



La flor de lis y el león

Maurice Druon , María Orozco Bravo (Translation)

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Con la muerte de Carlos IV se extingue la dinastía de los Capetos. El ascenso de los Valois al trono francés desatará la guerra de los Cien Años... La semilla del descomunal enfrentamiento ha caído en la tierra fértil de las rivalidades económicas, las ambiciones personales, los embrollos jurídicos y los resentimientos históricos. Fatalidades colectivas y trágicos actos individuales se suceden en este sexto volumen de la saga de Los Reyes Malditos. Un personaje domina esos años decisivos para el occidente europeo: el conde Roberto de Artois. Nadie ha puesto más empeño que él en coronar a su primo Felipe de Valois, y ahora espera recibir en pago la devolución de las tierras de sus antepasados... Maurice Druon revive una época convulsionada y unos personajes que si no supieramos que han sido reales creeríamos producto de la imaginación del novelista.

La flor de lis y el león Details

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From Reader Review La flor de lis y el león for online ebook

Leer En el Sur says

Para mi gusto el mejor aunque me falta el último, pero aquí pasa de todo y nos comenzamos a despedir de nuestros personajes, no me imagino que vendrá en el 7º, pero ya estoy extrañando esta gran saga!!

Sara Giacalone says

So far, the best one in the series.

Erick says

The continuance of the france wolves?

If you want to learn some about french history this books series will fulfill your expectations, love, lust, betrayal, war, conspiracy and other things will made your brain explode!

Sud666 says

The infamous curse of the Templar Grandmaster, Jacque de Molay cursed the line of Capetin Kings at his burning, has come true. Charles IV is dead. The powerful Count Robert of Artois maneuvers to place his cousin, Philippe of Valois onto the throne. Along the way, due to his previous conflict with Lady Mahaut over Artois, he manages to implicate himself in an entire mess of forgery, bribery and perjury over his historical claim to Artois.

As this mess is happening in France, England has a new, young and dynamic king- Edward III. This true son of the Plantagenet line, in time, will overpower the "Regency" of his mother Isabella and her lover Mortimer. This will lead to Edward's brilliant campaigns in France leading to the great battle of Crecy and, in time, Poitiers. It was these two battles that led to a deflowering of the cream of the French Knighthood (yes, double entendre intended) and established Edward III's legacy as a great English "battle king".

The other big event presaged in this story is the ending of the centuries long Capetin line and the prominence of the Valois, who will in time give way to the Bourbon line, family in the histories of France.

Stephen Richter says

The demise book, as in many of the major players from the previous books find their end here. And it did not come peacefully in bed.

Diego says

Este libro debería ser considerado el desenlace de esta saga. Todos los personajes que son introducidos en El Rey de Hierro mueren a lo largo de los títulos de esta serie, y en especial, este narra el desenlace de Roberto III de Artois, quien, con su intervención a lo largo de la saga, provoca el embrollo dinástico que llevó a la Guerra de los Cien años. Harto recomendable si les gusta la historia medieval.

Heather says

Unlike game of thrones, this series waits to kill off a favorite character until book six. This series has remained strong throughout. Many times you find yourself thinking, did that really happen? You google it, and of course it did.

Patrick St-Denis says

Like many other speculative fiction readers, it's thanks to George R. R. Martin that I discovered the excellent *The Accursed Kings* by French author Maurice Druon. As the main inspiration for *A Song of Ice and Fire*, I was eager to give this series a shot. The first two volumes were very good, but the third installment failed to live up to the expectations generated by its predecessors. *The Royal Succession* was a return to form for the author and I was looking forward to see if the fifth book would offer the same satisfying reading experience.

The fourth volume ended with Philippe V's coronation, but *The She-Wolf* totally skipped over his reign and focused on the tale of his sister Isabella, wife of Edward II and Queen of England. Which was a bit odd, as previous installments followed one another rather closely. In the end, *The She-Wolf* didn't stand as well on its own as I thought it would. Maurice Druon continued to weave a vast number of threads in what is a great tapestry of men, women, and events that will shake the foundations of the kingdom of France and the rest of Europe. That hadn't changed. And yet, focusing more on the demise of King Edward II instead of the intrigues of the King of France's court, *The She-Wolf* felt like some sort of interlude and was a bit discordant in the greater scheme of things.

