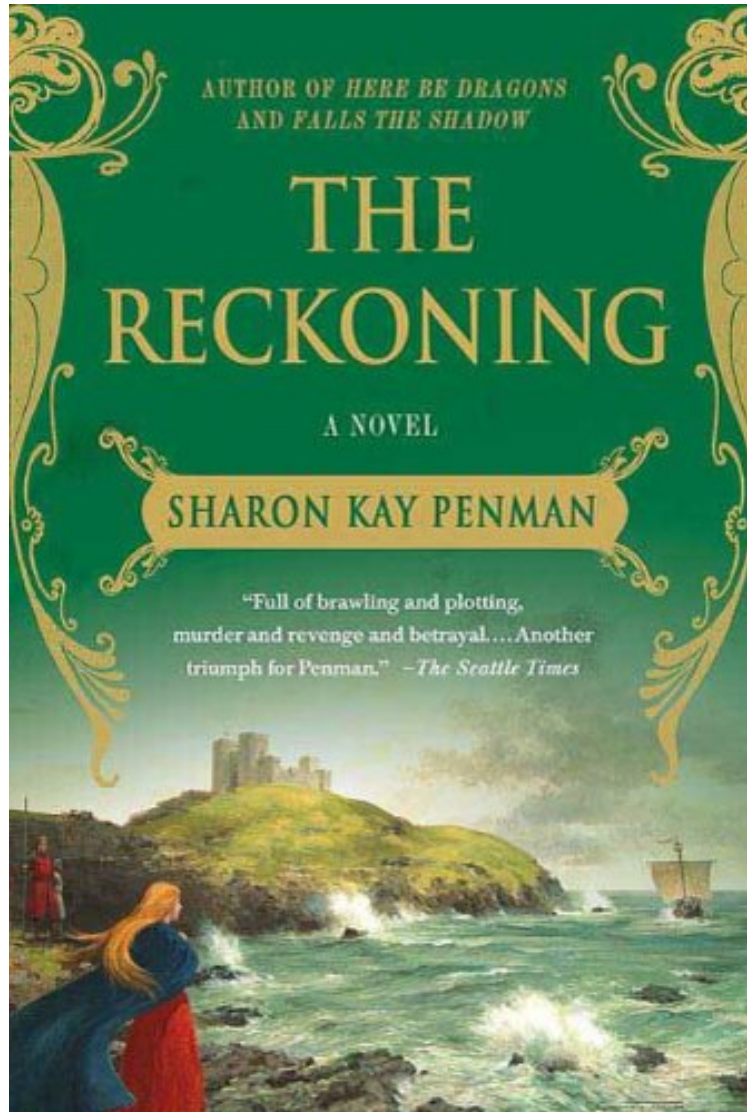


[Free read ebook] The Reckoning (English Edition)

The Reckoning (English Edition)

Von Sharon Penman

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Von Sharon Penman : The Reckoning (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reckoning (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a jewel for history buffs and romantics everywhere!Von Ein KundePirates, politics, betrayal and redemption, Penman's final book in her Wales trilogy has all these things but above all it is one of the most beautiful, tragic, and haunting love stories I have ever read. As the Wales trilogy progresses, Penman's writing and character-development just keeps getting better until it culminates in "The Reckoning." At the center of the tale is Llewelyn, fated to be the last native

Prince of Wales, who struggles against impossible-seeming odds to unite his countrymen, keep his wily brother Davydd under his thumb, evade the ire of the power-hungry Edward I of England, and to at last be united with his soul mate, the Lady Ellen, exiled daughter of the dead rebel, Simon de Montfort. Finally putting aside her somewhat annoying tendency to get bogged-down with her minor characters, Penman is at last able to concentrate solely on her main characters, and on the world they inhabit. In "Reckoning" Penman follows her characters all over the known world, bringing to life such places as the steaming Crusader fortresses of the Holy Land, a pirate ship on the high seas, soaring cathedrals and humble, ice-encrusted, haunted shrines, and, most of all, the haunting, sweeping, beautiful and, ultimately, doomed land of Gwynedd. Probably the most interesting and compelling character in this novel is Davydd, Llewelyn's charming younger brother who's concept of loyalty is...peculiar, to say the least. Forever straddling the fence, Davydd serves both as Llewelyn's foil and, ultimately, his truest ally. (His "soliloquy" while awaiting his fate at Edward's hands in the second to last chapter is just wrenching.) Of all the characters in the novel, he is the one most concerned with discovering himself and where his heart lies. If it were possible to feel empathy for Cain...Penman does this justice. Read this novel! But like the other two, make sure you stock up on kleenexes, first, because if this novel does not ultimately break your heart, there is something wrong with you, I think.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good ending to Welsh trilogy, but...Von SophiaIn "The Reckoning", Sharon Kay Penman concludes her Welsh trilogy, begun in "Here Be Dragons" and continued in "Falls the Shadow." This tale chronicles the conflict between Llewelyn ap Gruffydd and Edward I of England. Llewelyn shines here; as in "Falls the Shadow", I found this character to be amazing and utterly fascinating, and the love story between him and Ellen de Montfort was exquisite and poignant. Similarly, Davydd ap Gruffydd's characterization was marvelous. Ms. Penman's tendency to allow fictionalized characters such as Hugh and Caitlin center stage, however, only detracts from her novel. This book is not for the faint of heart; the starkness of the ending, fictionalized characters aside, was something that stayed with me a long time. A very good book, if lacking the power of the other two in the trilogy.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. All Good Things . . . Von Ein KundeAs with all good things, Penman's trilogy had to come to an end. But what a tragic end. I never expected Ellen de Montfort's character to be as strong as it was. While she did not have the political savvy of an Eleanor of Aquitaine or the ambition of a Maude or Marguerite d'Anjou, her strength against Edward's tyranny and her steadfast optimism endeared her to me. The Welsh saga is especially tragic because of the blood rivalries. Nowhere is this more apparent than between Llewelyn ap Gryffudd and Davydd. Unlike in other relationships where Gryffudd and later Owain were imprisoned, Llewelyn and Davydd had a unique dynamic. To know that Davydd's rashness forced an early confrontation seemed even more of a betrayal not just to Llewelyn but also to Wales. And yet, in the end, there was nothing to do but mourn: for the House of Cunedda, the Welsh people, and Wales. On a side note, I enjoy Penman's afterword and author's note. They're as much fun to read as her books.

