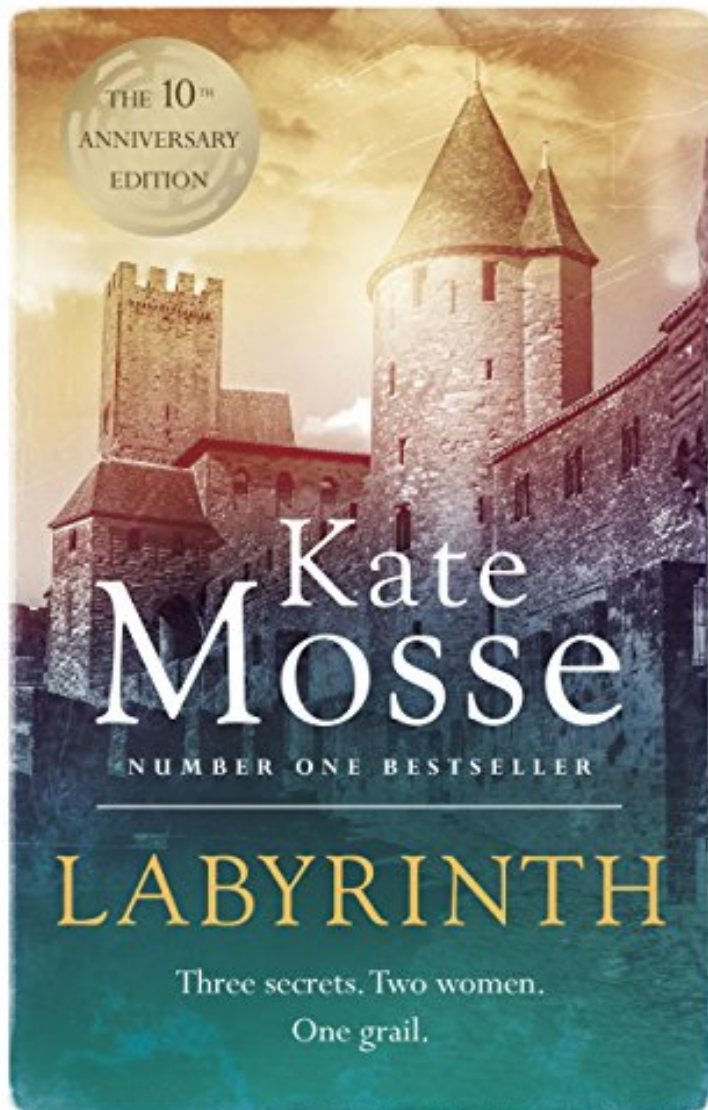


[Library ebook] File size: 22.Mb

Labyrinth



Par Kate Mosse
*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks |*
Download PDF

Dtails sur le produit Rang parmi les ventes : #100301 dans eBooksPubli
le: 2009-12-23Sorti le: 2009-12-23
Format: Ebook Kindle

[Library ebook] Labyrinth

Par Kate Mosse : Labyrinth before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Labyrinth:

Download

Read Online

Description : Description du produitIn this extraordinary thriller, rich in the atmospheres of medieval and contemporary France, the lives of two women born centuries apart are linked by a common destiny. July 2005. In the Pyrenees mountains near Carcassonne, Alice, a volunteer at an archaeological dig stumbles into a cave and makes a startling discovery-two crumbling skeletons, strange writings on the walls, and the pattern of a labyrinth; between the skeletons, a stone ring, and a small leather bag. Eight hundred years earlier, on the eve of a brutal crusade to stamp out heresy that will rip apart southern France, Alais is given a ring and a mysterious book for safekeeping by her father as he leaves to fight the crusaders. The book, he says, contains the secret of the true Grail, and the ring, inscribed with a labyrinth, will identify a guardian of the Grail. As crusading armies led by Church potentates and nobles of northern France gather outside the city walls of Carcassonne, it will take great sacrifice to keep the secret of the labyrinth safe. In the present,

another woman sees the find as a means to the political power she craves; while a man who has great power will kill to destroy all traces of the discovery and everyone who stands in his way.

