likely have been death.

The author also makes out Richard, Duke of York, to be a fairly decent person. He is uncomfortable with the way this conflict is turning out, but he see's himself with no choice since for him it means the loss of his

house and titles.

A great and exciting story of a real life Game of Thrones. Unlike the tv show-to lose is indeed to die. In modern times the Nobility is looked down on-this is from a time where the Nobility earned their titles-or lost it all (and their heads). There is something to respect about that.

A great historical fiction of the Wars of the Roses. Superb work....

Elia Princess of Starfall says

Trinity is the second book in Conn Iggulden's Wars of the Roses series and revolves around the deepening political and dynastic enmity between Margaret of Anjou, the formidable wife to King Henry VI of England, and the king's embittered cousin Richard Plantagenet duke of York as they fight over who will rule in England and who, in the end, will be the true king. There are bitter inter-family feuds, secret treaties, chaos and corruption in England, furious intrigues, swift and inglorious battles and at the heart of it all lies the inept and ineffective Henry VI; unable or unwilling to manage his own realm. Out of the ashes rises the trinity of Richard Plantagenet duke of York, Richard Neville earl of Salisbury and Richard Neville (his son) earl of Warwick, three men determined to save England from ruin and her feckless king.

It's safe to say that interest in medieval history and warfare has been in a state of fevered frenzy since the (in)famous TV show Game of Thrones hit the small screen in 2009. Thanks to the incredible popularity of the show and the bitterly resented wait for the series much anticipated book the Winds of Winter, people have been turning in droves to historical fiction, hoping to find similar books to whet their appetite for politics, murder, treachery, kings and wars without end. Naturally Conn Iggulden has taken notice of this trend and with his wars of the roses series now looks to garner the interest and enthusiasm of forlorn GoT fans.

(At times Iggulden's clear admiration for GoT crosses the line for subtlety and becomes painfully blatant. He actually writes the phase 'Game of Thrones' and upon seeing that I was highly tempted to call G. R. R. M to ask whether he thought imitation was the sincerest form of flattery.)

Guess which one Conn Iggulden is.....

Now onto Trinity itself

Trinity focuses on the period of 1454-1461 and centres on England, the borders of Scotland and Wales and the garrison of Calais. At the start Henry VI lies in a catatonic state in Windsor, unable to govern his disorganised and increasingly lawless kingdom leaving the Richard Plantagenet duke of York to take up the mantles and trappings of power as Protector and Defender of the Realm. Understandably Henry VI's determined, energetic and shrewd Queen Margaret reacts with fury and outrage at seeing York invested with the powers of a king and is fearful of his possible motives towards the Crown. Despite the best intentions of York, tensions simmer and spill into conflict as York and Lancaster, the King and his Lords and England itself descend into civil war.

IMHO I think that Trinity is a noted improvement on the previous Stormbird. The characters are more clearly defined, their importance and roles emphasised in relation to history, the writing is tighter and more enticing and plot itself does not stray markedly from the historical sources. Derry Brewer, while still an essential character, has a more believable role in Trinity and does not leave the influence (and rarely the vicinity) of his patron Margaret of Anjou. Being fictional, Iggulden wisely restrains putting too much prominence on his actions. In essence Brewer has become a side character and benefits greatly from it.

Trinity strengths are definitely its' fast pace, sharp plotting and its evocative battle scenes. The first battle of St. Albans in 1455 was particularly well-written and joyfully gory. Iggulden's knowledge concerning the trials and hardships of knights, their daily routine in war times and the methods of medieval warfare and weaponry were among my favourite aspects to Trinity and certainly Iggulden deserves kudos in that regard.

However Trinity did have its downsides and for me that lay in the characterisation, writing and rather bizarre theories put forward throughout the novel.

For me, the characters in Trinity were somewhat lacklustre, inconsistent and passionless.

Margaret of Anjou was called by Shakespeare 'the She-Wolf' and it was a name she did much to earn. Margaret was a proud, ambitious, intelligent and tenacious woman. Devoted to her husband and son, Margaret never relinquished the struggle for their right to rule. Employing mercenaries, enlisting Scottish warriors in exchange for Berwick and accusing York and his allies of treason, Margaret was a truly remarkable woman. But in Trinity Margaret is muted, downplayed and at times rather annoying. There is no fire in her characterisation and the references to her beauty, her struggles not to cry, the emptiness of her 'womb' grate as the novel wears on. Her negotiations with the Scottish Queen Regent Marie of Guelders are ridiculous; they struck me as far too casual and warm.

Henry VI was a highly inconsistent character. One minute lying in a catatonic state, indifferent to the outside world and his own new-born son Edward, his rapid transformation from passive and benign to fierce and ruthless was difficult to believe or understand. One minute he lying listless in bed, the next he marches in armour to York demanding his kingdom back! His lapse back into indifference felt rushed and underdeveloped. We have no idea why it happened.

Richard duke of York got a mildly better deal in Trinity. In Stormbird I felt he was slightly demonised and am pleased that Iggulden decided to add some moral ambiguity and emotional complexity to his character. York is a proud and stern warrior firmly entrenched in his belief that Henry VI is surrounded by unworthy advisors. He is by far the novels most complicated and intriguing character; his struggle to reconcile his opposing tenets of loyalty to the king and the need for fair government give poignancy and credibility to his trials. At times he comes as rather easily unnerved or alarmed which struck me as another inconsistency.

Derry Brewer is a completely fictional character; he is the elusive and crafty spymaster for Margaret of Anjou and is determined to secure Henry VI's rule over England. Brewer is often shown to be the novels' most crafty character; a master of disguises, military ambushes, countywide espionage and the like. To me Brewer felt like semi superfluous character, not really needed yet often kept around for plot purposes. Despite this I enjoyed his jaunty and devoted character; his loyalty to Margaret and Henry is to be commended and he serves as one of the more morally good players in this novel.

The writing style of Trinity was perfectly serviceable and easy to read though the battle scenes were by far the best written. The novel's fast pace left little time for greater complexity and intrigue to be fleshed out. There was, however, a certain boisterous energy and enthusiasm that encouraged me to read quickly and kept

me interested. It was an easy read with a very workmanlike approach.

One of the stranger aspects to the book was Iggulden's attitude to Richard III, York's youngest son. Thanks to the discovery of Richards bones in Leicester in 2012 we now know that he had scoliosis and his right shoulder was noticeably higher than the left. Richards scoliosis developed AFTER the age of ten and its cause was unknown (still is today). In Trinity, however, a two year Richard has a spine so bent and painful that York wishes that his son had been left to die out in the wilderness! I can not emphasise how historically inaccurate this is and how we have no evidence that York would say such a thing. The whole thing felt highly melodramatic.

All in all, I give 6/10 to Trinity. An enjoyable, fast-paced and well plotted novel although lacking in characterisation and writing nuance, Trinity will appeal to historical fans indeed.

Andreea says

Recenziea completă se poate citi pe blog: <http://andreeapandelea.blogspot.com/2013/08/trinity.html>

Mult mai bun fa?? de primul volum, „Pas?rea Furtunii”! Iar finalul, oh, cât de mult m-a întristat! De ce trebuie ca personajele pe care le îndr?gesc atât de mult, să moar?? De ce, de ce? Pentru ceea ce a f?cut Margaret de Anjou, dacă în alte c?r?i ?i în serialul The White Queen nu am detestat-o, în „Treimea” am urât-o pentru decizia luată?. Recenzie va ap?rea în curând.

Ayush Tickoo says

Simply awesome!