Nevertheless, I was eager to discover what would happen next and was looking forward to reading *The Lily and the Lion*. Unfortunately, this one turned out to be more history textbook than novelization, and as such it was a disappointment. By far the weakest in the series thus far.

Here's the blurb:

The royal house of France has fallen. Charles IV is dead, fulfilling the curse of the Templars once and for all. This leaves the path to the throne open for Robert of Artois to place his cousin, Philippe of Valois, upon it. Having committed fraud, perjury and murder in the name of the new king, Robert expects to receive a title and his full reward.

But the days of betrayal are far from over and Robert is banished to England. In the land of France's enemies vengeance sparks fresh conflict as King Edward III and his new ally prepare for war. As swords are

sharpened the lion wakes and a pretender threatens France once more ...

Robert of Artois has been a central figure in this series from the very beginning. Indeed, he's been at the heart of every plot and intrigue, and I was happy to realize that *The Lily and the Lion* would more or less focus on him and his machinations. Manipulating people and events to place Philippe of Valois on the throne of France, it appears that this giant of a man will finally achieve his objective. And yet, over the years he has committed his share of mistakes, some of which will now come back to haunt him. The first few chapters were quite interesting and *The Lily and the Lion* read as well as *The Royal Succession*. Problem is, a lot of characters are dead or dying, and the author has no choice but to do a lot of back-and-forth to remind readers of who they are, or who replaced them, with countless dates and interminable background information. Soon, as Robert continues to dig his own grave, so to speak, the prose becomes more history textbook than novel and that puts a damper on the overall reading experience. Sadly, this gets worse the more the tale progresses, and in the end it all but kills the book. Why Maurice Druon was unable to make *The Lily and the Lion* easier to get into, I have no idea. But there is no denying that it makes it hard to maintain interest the more you go on. And given that this book represents Robert of Artois' endgame, it's a shame.

As always, I found the translation to be quite good. As was the case with the other installments, it is at times too literal, creating occasional odd turns of phrase. But other than that, there's absolutely nothing to complain about. Instead of relying on info-dumps, Druon once again opted for footnotes sending you to the back of the novel for more historical background and clarification. In the past, this usually maintained a fluid pace throughout. As I said before, in this day and age when speculative fiction and historical books are veritable doorstopper works of fiction, these novels are quite short. Too short, I've often felt. Not so with *The Lily and the Lion*, I'm afraid. Though it weighs in at 402 pages, due to the aforementioned problems the book felt much longer.

The structure of these novels continues to revolve around a number of disparate POVs which allow readers to witness events through the eyes of a variety of protagonists. This helps generate more emotional impact, as you see the web of scandal and intrigue which weaves itself throughout all the storylines. *The Lily and the Lion* doesn't have the same "flavor" because many of the series' main characters have passed away or are now on the decline. As a matter of course, always in the thick of things, Robert of Artois' perspective is an important part of this novel. But the always entertaining Guccio Baglioni is dead and the Count de Bouville is senile. Spinello Tolomei is on the brink of death. Hence, many of the central protagonists of past installments are absent, or play very minor roles in this book. We get the perspectives of Philippe of Valois, King Edward III, Beatrice d'Hirson, and a few more. But for some reason, the sum of all those POVs is not as compelling as that of the previous volumes.

And since *The Lily and the Lion* is itself an end of sorts, it will be interesting to see how Maurice Druon closes the show in the final installment, *The King Without a Kingdom*. Here's hoping that the last volume will recapture everything that made the first five books such enjoyable reads.

I keep saying it: With family rivalries, politicking, betrayals and back-stabbings, ASOIAF fans will find a lot to love about Maurice Druon's *The Accursed Kings*. And given the fact that these books were first published back in the 50s, they have definitely aged well and are as easy to read as any contemporary novels on the market today. And although *The Lily and the Lion* was a letdown, I'm eager to find out how this series will end!

For more reviews, check out www.fantasyhotlist.blogspot.com.

