

## A Kings Ransom

Honor Dale, niece to Oliver Cromwell, has good reason to hate the royalists. First they slaughtered her parents, and now the notorious Captain Hood has stolen her family's jewels to fund the restoration of Charles Stuart to power. Gradually he steals her heart as well. But what is Hood's true nature? Is he a charming, adventurous rake or a desperate nobleman fired by idealism?

In his first novel in more than a decade, award-winning author David Malouf reimagines the pivotal narrative of Homer's Iliad—one of the most famous passages in all of literature. This is the story of the relationship between two grieving men at war: fierce Achilles, who has lost his beloved Patroclus in the siege of Troy; and woeful Priam, whose son Hector killed Patroclus and was in turn savaged by Achilles. A moving tale of suffering, sorrow, and redemption, Ransom is incandescent in its delicate and powerful lyricism and its unstated imperative that we imagine our lives in the glow of fellow feeling.

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A King's Ransom Penguin

It began with a chance meeting and led to a date at a small French restaurant in a city by the sea. She ordered expensive wine. He paid the bill. She spoke of the sea. He was haunted by her green eyes and copper-colored skin. Then, in a matter of weeks, the woman named Cricket Page would lead Wilson Lander away from the moorings of his familiar life, away from his relationship with a successful businesswoman and onto a tycoon's yacht called the Compound Interest--for a journey across the great Sargasso Sea. Coming ashore in a world of searing mystery and danger, Lander will pay the price for his unquenchable desire for Cricket Page, for their moments of stolen pleasure and her cryptic promises of a life of luxury together. For she is a pirate's daughter, and in an exotic land exploding with cruelty and violence, populated by maniacs and plunderers, Wilson Lander must escape the woman who has stolen his heart--and given him his freedom. . . .

It was supposed to be a simple case of revenge: get to know King Tech owner and CEO Beckett King, learn his secrets, and ruin his life like he ruined my brother's. But Beckett King offers me a deal I can't refuse. Not only does he want me to pretend to be engaged to him, he needs to marry me to get his grandmother off his back. And at the end of the year, we can go our separate ways, only I'll be a whole lot richer. I won't fall for his irresistible good looks, or that aw, shucks country-boy charm he still possesses from growing up on a ranch. I'm smarter than that. He has a lesson to learn and I'm the best one to teach him. But that's the tricky thing with revenge. It doesn't always go as planned.

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "The great Crusader king Richard the Lionheart comes alive in all his complex splendor in this masterpiece of medieval tapestry."—Margaret George A.D. 1189. After the death of his father, Henry II, and the early demise of two of his brothers, Richard is crowned King of England and immediately sets off for the Holy Land. This is the Third Crusade, marked by internecine warfare among the Christians and extraordinary campaigns against the Saracens. Richard's surviving brother, the younger John, is left behind—and conspires

with the French king to steal his brother's throne. Only their mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, now freed from decades of captivity, remains to protect Richard's interests and secure his destiny. In this engrossing saga, Sharon Kay Penman delivers a novel of passion, intrigue, battle, and deceit. Lionheart is a sweeping tale of a heroic figure—feared by his enemies and beloved by those he commanded—who became a legend in his own lifetime. “[Sharon Kay] Penman displays her usual grasp of sweeping historical events as well as an uncanny ability to get inside the hearts and minds of her real-life characters. Her reputation for character-driven, solidly detailed historicals is richly deserved.”—Booklist “The beautifully described settings and the characters' interactions are simply outstanding.”—The Historical Novels Review “Penman takes historical writing to a whole new level.”—The Sacramento Bee “[A] gritty, unsentimental, and richly detailed epic.”—Publishers Weekly Don't miss the exclusive conversation between Sharon Kay Penman and Margaret George at the back of the book.

New, never-before-published full-length novel First published December 2020 Tall, Dark & Dangerous/SEAL Team Ten #13 Hero: Navy SEAL LT (jg) Thomas King Heroine: Tasha Francisco Tropes: Childhood friends to lovers Snowbound/trapped in close quarters The book that readers have been waiting for. In Frisco's Kid, Tasha Francisco was a strong-willed, independent child, thrown into the temporary care of her Navy SEAL uncle, Alan "Frisco" Francisco. Years older, but still just a kid himself, Thomas King lived nearby. Tasha took one look and declared she'd marry him someday. Thomas wasn't quite so sure about that. Now Tasha's a strong-willed, independent young woman, and Thomas is an officer and a hospital corpsman with SEAL Team Ten. When Tasha's Uncle Alan asks Thomas for a favor—to help keep his niece safe as she travels to a remote ski lodge with her wealthy boyfriend's royal family—Thomas grimly accepts his role as Tasha's bodyguard. But things go horribly, terribly wrong, and Thomas and Tasha find themselves alone together in the freezing wilderness, on the run from the dangerous men who want her dead. Thomas knows only one thing for sure: He'll sacrifice everything and anything to keep Tasha safe. (92K words or 300 pages)

When Aiden King asked me out four years ago, I went from mousy librarian to wife of the most wanted bachelor in Montana in four months flat. No longer the nerdy girl from the wrong side of the tracks, I was a CFO's wife in a mansion by the river—and my husband was the man of my dreams. I almost couldn't believe my good fortune. Turns out, I shouldn't have believed it. After years of rattling around that mansion alone while Aiden put in long hours at the office, I learned his secret: he'd needed to marry someone, anyone, to fulfill his trust requirements, and the nerdy girl from the wrong side of the tracks had been an easy target. I never thought I'd be the girl asking a handsome millionaire for a divorce. Now, my pride and I just want to limp back to my family and start over. But to do that, I'll have to swallow one question. If the trust only required him to be married for a year, why has it been four years since we said I do? Love is his only weapon Alex King has a promising life, with rich parents, an outstanding college career, and a sexy new boyfriend. That's all shattered when a masked gunman kidnaps Alex and murders his boyfriend. Alex's world suddenly narrows to a basement cell. His only hope is to make his jailer--the killer's straight son--fall in love with him. Jack Hammer has just returned to Austin from a long dangerous undercover assignment when he's summoned to the Kings' palatial residence. His mission--rescue Alex before

it's too late. And stay alive. Introducing hard-boiled gay private investigator Jack Hammer.

The return of one of the most dangerous artifacts in the Marvel Universe! The Lifeline Tablet has plagued Spider-Man's life more than once. Mayor Wilson Fisk wants its secrets, and he'll happily kill Boomerang to get his hands on the stone! But doesn't he know Spidey is Boomerang's roommate? The wall-crawler must pull out all the stops to prevent the Kingpin from wielding nigh-ultimate power, including assembling his street-level allies and donning an all-new costume! Plus: What fate awaits star-crossed lovers Randy Robertson and the Beetle? Find out as the years-old enmity between their fathers - Robbie Robertson and Tombstone - boils over once more! And all-out war erupts as the super-crime lords of the Marvel Universe compete at the whims of the Kingpin! Collects AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2018) #61-65 and GIANT SIZE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: KING'S RANSOM.

The author of five bestselling novels, including *Under Cover of Darkness* and *The Pardon*, James Grippando writes compulsively readable thrillers that could be drawn from today's headlines, only better. