



The Maid's War

Jeff Wheeler

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From Wall Street Journal bestselling author Jeff Wheeler:

Sent on an impossible mission by Kingfountain's ruler into the heart of the enemy's capital as two mighty kingdoms prepare for war, Ankarette Tryneowy must divine the location of a magical sword, perhaps their key to victory. What she finds is the truth—one she could never have foreseen.

Searching for Firebos, the sword of ancient kings, is no simple task. It disappeared after one of the most powerful Fountain-blessed figures, the Maid of Donremy, used it in battle, and no one—except perhaps the Maid's dearest friend, the Duke of La Marche—knows its whereabouts. But when Ankarette finds the aging duke in his prison cell and hears the mystery he unveils, her mission becomes more perilous than she could have possibly imagined.

The Maid's War Details

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From Reader Review The Maid's War for online ebook

Nate says

I appreciated the backstory that Wheeler provides here to give additional context for the Kingfountain series book and events mentioned there. This wasn't a required story to understand the others, because those are well written and contain themselves nicely, but I enjoyed learning more about it. However, parts of the story seemed too simplistic compared to the other Kingfountain books. The character development here wasn't as deep and almost relied on an understanding of the story in the Kingfountain books. If this was the first book I read coming into the series I wouldn't have cared much for reading more but because I had read the others this was interesting.

GabriellaS says

As always very imaginative

Jeff Wheeler does it again! Each book in this series is full of twists and unseen turns! You will never be bored. As always an excellent read!

Micah Lee says

This was such a great addition to this series delving into the parents and grandparents of the main series. In this story, we learn about the Maid of Donremy, we learn about the Duke of La Marche (now Westmarch) and we see the beginnings of the fallout between Severn and his family members before he took the crown. And we get to see Annakarette at the height of her power and actions. I can't wait to continue this series!

Erica says

This prequel tells the story of the Maid of Donremy - a semi-mythological figure in the later Kingfountain series - and explains how she prophesies Ankarette's pivotal role in the birth of Owen Kiskaddon. The book alternates between the Maid's story, as told by the disgraced Duke of La Marche who fought alongside her, and the story of Ankarette's attempt to rescue the Duke from imprisonment late in his life.

Like all Wheeler's novels, this one is well-written and provides plenty of (fictional) historical detail. But it lacks the depth and color of the main Kingfountain series; I didn't feel any of the main characters were particularly well-developed and there was little subtlety to the plot. It was mostly a straightforward explication of history.

Joy Ramlogan says

Much as I have been enjoying the series, this is an example of stretching the story too far. I like the characters and the perspectives of Trynne and the changes in other characters. And the introduction of a massive empire waging war. However, the conclusion to the war was too pat, too unbelievable and not understandable. This is a plot hole, contrived and transparently so. I still want to read the next book, because I am compulsive that way, just hope it reaches up to the wonder and solidity of the first three books.

Erika says

I didn't even finish reading the book, and is not exactly because the story was bad, it's just that is a copy of Joan of Arc, and if I wanted to read about her, I would (and have) read a book about her. It feels like the author took a book about Joan of Arc and replaced her name with the Maid, references of God and replaced them for the Fountain. I got bored really fast because many of the scenes were a replay of things I have already read when reading about Joan of Arc, and it got frustrating really fast. The author claims the books is *based* on Joan of Arc, but some parts are just copies, there are a couple scenes that I'm sure I could find the scene on a Joan of Arc book and it would be the same almost word by word.

If you have never read a Joan of Arc story, never seen a movie of her, and basically you don't know anything about it, it would be a good book, otherwise, don't even bother.

Kara Prem says

A prequel to the Kingfountain series, which is two stories in one. Ankarette, the poisoner who took young Owen under her care in the first few books, visits the imprisoned Duke of La Marche and attempts to free him, while listening to his story about the Maid of Donremy and the magical sword Firebos which will play quite a roll in the future books.

Angie says

Great prequel to the Kingfountain series. At last we know who "The Maid" is--a person referred to but not explained in the first three Kingfountain novels. The author reveals her story, filled with interesting details of her character and her wars. If I hadn't already read the first three novels before this one was published, I would have read this one first. Still, it didn't contain spoilers of what's to come in the rest of the series; it filled in some gaps to help complete the tale.

Kathryn says

This is a prequel to the KINGFOUNTAIN series, though I think it makes more sense having read the other books first.

While I've thoroughly enjoyed books 1-5, this one was surprisingly flat, mostly because I wasn't drawn to the Maid of Donremy as a character. Wheeler freely admits to basing her on Joan of Arc, which isn't a problem for me, but somehow this maid felt lacking, underdeveloped, uninspiring. A disappointment, because I've been so engrossed by previous stories.

It does provide some interesting background, but I think you'll be more impressed with the rest of the series.

Sheila Lewis says

I loved this book. You can read my full review on Audible. I highly recommend the entire Kingfountain series.

