



## The Revolt of the Eaglets

*Jean Plaidy*

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## **The Revolt of the Eaglets** Jean Plaidy

News of Thomas a Becket's martyrdom has spread throughout Christendom and the blame is laid at the feet of Henry Plantagenet, King of England. Two years later, with Becket canonised, Henry's position is precarious: punished at the Pope's insistence for his part in Becket's death, he now also has an enemy in his Queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, after her discovery of his longstanding infidelity with Rosamund Clifford. Eleanor is determined to seek vengeance, so, with King Philip of France, she encourages her sons to conspire, both against their father and each other. Much embattled, the old eagle Henry struggles to fend off both rebellion and the plots of his aggressively circling offspring...

## **The Revolt of the Eaglets Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2007 by Arrow (first published January 1st 1978)

ISBN : 9780099493273

Author : Jean Plaidy

Format : Paperback 430 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Plantagenet

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## From Reader Review The Revolt of the Eaglets for online ebook

### Caroline says

The Revolt of the Eaglets is a direct sequel to Jean Plaidy's The Plantagenet Prelude. This 1977 entry was part of her never-ending quest to fictionalize each and every aspect of British history. This novel picks up just after the end of the last one. Thomas a Becket has just been murdered and the marriage of King Henry and Queen Eleanor has fallen apart.

Whereas the previous book was very much Eleanor's story, the Revolt of the Eaglet's is told mostly from Henry's perspective, although various chapters are told from the eyes of other characters from Eleanor, to young Henry, to King Louis of France. Even Berengaria gets a chapter, though this seems to be more of setting up things to come than anything to do with this book.

The prose is straightforward, perhaps a little too straightforward. Many chapters run along the lines of this happened, then this happened, and this is how Henry felt about it. Then this happened. There is quite a bit of repetition. Repetition can be an effective literary technique, but in this instance I found it a bit tiresome. How many times can Henry wish for loving sons? How many times can someone call King Louis a monk? The same points are hit over and over again with the regularity of a hammer.

None of the characters are all that likable, which is somewhat unusual for this author, I find. Her usual tactic is to pick something that the historical personage did NOT get, and make that the one thing they long for above all else, thus creating sympathy. For example, the historical Queen Adelaide did not have any living children. In Plaidy's Victoria in the Wings, what the character of Queen Adelaide wishes for more than anything else is to be a mother. She is doomed by history to be forever unfulfilled.

In this instance, King Henry longs for loving sons above all else, and gets rebels instead. This, however, does not make him sympathetic. Henry continues to be, in Plaidy's depiction, a despicable human being. He is selfish, self-centered, seduces a child, and is really, really whiny. Eleanor is also annoying, but since she spends most of the novel in captivity, her negative traits don't register as much. King Louis continues to be the most likable character. He tries so hard to be a good man and a good king, yet it is never really successful. The cumulative effect is kind of unpleasant.

Nevertheless, this is good read for those seeking a straightforward, matter-of-fact fictional version of early Plantagenet history.

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### Tania says

I have to say I was disappointed in this 2nd book of the Plantagenet series. There were a lot of words used to describe very little. I found many parts of the book redundant as Plaidy reminds us over and over again about past events and each characters' feelings, reminding the reader as quickly as 5 pages later of something we've read. Also the end result was basically beaten into the reader very early in the book, there was no suspense. It

all fell short of Plaidy's other masterpieces.

King Henry II is ruler of England, Normandy and Anjou throughout this volume. He now has children who are vying for his crown, egged on by the wife who hates him. He's also moved on to a new low in philandering, having his wife the Queen locked up while he lives openly with his mistress. While the King struggles to train his heir apparent and still keep his children behaving as subjects rather than upstarts, he also involves himself in his most damaging and dangerous affair yet.

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### **Pepca says**

There are several reasons I liked The Revolt of the Eaglets better than The Plantagenet Prelude.

