



The Bruce Trilogy: The Steps to the Empty Throne / The Path of the Hero King / The Price of the King's Peace

Nigel Tranter

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This trilogy tells the story of Robert the Bruce and how, tutored and encouraged by the heroic William Wallace, he determined to continue the fight for an independent Scotland, sustained by a passionate love for his land.

The Bruce Trilogy: The Steps to the Empty Throne / The Path of the Hero King / The Price of the King's Peace Details

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Corey says

I have always loved historical fiction books, so when my uncle told me that i was related to him then showed me this book i had to read it. The trilogy covers about 1296 to 1328. It begins with THE STEPS TO THE EMPTY THRONE, which portrays an impetuous strong-willed young man who agrees to co-govern the country with his personal enemy in an attempt to win its independence from England. It starts when Edward Longshanks had taken back Scotland and had captured the king of the Scots and made him give control of Scotland back to England. Robert the Bruce and many other Scots are outraged that Edward as left the Scots that were killed in the war in the middle of the streets and in piles in the centers of towns. Many English were treating him harshly because he was a Scot and his family has lost its respect. All the Scots were forced to come to a banquet held by the king of Scotland where they were forced to swear their lands to him, but when it was Roberts turn he told the king that he had already sworn loyalty to him earlier. The guards came over and forced the Bruce to his knees in front of everyone humiliating him. The king then summoned him and mocked Bruce for still believing that Scotland should be an independent country. This was the final straw and Robert screamed at the king. The king had the guards remove Robert the Bruce from the building and soon after Robert began speaking ill of the king and tried to gain Scotland's independence. The king then accused the Bruce's family of treason and executed his brothers and imprisoned his sisters. Robert was forced to flee into the woods and live as a hermit where he met William Wallis. William Wallis tutored Robert on the ways of war and strategy. Soon Robert rose to became the greatest hero Scotland has ever known as he fought for its independence because of a strong connection to his country.

After killing a man who was attacking his father Robert no longer fought because of his love for his people, but to keep his own sanity for he believes he will be punished by being killed himself for his crime can not go unpunished. The way Bruce is portrayed in this book is amazing, you don't see him as some dead guy or perfect hero, but as a man with all his faults and fears who you can actually connect to. Robert appears wise and humble yet has done terrible things that were very outrageous, but had to be done. Elizabeth de Burgh, is a fun match for him and their love story adds spice to the tale. The plot is incredible and very emotional with many tear jerker moments that it seems like it came from the mind of an amazing writer, but it is actual history. The historical accuracy of this book is amazing, but he is not telling you historical facts, he is telling it as a story which brings the Bruce alive for you to meet. After reading this book you have a true appreciation of what the Scots went through for their independence. Robert the Bruce was such a remarkable man, and i can't even begin to express the respect i have for him. This book is absolutely amazing and is the kind of book that no matter how many times you read it will emotionally move because it is so easy to become absorbed in the Scots epic struggle for freedom from the oppression of the English.

Jan-Maat says

[if I remember correctly, and it was a long time ago, the phase was to be understood literally and indeed the weather in the story must have been unaccountable warm as the young mlle had not felt the need to wear underwear that day, but lucky the future king's hands were able to preserve her modesty, at least from any other p

Gemma Bennett says

Not a typical read, I was handed this book by someone very close to me and although I read historical fiction, Scottish history has never been the forefront of my interests. As I read each page, turning them and delving deeper into the book, I found myself engrossed in the lives of Robert The Bruce, his Elizabeth, William Wallace and the countless other fighters in Scotlands campaign for freedom.

Much more than a blow by blow account and much more than a love story, full of joys and tribulations this book encompassed all the great things about a story; passion, need, hurt, loss, death and birth, for Bruce's heir and for a free Scotland alike.

A memorable novel and an intriguing interpretation of The Bruce. This book has taught me to raise my expectations and mostly to broaden my historical reading.