Samuel Rooke says

Conceived as the end of the series (a seventh book of sorts would come seventeen years later, but this was certainly intended as the ending when it was written), “The Lily and the Lion” brings very definitive conclusions to all the surviving principal characters of the series, and the titular premise of the series itself. It has a sense of focus and purpose some of the earlier books lacked, and Druon feels very much in control as he brings everything to a close.

The widening of scope to other nations in earlier books felt distracting at times, but here it serves its purpose well, as displacing French concerns and characters into other nations invites the sort of melancholy self-reflection so much of the book is steeped in. There’s a feeling of a sort of cosmic intention, as the weight of history comes to bear down on characters directly, instead of just in footnotes or occasional asides by Druon.

“For Roger Mortimer, who was only forty-five, death would not come itself. He felt vaguely troubled when he looked towards the centre of the Green, where the block usually stood. But you become accustomed to the nearness of death by a whole series of simple thoughts that add up in the end to no more than a weary melancholy. It occurred to Mortimer that the sly raven would live on after him, and would tease other prisoners; the rats, too, would go on living, those big wet rats that emerged at night from the muddy banks of the Thames to run about the stones of the fortress; and even the flea that was irritating him under his shirt would jump onto the executioner the day of his death and go on living. Every life that is wiped from the world leaves the other lives intact. There is nothing so ordinary as death.”

Death and the turn of history are so central to the book, and that chain of thought by Mortimer encapsulates it so well. Druon brings France down from such strength and glory, but what’s to come is no secret. It’s that transitional phase that feels ordained. Jacques de Molay’s curse was sidelined for a lot of the series, but here it feels not just magic, self-fulfilling, a fortunate guess, but like something imbued with cosmic knowledge all the history that was to come.

Ending the book proper on Robert felt appropriate. One of the few main characters from the first book still around, one so central to the series, one so beloved by Druon, it felt right to end the main thrust of the book with him. Ending the epilogue essentially on the Guccio and Marie storyline, the heart of the series, felt earned and proper as well. Everything felt earned in this book. A great conclusion. I give it four forged seals, and a hollow king.

Juan Alejandro says

Esta serie me gusta mucho, para mí es siempre ir a la faja. El autor cuenta de manera muy amena todos los eventos principales de la monarquía francesa desde Felipe El Hermoso, hasta el último varón de su descendencia, todos los cuales fueron malditos desde la hoguera por el templario Jacques de Molay.

Esta es una de esas ocasiones en que parece increíble que todo esto haya ocurrido en la vida real. Aunque es complicado saber dónde está la línea entre lo que inventó el autor y lo que es historia, los pies de página muestran que, sin duda, los eventos principales son verificables.

Recomiendo esta serie a los aficionados a la historia medieval. Son una lectura muy amena y educativa.

Rodrigo says

Y la saga sigue y no se pierde el interés. Cómo Druon logra manernos enganchados después de 6 tomos, es una maravilla. En este libro le decimos adiós a dos de los personajes más increíbles de la historia: Roberto y Mahaut. Ambos ambiciosos, poderosos, imbatibles, y que mueren víctimas de sus mismas maquinaciones, una envenenada por la asesina que ella entrenó, y el otro herido en la guerra que él ayudó a crear. Mientras tanto, la historia de Europa se escribe, ahora a ambos lados del Canal de la Mancha, en el reinado de Eduardo III, un rey que Inglaterra mereció después de tantos reinados desastrosos. Y casi sin que nos demos cuenta, Druon nos enseña no sólo de hechos históricos, sino también de costumbres, cultura, usos de la época. Muy disfrutable.

Isabel says

No se que mas decir de esta magnifica saga! me encanta! me encanta la historia, como esta narrada! me duele terminarla.

Paloma says

La sexta entrega de Los Reyes Malditos me atrapó y lo disfruté muchísimo. En este volumen, Druon nuevamente nos presenta muchísimos personajes y sin embargo, uno se engancha con cada una de las historias de los actores de las cortes francesas e inglesas. Para no poner spoilers, sólo diré que me dio mucho gusto la muerte de varios personajes nefastos y enfermos de poder (¡lo siento!) y admiro la forma en que el autor profundiza en el personaje de Roberto de Artois que, en mi opinión, se lleva el protagonismo en este libro. Personaje complejo, temido, al final demuestra que, como muchos de la realeza -y hombres- lo que lo movía era un ansia de poder tal que lo llevó a confundir a amigos con enemigos y destruir su patrimonio convirtiéndose, según nos cuenta la historia real y novelada, en uno de los artífices detrás de la Guerra de los Cien Años entre Inglaterra y Francia.