It seemed better written to me, or maybe I just got used to Plaidy's simplistic style for this saga.

I liked the sense of the author's sarcastic opinion about the historical events and figures she presents. It appears in subtle, faint undertones in many spots, and I may have just imagined it, but it gave the book a bit of a special flavour.

Overall, The Revolt of the Eaglets was a gripping historical read, and it convinced me to read more of The Plantagenet Saga. Actually, I can't wait to start next book, The Heart of the Lion.

Read full review on my blog, Beyond Strange New Words.

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### **Nelda Pearson says**

I have read the entire Plaidy Plantagenet series. If you know nothing about this royal dynasty and wish an overview of everything that led up to the War of the Roses, this is fairly historically accurate. However, the writing is wooden and conversation tends to fall into what I call the "Yo varlet what now" category. Things like: Prince Richard: "We must go." Prince John: "Yes, we must go." Prince Richard. "Summon the guards." Prince John: "Guards" Then in the next scene they are somewhere miles away. Huh, why were the conversation for summoning the guard when you don't tell us anything about the trip. Similarly, there can be great detail about some fairly irrelevant item such as a piece of clothing. Why? Did the author suddenly go "oh ya, I'm writing a novel so there needs to be detail and not just a list of events that are historically verifiable." If you have read some of what I consider the very best historical fiction for the Plantagenet period, like Sharon Kay Penman, Elizabeth Chadwick, and Susan Higginbottom, these will read like outlines for a real novel. I usually do not write such negative reviews but turned to Plaidy to fill in some gaps among the more written about monarchs. What a disappointment. These are short quick reads if that is what you are after.

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### **Steph Taylor says**

Really struggled with this one. Having very limited knowledge of any kings or queens pre-Tudor, I decided to give Jean Plaidy's books a go as she pretty much has them all covered from the Conqueror to Queen Victoria... I find reading historical fiction brings history alive and makes it more interesting than reading

factual books... Have sailed through all of them up until this one. I felt that it had a lot of 'filler' in it, a lot of repetition, especially of Henry's thoughts or feelings which became a bit tedious after a while. I've noticed that's a habit of hers but in this particular book it was constant. Just glad I've finished it... will carry on with the series regardless.. Hope the next one's better!

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### **BAM The Bibliomaniac says**

RTC but basically intrigue and war everywhere

2017 Reading Challenge: author uses a pseudonym

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### **Charlotte says**

while i did enjoy the story i found that it seemed to unnecessarily repeat its self at times which seemed to slow the story down

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### **Rachel says**

This was actually a surprisingly solid and interesting read. Plaidy does a good job of capturing the essence of the ever fascinating Eleanor of Aquitaine- who like Anne Boleyn seems comes down to us through the centuries with a relatable dash of modernity.

There's a lot going on here including Henry II's tragically mismanaged relationship with his sons, his clash with Thomas Becket, the soured marriage of Henry and Eleanor and the struggles of keeping a vast territory under control so inevitably there is a compactness to the story telling but it made me want to read more around the subject so it must have done a good job of snagging my interest.

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### **Maja - says**

As with the book proceeding this one I was quite annoyed at the constant repeatings. King Henry only thought of Princess Alice and wanting his sons to love him. Eleanor only thought of hating her husband. Young Henry only thought of being king. Richard only thought of hating his father, loving his mother and keeping Aquitaine. Yap, yap, yap, how boring. The only thing really keeping me reading is the subject, the Plantagenets, whom I know nothing about and therefore everything is new and exciting to me. So I'll probably read the next one too.

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### **Phil Syphe says**

Although Jean Plaidy is one of my favourite authors, she does annoy me in books like this by repeating certain themes, over and over. The amount of times Henry II wishes his sons loved him and questioning why

they don't is one such example.

This period of English and French history is a fascinating one, and at times this novel does a good job of re-enacting them, but the repetition of several characters' views and feelings dampens what could've been a much better novel.