Mark McFaddyn says

am slowly working my way through Nigel Tranter's historical fiction volumes of Scotland. This is volume 1 of the Bruce trilogy, concerning the famous Robert the Bruce XVII who finally was able to defeat the English at the Fields of Bannockburn in 1314 and become king of Scotland. Tranter's work is historically sound (as possible), and his writing style is engaging. Of course, I love historical fiction and all things Celtic, so perhaps I am easy to please. But the enduring sales and accolades given to Tranter, both during his life and posthumously, are a testament to his historical and literary skill.

If you are interested in historical fiction of Scotland or of medieval Europe, this is worth a read. The book can stand on its own, so you do not have to begin with the first chronological book (Druid Sacrifice).

For a list of all of Tranter's book, see this Wikipedia page.

See my review here: <http://www.sulisinc.com/sulisblog/201...>

Anne says

A bit of a slog.

James Loftus says

This story spoke to me, like the voice of an old campaigner who withstood the onslaught of the cavalry at Bannockburn, who stood proud sword in hand and dealt the blows that won him fame and Scotland's freedom. Told with the words of a poet, the heart of a true story teller, and the insight of a wise man, a thinker, and one who has lived a life and listened.

Karina says

This book was truly amazing. It took me awhile to get into, but once I started reading it was given every spare moment I had to read. I would suggest this to anyone who loves history.

Madigen says

This book very enjoyable to read. Tranrer holds ture to events all the while developing very real characters with unique persnalality. It's definitely worth a read Nigel Tranter has an amazing writting style.

Bridget says

Nigel Tranter is an excellent historian - if you want to know more about Scottish history, then I really recommend you read his books. Unfortunately, his character building is sketchy at best - I wondered if he had actually ever met any women or children, who were usually "burbling" or "incoherent". If you can put some of the characters aside, his books are a great way of finding out more about Scottish history - I can't understand why this is not taught in British schools where we only get English history. A good educational read.

Amy says

I loved this book! Nigel Tranter is a new favorite author of mine after reading his robert the bruce trilogy.I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in robert the bruce and his fight against the english.

Henry says

I always love a book like this that takes a bit of history and puts it to a good story.

Becky says

This is a really wonderful trilogy. It is throrough, without dragging on, and lays out a wonderful story filled with love, power, treason, war, and the different forms of weakness that all of us, ashumans, experience. What I loved most about this trilogy was experiencing Robert Bruce's transition from a young apathetic noble to a man who would risk any personal pain for what his country needed him to be. Great book.

Remus Lonno says

Beginning with Bruce as a brash young nobleman coddled by Edward Longshanks and culminating in the Battle of Bannockburn and the Declaration of Arbroath, it's plain to see through this work why he's Scotland's national hero. A capable commander versed both in knightly and guerilla warfare, he had a fearsome temper and yet had the infinite patience to forgive his enemies -- over the protestations of his closest friends and most trusted advisors! -- to ensure that Scotland at last united as one nation against English tyranny.

Also plain to see is the influence Tranter had on George R. R. Martin. If you often read about battlefields slick with mud and blood in the Ice and Fire books, Tranter is where he found that phrase. Martin also likes to rattle off the full list of dignitaries at a scene, Ser this and Ser that, Lord and Lady whatsit, etc., etc. In Tranter, you'll come to recognize and know as you would old friends, without even realizing it, the names Gilbert Hay, James Douglas, Thomas Randolph, Christina MacRuarie, Angus Og MacDonald, William Lamberton and sundry others greater and lesser. Where Martin often leaves the reader horrorstruck, or outraged, or numb with shock, only the stonehearted would not be deeply moved at the closing passages of Tranter's magnum opus.

Anne Hawkinson says

This was an amazing glimpse into the life of the King of Scotland. Nigel Tranter showed me a fierce, intelligent and calculating warrior who had to make numerous difficult decisions in his quest to save his country. I loved learning about the man beneath the armor - the vulnerable, doubting, tender human who had flaws and tried to be the best man he could be, despite his failures and shortcomings. It was a great read - I can see why Scotland loves and honors their national hero!

Andy Stuart says

Three brilliant books from which I learned much, however listening to the audio books I found the music rather irritating, that aside I heartily recommend them to anyone interested in Scottish history.