KurzbeschreibungThis book completes the splendid sequence of novels on the struggle between the independent Welsh Princes and the growing English strength which began with Here be Dragons, continued with Falls the Shadow and is now completed with The Reckoning. The major figures in The Reckoning are the splendid dominant King of England, Edward I, and The Great Llewellyn II, Prince of Wales. His long love affair and eventual marriage with Ellen, daughter of Simon De Montfort, provides the strong emotional interest in the book, while the political machinations of Edward against the Welsh and the Scots, together with Llewellyn's struggle to control the recalcitrant Welsh Princes provides the political and military drama. From Kirkus sThird in Penman's ambitious and admirable trilogy (Here Be Dragons, 1985; Falls the Shadow, 1988) centered on the medieval maelstroms of power, passions, and terror during the reigns of England's King John, weak Henry III, and, here, that ``Hammer of the Scots," pounder of the Welsh and any others threatening the supremacy of the Crown--Edward I. This is the story of the deadly reckoning, the final defeat of the descendants and allies of Simon de Montfort (whose rebellion against kingly power is chronicled in the first two novels) as well as the tale of the end of an independent Wales. The focus here, much seen through the eyes of a young squire, is on the tactics of two rulers--Edward I of England and his cousinly kin (a genealogical table--a necessity!--will be included) Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, Prince of Wales--judicious, devoted to his land and people, but not one to underestimate Edward's hunger for absolute English supremacy and his ability to achieve it. Around the two, and back and forth, is a motley group: dangerous-to-loyal kin, rumbling nobles and wily clergy, women in love and in terrible grief. Closest to Llewelyn is Ellen, daughter of Simon de Montfort, whose marriage to him is unconsummated for weary months, serving as she does as Edward's lure in a diplomatic game plan. Also, strangely close, is Llewelyn's brother Davydd, a charming, intelligent Cain, betraying again and again--although love can survive. At the close, Davydd's rash action will precipitate the final battle and the deaths of two last Welsh Princes of Wales. Penman's easy narrative and dialogue (except for a ``mayhap" here and there, mainly 20th-century all-purpose) move the reader effortlessly from chill prisons to the blaze of festivals, the coziness of women's quarters and in the beauty or punishment of capricious winds and weathers. With a large cast of sturdy characters, a gripping

(true) story, and research that supports, rather than impales, good storytelling: a first-rate historical novel, crowning a solid series. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From Library Journal Spanning the period 1271-83 A.D., *The Reckoning* focuses on the Welsh uprisings and their prince, Llewelyn ap Gruffydd. The story begins five years after the killing of Simon de Montfort, whose story was related in *Penman's Falls the Shadow* (LJ 7/88). The betrothal between Simon's 13-year-old daughter Ellen and Llewelyn, which had ended with her father's death, has been reinstated. Now, en route to meet her husband, Ellen is kidnapped by pirates acting at the behest of Edward I, who opposes his cousin's marriage to the warring Welsh lord. The scene shifts from Wales to the scattered de Montforts living in France and Italy and to Edward's court. The action involves religious and political intrigue, battles and plots. The players include well-researched historical personages and fictional characters. As with *Penman's* other historical novels, this one is both informative and enjoyable. Settings, events, and individuals are well drawn. Promised maps and genealogies will help sort out the geographical names and convoluted relationships. Recommended. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 5/1/91. - Ellen Kaye Stoppel, Drake Univ. Law Lib., Des Moines Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.