En resumen, un volumen muy entretenido e ilustrativo.

Laura Espinoza says

El mejor libro de la saga!!!

Iman Eyitayo says

Du bon, encore ! Je me répète, mais... c'est ma saga préférée !

Céline says

J'ai passé un bon moment mais comme pour le tome précédent, je n'ai pas aimé autant que le début de la série... Par ailleurs, on a une vraie fin au terme de cet opus donc je me demande de quoi fait être fait le dernier volume de la série...

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

Rogelio Delfín Chávez says

Aunque la saga continúa en un séptimo tomo, se puede sentir que el autor deseaba terminarlo aquí. Está narrado y estructurado como un desenlace a la vida y las aventuras de los personajes que construyó desde el primer volumen. Las consecuencias de las intrigas y los planes que urdieron a lo largo de cientos de páginas los alcanzan. Y no todos los planes terminan como habrían esperado. Además, se explica paso a paso cómo se gesta la conocida Guerra de Cien Años.

Augusto Bernardi says

This was another excellent historical fiction which actually spans over a very long period of time. This could have easily been the last book of the series to me at least because (SPOILER ALERT) the rest of the characters from all the previous books die off in this one. This book as well raises the stakes to an international level as opposed to domestic issues in the french or English court. As per usual this one was quite tragic. I would have liked to have had more scenes with Guccio and Tolomei which were such key characters throughout the series.

The book starts off with the marriage between the young Edward the third of England and Philippa (some fat ginger girl I can't remember who she is related to). The book pretty much follows directly after the last one where Edward the second was horrendously murdered by the orders of Queen Isabella, Roger Mortimer and Bishop orleton. The Queen was also present at the wedding as she contemplates how lucky Philippa is for having a husband who actually loves her as opposed to what she suffered during her marriage. She also realizes how her time is past now as she from one moment to the other has ceased to be Queen and now only Queen mother.

Meanwhile in France, the fool king, Charles is dying at the age of thirty three for "everyone knows that the cursed can only last as long as Christ did". He was vomiting constantly blood and would soon die. I like how the curse from the very first book is still prevailing up to this book. It truly brings meaning to the name of the series and is actually fascinating to see that it was all such a coincidence. Robert of Artois, still powerful and all intentions to regain his family's land of Artois from his still living old aunt Mahaut.

He intends that his brother in-law Philippe of Valois become the regent if the king should for soon and then try to make him king as the was no male heir once again. All three sons of Philip the fair has no surviving

heirs. Well, Charles then quickly died and there was a counsel with all the classic members to decide who would rule France. Bishop came to this counsel as well to make his case for Edward the third since he was the only male heir to Philip the fair from his daughter's side but after some arguing and discussion, it was that Philippe of Valois would be king as Philippe the sixth. He was more of a middle ground of the past few kings who had a liking for battle but not at war but rather jousting tournaments instead. But Robert did more of the reigning than Philippe and was also his chief advisor.

Philippe has a successful war against the Flemish. Clemence of Hungary dies at 35 and Tolomei appears again but much older with a bad leg. Some of her stuff (expensive jewelry) is given to him in the auction because of her dept. Edward then pays homage to the king of France and Robert becomes finally a peer of France. Edward decides that he will not kneel down before Philippe so he can continue independent and Philippe agrees not to cause a hassle. Robert is faced with another problem Thierry d'Hirson does at Old age and his clumsy mistress fails to bring Robert the papers from d'Hirson that he needed to prove in order to regain his county. Book takes a boring turn as Robert of Artois spends chapters trying to gather proof and witnesses to regain his county. Interesting discussion between the old and angry Mahaut and her lady in waiting Beatrice who wants to catch Robert in the act of forgery. Beatrice wants to marry though but the grotesque and rotting Mahaut threatens her and is quick to anger on anything because of her age. Then Beatrice, fed up with being maltreated by the countess, goes over to Robert and seduces him finally. They have an affair at her late uncle's house. I like this relationship. It's much darker than all the other ones in the series. It takes a while for them to grow any sort of trust between them as Robert knew her murders but eventually a trust is established. Beatrice at first wanted to almost take revenge on Mahaut by sleeping with Robert and have him as pleasure but she soon realizes that she has fallen in love with him. But don't be fooled by the nice sounding word "love", the reasoning is actually much darker. Beatrice, as established in the very first book, is deeply involved in witchcraft and Satanism. She has an obsession with Satan and this giant brute man that has a terrifying reputation is to her a form of the devil himself.

