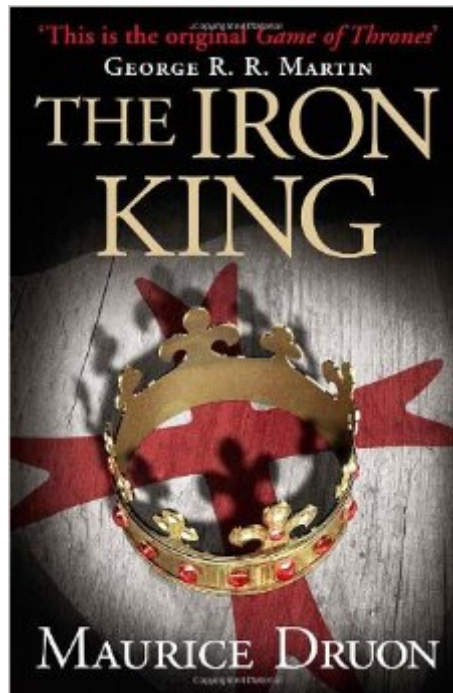


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The Iron King (The Accursed Kings, Book 1)



Synopsis

“This is the original game of thrones”™ George R.R. Martin
From the publishers that brought you A Game of Thrones comes the series that inspired George R.R. Martin’s epic work.
“Accursed! Accursed! You shall be accursed to the thirteenth generation!”
•The Iron King
“Philip the Fair” is as cold and silent, as handsome and unblinking as a statue. He governs his realm with an iron hand, but he cannot rule his own family: his sons are weak and their wives adulterous; while his red-blooded daughter Isabella is unhappily married to an English king who prefers the company of men. A web of scandal, murder and intrigue is weaving itself around the Iron King; but his downfall will come from an unexpected quarter. Bent on the persecution of the rich and powerful Knights Templar, Philip sentences Grand Master Jacques Molay to be burned at the stake, thus drawing down upon himself a curse that will destroy his entire dynasty |

Book Information

Series: The Accursed Kings (Book 1)

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Harper; Reprint edition (April 11, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0007491263

ISBN-13: 978-0007491261

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (258 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The Middle Ages are called the dark ages for a reason: there are often difficult to study, understand and to be able to grasp its impact on the shaping of the modern world. They are confusing, there are not that many reliable sources of research and those existing need a real expert on the field to bring us within reach of what it meant to be royalty at that time or to gravitate around royalty, to be Catholic, to be a Jew, to be rich or to be like the 99% of the rest of Europe: poor, hungry, sick, ignorant and surrounded by death as part of life, often more present than not. Maurice Druon accomplishes it, bringing us a superb work of fiction using non-fiction history as a framework. You

must read the Iron King, as well as the other six books that complete the series of the Accursed Kings. This is not an option, it is something you should put in your bucket list and try to accomplish as soon as possible. The English translation has a foreword from George R. R. Martin, who will tell you he used Maurice's work as inspiration for its A Song of Ice and Fire and for its TV version, Game of Thrones. Even if it says it there in the cover and may seem like a plot from the publishers to try to sell you a 1950's forgotten literary jewel, it is not a marketing plot or a favor from George R.R, it is true: If you watched Game of Thrones, you will see that it is nothing more than a repetition, I would even say a censored and watered down repetition of the constant plots, conspiracies, treasons and betrayals that are an integral part of the Accursed Kings and this period of European history.

"The Iron King" by Maurice Druon follows the intrigues, passions, murders, and backstabbing within the French dynasty in the 1300s. It was originally published in French in the 1950s, and is the first book in the Accursed Kings series (there are seven in all, and they follow the story of the dynasty after it's--you guessed it, cursed--in the first book, by the unfairly executed Grand Master Jacques de Molay). I like historical fiction novels, and Druon's series was very popular when it was initially published. Though I've heard of it, it was my first time actually reading it. The title of the book, "The Iron King" refers to Philip IV (Philip the Fair), the King of France who has a fiery temper. After he is unable to overtake Jacques de Molay's Order of the Knights of Templar organization, the King gets his vengeance by sentencing Jacques and the rest of the senior participants of this organization to a lengthy jail sentence, and ultimately to burn at the stake. Jacques, whose organization was dismantled and life ruined, vows revenge. He curses the people who did this to him--the King of France (the Iron King), the Pope, and the King's Minister Guillaume de Nogaret. As the story starts unfolding further, the curse begins to work--and, reminiscent to Agatha Christies "And then there were none," -the recipients of the curse start to die one by one. Meanwhile, the Iron King's sons--Louis, King of Navarre and Charles, are being cuckolded by their cheating wives--Marguerite and Blanche. Worst of all, the cheating scandal is revealed to Isabella, the Iron King's daughter and sister to the cuckolded husbands.

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