"How her notes of encouragement comforted me. I grew to love her more in those years of prevation than many husbands ever love their wives. Troubles are the furnace, my dear, troubles and heat. Troubles and heat. Does not a baker need fire to stiffen the dough? For every kind of pie there is a proper time in the ovens. The Fountain has a purpose, nay, a recipe, for each of us. If we endure the flames well, then we become more than the eggs, the floor, the spices, the drabs of honey."

Zachary says

For some reason, I had a hard time connecting with this one. That's why it took me in excess of six months to finish it. I enjoyed seeing more of Ankarette, but I just couldn't empathize with the Maid of Donremy or her gentle friend. As someone who has been consistently wowed by Wheeler's KINGFOUNTAIN books, I was surprised. For me, it didn't have the same heart as the "main" books in the series. Not a bad book by any means, and the main series is a bit richer having read this, just not my cup of tea.

Denise McLachlan says

As with his other books, Jeff Wheeler's writing is excellent, he keeps you interested. I only gave a 4 star review for this book because it was mainly details about battle, which is not interesting to me. That doesn't mean that you won't like it. I learned the background to some of the references in the Kingfountain series. This has been a wonderful series and I can't wait for the last book to be published.

Karen says

4 Stars

I enjoyed this prequel as it gives us backstory not only on Ankarette and her ties to this part of history, but also the full story about "The Maid of Donremy," that has been hinted at in the first three books so far. The sword of King Andrew and the scabbard that made an appearance in the previous books are all part of this story. Alensson, duke of La Marche plays a pivotal role as the tale is told from his point of view. "The Maid's War" is a beautiful ode to the story of Joan of Arc. Having read Mark Twain's book "Personal Recollections

of Joan of Arc," this narrative is true to her personality and the unflagging belief she had in her mission. Her compassion, confidence, and courage stand out in this story about sacrifice, duty, honor, and integrity. There are some emotional and tender moments between Alensson (the gentle duke) and Genette (the maid of Donremy) that really touched me. Jeff Wheeler intended this book to be a bridge of sorts between the first three books and the next three books. I loved the ending and the revelation that Ankarette discovers.

Bobby D Jones says

Jeff Wheeler is a great story teller

I read a lot of Kindle Unlimited books and I am amazed that Mr Wheeler is here. His writing and storytelling is fresh and in par with all the greats of the fantasy genre. Thank you Mr Wheeler for giving us a glimpse into your imagination and sparking our own!

Anna says

This review pretty much says exactly what I was thinking.

I had a hard time getting into the book an didn't feel it was as good as the first 3 in the Kingfountain series - especially The King's Traitor which I just finished before picking up this one. I loved that one. But, I kept reading, and it did get a bit better as the story picked up. It filled in some holes, so that was good, but as the review I linked to mentioned - I may not have felt a need to continue the series if this had been the first book I read.

I do look forward to seeing how this bridges the gap between the first 3 books and the next 3...

Cheryl says

Wheeler only improves the Kingfountain series with every book he adds to it. The Maid's War is a fascinating combination of frame story and flashback. The modern frame story features Ankarette Tryneowy, before she became the Queen's Poisoner, seeking a sword for her king. It is a flashback for the Gentle Duke (whom Ankarette seeks to find the sword) who remembers The Maid of Donremy. In obedience to the Maid, he tells Ankarette her story. This tale develops more depth of Ankarette's already complex character, and introduces The Maid as a person, not just an historical figure of Kingfountain, and what a fascinating person she turns out to be. This story actually makes me believe in the call to martyrdom as a spiritual gift. But, I still longed for a different ending for her.

Michele Hermansen says

He does it again!

Jeff Wheeler has written interesting character, The Maid, who is based on the fascinating Joan of Arc, and

ties her story into the Kingfountain world. Exceptionally well written. Ankorette, featured in the early Kingfountain books as well, helps link everything together. I would love to see Ankorette in a stand-alone book or in a Kingfountain trilogy of her own. Wheeler makes characters to care about with ease.

Ashley says

It was nice to see what the country was like BEFORE the first book, and the events that lead to the beginning of the first three books. I loved Ankeret in the first book as the Queen's prisoner and I have always wondered more about her. This gave a lot more information about her and her history with the royal family. Would recommend for anyone who has enjoyed this series so far... onto #4!

Heather says

These books are not "life-altering" not do I come out of them "a better person" so I have a hard time giving them 5 stars, but I sure do enjoy them!!! This was a prequel to the Kingfountain series, but it was a full-size novel. The book takes place a few decades before the first book in the series begins. There were a lot of new characters (so that took some time to get used to) but there were some familiar names as well. This book introduced two characters that quickly became favorites. It was such a fun, quick, satisfying read. One more book in the series to go -- another prequel. My library doesn't have it, so I may have to break down and buy the Kindle version for \$5.

Kelly says

Loved this series. The Maid of Donremy features strongly in the entire series, so reading this prequel has me wanting to go back and re-read the series.

I did find it hard to keep the countries separated during the reading of the series, but I let that go and had a great time. Plus, in political battles, the boundaries always shift anyway. If you want to stay true to this part of the series though, you may find it helpful to read the author's inspiration for the series, and use that as part of the backstory. You can piece things together easier that way.