The day finally arrives where the king is convinced that his brother in law is right with his claim so he is to convince Mahaut of giving the county to her nephew. But Robert's claims are still weak for his papers are forgeries.

Beatrice had the intention of killing Mahaut in order to live with Robert herself (the book gets into quite some awesome detail about the different medieval spells like with burning a hole through important documents with a hot iron, sacrificing a child etc).

Mahaut then refuses stubbornly to listen to the king and then Beatrice goes through with her plan to poison the countess slowly and painfully over a month's time with arsenic. Mahaut finally dies miserably full of hatred as Beatrice confesses her crime in her last moments. Beatrice is then sent by Robert to finish off Jeanne, Mahaut's daughter. Jeanne though gets a glass of wine with salts of Mercury to act fast so the death was hideously grotesque with white and black patches and poison oozing out of eyes and nose.

The situation in England meanwhile hasn't been all fine and dandy for Mortimer and the Queen mother. They have become tremendously unpopular with the king and the Barons as Mortimer hasn't ruled with the cold iron fist, taxing the country vigorously and eliminating any potential enemies to his power. He manages to framing the former king's brother, Edmund Earl of Kent of treason to the crown by tricking him to believe that his brother was still alive and needed to be saved to be restored to the throne. The Earl Kent then was imprisoned and without trial was sentenced to his gory and clumsy decapitation. Philippa meanwhile has a son. And so does Isabella as well which Edward deeply dislikes. Edward becomes king they take Mortimer prisoner. Edward furious with Mortimer for turning his mother weak. Mortimer is sent back to the tower of London to the same cell where the raven from the previous book torments him again. He is then later without trial shamed and then hanged.

Beatrice is changing her mind about Robert and is starting to hate him for his inability to be loyal or caring to her.

Robert then later is informed that one of his important witnesses was then taken by some men in the order of the king. As he confronts the king about this they find out it wasn't actually him but rather the Queen, Jeanne the lame of burgandy, who had taken the seal. A hilarious scene follows as Robert is supposed but delighted as the smug smile on the queen's face is suddenly replaced with yours as the king rains down on her blows and slaps. Unfortunately, his fucking dumb witness confesses to all the crimes before being tortured including Robert's forgery. Robert then knew that the Duke of burgandy had been informed of all this by Beatrice. Beatrice is found some days later floating down the river bloated and strangled and beaten to death. I like that end of the chapter because Druon wasn't overly explaining what went down with Bruce but left most of it to the reader's imagination.

The king then has a massive and expensive tournament of jousting among the Lords and other lesser kings. Druon goes into lots of detail on the event with the armour and ruleset and casualties. The king then sits down with Robert in a big tub as they take a bath after the tournament. Philippe tells Robert how he knows the documents are fake and advises him in the friendliest manner possible to give up the case and that he will try to buy apps off the burgandys. Robert, period and stubborn does is not persuaded despite Phillippe's calm warning and the 2 unfortunately come to a conclusion that they cannot help each other from now on.

Next chapter is by the bedside of the dying Tolomei. The older Guccio and some of his Tolomei cousins are there and also Robert of Artois. The Italian bankers are in a hell of a predicament with this new king as he has annulled all the debts to Italian bankers and prohibited any future business with them. A major robbery as the kingdom is not able to repay their expensive lifestyle. Even an Italian banker that worked for the crown was executed. Robert is there not to all of money but rather to give Tolomei all of his money as he is fleeing the country after the failed case. Tolomei accepts the money to great surprise and the 2 men even exchange a glance of mutual understanding and respect from all the years together. Tolomei even opens his other eye to smile at Robert. Tolomei is in his 80 and ready to die soon. His money and family members are also fleeing the country back to Italy.

