



When Christ and His Saints Slept: A Novel

By Sharon Kay Penman

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A.D. 1135. As church bells tolled for the death of England's King Henry I, his barons faced the unwelcome prospect of being ruled by a woman: Henry's beautiful daughter Maude, Countess of Anjou. But before Maude could claim her throne, her cousin Stephen seized it. In their long and bitter struggle, all of England bled and burned.

Sharon Kay Penman's magnificent fifth novel summons to life a spectacular medieval tragedy whose unfolding breaks the heart even as it prepares the way for splendors to come—the glorious age of Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Plantagenets that would soon illumine the world.

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When Christ and His Saints Slept: A Novel By Sharon Kay Penman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #85652 in Books
- Brand: Penman, Sharon Kay
- Published on: 1996-02-06
- Released on: 1996-02-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x 1.60" w x 5.40" l, 1.34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 784 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Penman's latest historical epic concerns the 12th-century struggle for the English throne between Henry I's daughter Maude and her cousin Stephen of Blois.

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From School Library Journal

YA?Maude, the daughter of King Henry I of England, is in contention for the English throne with her cousin Stephen, the son of William I. This is a rousing and detailed account of that 12th-century struggle between them; both held valid claims and had shifting supporters. This 20-year controversy was much like a civil war, with such loss and pain that the period was characterized by a contemporary chronicle as a time of great wretchedness "when Christ and His Saints slept." The events of this period were dramatic and ironic and carry the plot at a hectic pace. The cast of characters is lengthy, but well defined. The fictional principal, Ranulf, is a young nobleman, a squire pledged to Maude's cause. He is introduced as a teenager and both Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine are seen in appealing youth. There are battles, sieges, endless treacheries, and excellent views of primitive and advanced politics, all spiced with a great deal of gallantry, camaraderie, suspense, and sex.?Frances Reiher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

King Henry I's death in 1135 led to a bloody 20-year struggle between his only legitimate child, Maude (called Matilda in most historical accounts), and his nephew, Stephen of Blois, for control of England. Penman (*The Sunne in Splendour*, 1982) showcases her mastery of the historical novel in this long and thoroughly engrossing study of pragmatic politics, idealism, and the role of women during the 12th century. She brings to life a vast array of unforgettable characters, both historical and invented, all of whose loyalties are being constantly tested by the chaos of the times. This novel, the first of a projected trilogy, should win new readers for Penman and delight her longtime fans. It belongs in all public libraries, large and small.

-?Nancy Pearl, *Washington Ctr. for the Book, Seattle*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martha Williams:

This book untitled *When Christ and His Saints Slept: A Novel* to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by way of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you to past this guide from your list.

Eliseo Watkins:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that

usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love When Christ and His Saints Slept: A Novel, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Joan Marcial:

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