



Cursed in the Blood

Sharan Newman

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The fifth in Sharan Newman's highly authentic and richly praised series, *Cursed in the Blood* finds Catherine LeVendeur venturing to the cold and tumultuous homeland of her husband - only to realize that vast differences between Edgar's family and her own. After making the pilgrimage to Compostela and giving birth to a son, Catherine LeVendeur is looking forward to an idyllic life at home in Paris. Yet her contentment is shattered when she and Edgar receive news from his family: Edgar's two oldest brothers have been ambushed and murdered, and he must return to Scotland to help avenge their deaths. At first, Edgar refuses to go, knowing what may await them in his war torn homeland. But Catherine believes in family loyalty and insists upon accompanying him with their baby.

Once in Scotland, Catherine is surprised to learn that Edgar's family is not what she imagined: His father, Waldeve, is a cold tyrant, and his remaining siblings are distant and secretive. Separated from Edgar during their efforts to uncover the truth, Catherine is expelled from his family's care. She becomes a stranger in a strange land, searching for refuge in a country ravaged by civil war at the same time she searches for her husband. Yet she knows that any haven she finds will only be temporary until she answers this question: Who among Waldeve's enemies hates his passionately enough to destroy his whole family - including, she fears, his infant grandson?

Cursed in the Blood Details

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From Reader Review Cursed in the Blood for online ebook

Kathy says

Again the same Sharan Newman series I enjoyed. This time, instead of France or Europe, the characters are in Scotland. Again, a whole different part of history I knew little about. Interesting to compare progress in the different countries in that time period - 12th Century.

Chriss says

The writing was good, but the setting was grimer than I wanted. And I found I didn't really care much about any of the characters withing the first few chapters. So I stopped reading.

May says

I am an avid fan of the Catherine LeVendeur mystery series and have been for years, but I only recently picked it up again with this 5th book of the series. The reason is that some years ago, I had peeked at the last few pages of this book (I know, but I can't help myself), saw the sad outcome, and decided I didn't need that type of ending in my reading.

That was several years ago and while I still am not happy about the ending, I am extremely glad that I picked the series up again. I had forgotten how well the author writes, how compelling her storylines are, and how impeccably researched her history is. Together, the three produce a product that is difficult to put down.

What is particularly well done in this series is the author's depiction of how Jews were treated in the Middle Ages. This is obviously not showing humanity at its finest, but it is a topic that is rarely handled by medieval novelists. The author makes no judgments (medieval anti-Semitism does not translate well to the 21st century) but handles the issue with a factual approach that in no way detracts from the tragedies that ensued. As always with this series, the characters come alive off the page.

If you are a fan of medieval mysteries, I highly recommend this series. They are best read in order so that you get the full depth and nuance of the characters.

Diana Sandberg says

Yes! Her best yet. Newman has such a sure hand at the period. I love the way everyone frequently thinks in terms of religious images and whether God or some saint is paying attention, etc. I've often felt this involvement with religion was missing from many books set in the period. Also the physical hardships are well portrayed. And the characters - several really good new ones here: Robert and Aetheraed and Margaret and Adalisa... Great stuff.

Rosalind Hoenig says

Don't bother. They don't get better.

Rachel Bhattacharyya says

This series gives such a wonderful perspective of the Medieval period. It brings it to life.

Pam Bales says

Fifth book in the Catherine LeVendeur series of medieval history stories, the characters are good, the history accurate, and the plot intriguing. If you enjoy medieval history and strong female characters, give this series a try.

Julie says

I enjoyed this book slightly less than the previous only because it has less time spent with the wonderful Hubert, Johanna, and Elazar. Still wonderful.

John Barclay says

A great one. In Scotland now and more history that I just knew bits and pieces of. Great characters and great details throughout.

Jean says

I love this series, especially the characters of Catherine and Edgar, but this book was so dark and horrifying that at times I had to set it aside because I just couldn't read any more. We learn a lot about Edgar's family and understand why he was able to leave them to marry Catherine, so for that reason I was glad that I finished the book.

Kathy Nouri says

nice reading for new orleans history.

Phil says

Not quite as good as the others but still a decent read. Scotland, war and maiming.

Paula says

Good series. Enjoy the characters but also a good mystery.

Samira says

I am continuing to enjoy this series and am getting better at reading 11th/12th century English and French. That said, I think I may take a bit of a break from them for now, to keep myself from getting tired of the characters. (I find that the problem with reading a series that already in print is that you can barrel through the whole thing, when in fact, it would be more enjoyable if you had to wait a bit.)