Prsentation de l'diteurThree secrets. Two women. One Grail . . . 10th Anniversary Edition of the spellbinding No. 1 bestselling novel.July 1209: in Carcassonne a 17-year-old girl is given a mysterious book by her father which he claims contains the secret of the true Grail. Although Alais cannot understand the strange words and symbols hidden within, she knows that her destiny lies in keeping the secret of the labyrinth safe . . .July 2005: Alice Tanner discovers two skeletons in a forgotten cave in the French Pyrenees. Puzzled by the labyrinth symbol carved into the rock, she realises she's disturbed something that was meant to remain hidden. Somehow, a link to a horrific past - her past - has been revealed.From Publishers WeeklyMosse's page-turner takes readers on another quest for the Holy Grail, this time with two closely linked female protagonists born 800 years apart. In 2005, Alice Tanner stumbles into a hidden cave while on an archeological dig in southwest France. Her discoverytwo skeletons and a labyrinth pattern engraved on the wall and on a ringtriggers visions of the past and propels her into a dangerous race against those who want the mystery of the cave for themselves. Alas, in the year 1209, is a plucky 17-year-old living in the French city of Carcassone, an outpost of the tolerant Cathar Christian sect that has been declared heretical by the Catholic Church. As Carcassonne comes under siege by the Crusaders, Alas's father, Bertrand Pelletier,entrusts her with a book that is part of a sacred trilogy connected to the Holy Grail. Guardians of the trilogy are operating against evil forcesincluding Alas's sister, Oriane, a traitorous, sexed-up villainess who wants the books for her own purposes. Sitting securely in the historical religious quest genre, Mosse's fluently written third novel (after Crucifix Lane) may tantalize (if not satisfy) the legions of Da VinciCode devotees with its promise of revelation about Christianity's truths. 8-city author tour. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From The Washington Post's Book World/washingtonpost.comKate Mosse's enviable accomplishments include being co-founder and honorary director of the Orange Prize for fiction as well as a respected commentator on the arts for the BBC. Lately, though, she's enjoyed an even more mouthwatering success. Having already published two well-received novels of a literary bent, including 1996's poignant Eskimo Kissing, she turned her hand to what she unabashedly calls "commercial fiction," a time-slip novel that her publishers have billed as a "women's adventure story." The result, a doorstep of a historical thriller, quickly sprinted to the top of the bestseller lists in her native Britain. Labyrinth is a "women's" adventure story because, presumably, it showcases a strong female cast or, rather, a cast of strong females: two heroines, separated by 800 years, who find themselves pitted against a pair of glamorous, green-eyed female villains. As for the adventure bit, Mosse clearly warmed to her task, packing the novel with swordfights, sieges and massacres. At its heart is a hunt for the Holy Grail across the ruggedly beautiful Cathar country of southwest France. All this medieval mayhem would be pointless without Mosse's good plot to hold things together. The story starts in the present with Alice, a lovelorn twenty-something on an archaeological dig in France, accidentally uncovering a pair of ancient skeletons and a stone ring embossed with a labyrinth symbol. So begins a fast-paced series of events that not only threatens Alice's life (cue a crucifix-wearing racist and sex offender named Authi) but also duplicates those that befell her medieval counterpart and near-namesake Alas, a plucky young newlywed from the nearby city of Carcassonne. The second strand of narrative -- cleverly intertwined with the first -- tells how, in the summer of 1209, as Carcassonne was besieged by bloodthirsty Crusaders, Alas headed for the hills with a mysterious book of hieroglyphics entrusted to her by her dying father.Medieval history and legend are nimbly brought together in this second branch of the story. That the repulsive Authi wears a crucifix should alert us as to how Catholics (who worship what Alas calls a "cruel God") will become the baddies of the piece. Mosse shows the Crusaders as bent on stamping out heresy and, while they were at it, colonizing the rich lands of France's southern nobility. Their victims, the Cathars, currently enjoy a place as the most attractive and sympathetic of medieval heretics, and it's not hard to understand their modern appeal: They were, among other things, vegetarians who ordained female priests, believed in reincarnation and regarded Jews and Muslims as their equals. They were, according to Alas, "good men, tolerant men, men of peace who celebrated a God of Light." These liberal opinions served to get them evicted from their strongholds in the Languedoc area after a brutal, decades-long military campaign known as the Albigensian Crusade -- an act of persecution whose flesh-burning zeal Mosse recounts in terrifying detail. Yet there's more to the Cathar story, of course. As every Grail buff knows, the Cathars were supposedly protectors of the Holy Grail, whose hiding place was the mountains of the Languedoc. Mosse

duly picks up this legend but gives it a new twist: Early on, we learn how the true Grail (which turns out to have little to do with chalices or, indeed, Christianity) is summoned by bringing together three books known as the "Labyrinth Trilogy." One of these Alas has smuggled into a remote place in the Pyrenees; the other two have fallen into the clutches of her evil sister Oriane, a temptress who acquired one of them while bedding Alas's handsome new husband. Oriane will commit worse crimes than that, we suspect, to lay her hands on the final copy. Following the extraordinary sales of a certain other bestseller, it would be tempting -- but unfair -- to attribute the success of Labyrinth to its scheming Catholics and reworking of the Grail legend. Nor is Labyrinth, as a work of commercial fiction, a cynical half-measure or crude attempt by a "serious" writer to pander to a wide audience. Mosse's writing does occasionally lapse into the clichés of the ripping-good-yarn genre. She provides plenty of what might be called cardiopulmonary hyperbole (pounding hearts, gasping lungs), as well as one too many cases of a character blacking out after an unexpected encounter between her skull and a blunt object. Still, the novel distinguishes itself by juggling two compelling story lines, unscrambling (and making digestible) chunks of medieval history and offering a pleasing wealth of information about the Languedoc, a region whose landscape and history Mosse loves deeply and knows intimately. Her contagious enthusiasm for the subject and dexterous handling of her material make for an open-throttle narrative drive across 500 pages of white-knuckle twists and turns. A women's adventure novel? Labyrinth is a thumping good read that men, too, will surely enjoy. Why should the girls have all the fun? ed by Ross King Copyright 2006, The Washington Post. All Rights Reserved.