Robert is then finally banished where he spends years even abandoned and almost in misery with the only thing keeping him going is hatred. He then leaves France to join with the king of England and try to get him to sit on the French throne as he had previously argued against. Edward agrees with the proposal and he sort of protects Robert from Charles who demands several times to hand Robert back. Robert was finally creating the war between France and England. During all of this though, the pope Jean had died and been replaced with a dumb pope who everyone has voted by accident.

Despite the sort of redemption in the English for court, Robert was lonely in exile. The only woman he knew was Isabella who had never been seen in court again after the death of Mortimer. He was also frustrated how Edward was reasonably inactive and didn't go through with the plans to take the crown of France. He ponders this in a scene as he hunts a Haron with his pet falcon. I like this scene because it offers all aspects of what I like about historical fiction: a bit of non-fiction historical facts, the fictional aspect of the person's personal feelings and also a different and unique action or scene specific to the timeline they are in like falcon hunting. Robert then brings the Haron and practically calls out the king on his inactivity and being a coward. Despite the king being young, he is wise, always thinking before he talks and never wanting to demonstrate any emotion he will regret (the only true descendant of Philip the fair). The king then justifies himself and views to go to war. The others in the court also make a view and so they soon at of to war in a fierce battle at sea. Druon isn't really an author to get into the action aspect of war. Robert could finally reflect on his life and be content with the war he had begun, ten years in the making. As they storm and ravage the land, Robert, now aged fifty six, still mighty and dressed in red, goes to war himself. As he rode on his horse back, he is struck with a crossbow bolt on the side and falls off his horse. A strange experience for Robert has never been injured in combat and was carried off. The next days he had battles instead with his own body as he caught a fever from the wound. He is taken to sea to be taken back to England in his delirious state, but he finally succumbs to his death while at sea. His epic last words were: "never" and nobody knew who he was talking to (himself, the king, or God). Robert was then buried in London. The last chapter is in the perspective of Jeanino, guccio's son, a man in his forties now. Guccio had died

down years ago. He had never seen his mother again since. He had lived in Italy as a banker and was called to Rome for some urgent secret matters he was unaware of. On the way he and his friend looked back on the years in France and Italy as the black plague had devastated Europe killing off thousands regardless of wealth or power. He had lost his first wife and also the Queen of France Jeanne the lame. The king has remarried after only thirty days but also soon died, leaving his kingdom considerably poorer than when he got to the throne. Jean the second, the good, was the new king but his name wasn't really fitting for he was more vein and malicious than his father. Once he arrives in time and meets with the man who write him, he is told about the amazing, tragic and true story about his real mother and father. As if his entire life had been a lie. His mother had apparently confesses this on her death bed some years ago. Jeaninos informer and Procter was 3 days later assassinated. Was difficult position and had many people claiming to be king at the same time and he did not have the entire support of the Italian bankers. Over many years he tried to get the support from the king of Hungary, a nephew of Clemence of Hungary and others but the economic state of the country and also the many other potential kings didn't really help with his credibility. He was seen as crazy and was later imprisoned in Naples and died in prison alone. An ironic fate as he couldn't escape the curse the grand master of the Templars has set on his family all those years ago, regardless where he was. In my opinion he should not have pursued this path of trying to become king as that would only create more enemies. That ship has sailed with Bouville. All the male heirs to Philip the fair has died a reasonably young and tragic death. The only one being, Edward the third, who had never ruled France.

Andrei Roibu says

All I can say about this book is that it is the best in the entire series. Compared to all the other novels, you can say that all the intrigue, all the treachery, all the mystery of the series was put into this one novel. Not to say that the fact that the action now takes places in France, England and Italy increases that feeling of global consequences generated by the actions of the protagonists. This book has moments that make you scratch your head, moments that fill you with joy and moments that cause you immense sorrow. All in all, one of the best reads I ever had.