Overall I'm more impressed than otherwise with "The Revolt of the Eaglets", as the four stars suggest, but there's a lot of missed potential here.

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### **Christine Cazeneuve says**

Terrific book - couldn't put it down. This book - second in the series focuses on Henry II's relationship with his now grown sons, his two mistresses Rosamund and Alice (although this one really bothered me and you will find out why when you read it) and, of course, the powerful, beautiful and cunning Eleanor of Aquitaine. You will find yourself constantly shaking your head and to be honest I couldn't feel sorry for Henry in this book but I will let you draw your own conclusions. What I enjoy about Jean Plaidy's writing is she doesn't drag out battles, get graphic with sex and focuses more on the dynamics of the characters which is what I love. On to Book 3!

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### **English says**

may be in the minority for having given this, my fourth Plaidy novel less than four stars, but I just don't feel a higher rating was deserved. For one thing, the writing style seemed very repetitive, and, as other reviewers have said, Plaidy seemed to have been very much in the habit of telling rather than showing what was happening. I don't really hold that against her, as that may have been a style common to the '70s when this book was first published.

It was good in places, showing the breakdown of the relationships between Henry and his sons, and illustrating how his apparent desire to keep power for himself seems to have contributed to it. The strong personalities of both King Henry and Eleanor also came through, with the friction between them quite well written. However, perhaps due to the constraints of space it did seem as though things were a little rushed, and events covered very quickly and not in great detail. To me, the novel seemed to read a little like 'A Brief History of' book in some places. Perhaps I'm just not so used to the older style.

My only other gripe was that I was not sure of the accuracy of the incidents presented. Now I know no novel is going to be entirely accurate, and authors need to use artistic licence, but it seems that the alleged homosexual relationship between Richard and King Phillip II of France is little more than a myth, albeit one that seems to have been common at the time (in light of a similar insinuation in 'The Lion in Winter'). I believe modern writers and historians are starting to question the whole idea that King Richard was 'gay'. I don't know of any contemporary evidence that he was, and he did have at least one illegitimate son. Personally I think that just because the two men had a close relationship it does not automatically follow they were romantically attracted to each other- and even for two men to share a bed did not necessarily carry sexual connotations at this time.

What with this and the mention of King Henry seducing Richard's betrothed at the age of 11, which was just

sick, (which also may not have happened) I believe this may have been a case of artistic licence carried too far.

So in overall summary, Revolt of the Eaglets is worth reading, but may be prove frustrating for people who are more familiar than me with the details of the life and reign of Henry II, and those more used to recent writing styles.

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### **Stephanie O'Neill says**

I couldn't wait to finish this book because it was really boring and the author constantly repeats herself.

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### **NayNay says**

King Henry II of England and Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine are my favorite King and Queen to read about. And this book was a very enjoyable read. King Henry II was an energetic and sometimes ruthless ruler, driven by a desire to restore the lands and privileges of his royal grandfather. The King, had mistresses, this put him at odds with his headstrong, opinionated, wife, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. Once she discovered his unfaithfulness and realized that it had taken place right under her very nose, and that he brought a bastard son to her nursery, she had nothing good to say about him. As part of her revenge, she created the tension between the King and their sons. She aggravated Henry so much, and set out to fight with her sons against him, that he finally held her in captivity.

The book is action packed, full of battles between father and sons. I found the book a bit sad....you feel that Henry, as he is advancing in age, is just looking for the love. He really does not have that, certainly there is no love from his queen or his sons. No one seems to be able to understand or wants to understand him. And he dies a very broken man.

I recommend this book for fans of history....it is a good lesson about King Henry II and his power hungry sons, his vengeful wife Eleanor and his great rule. They were all just selfish and power hungry, this twelfth century family was a family at war with itself.

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### **Cassandra says**

I would have probably liked this book a lot more if I hadn't read Courts of Love first.

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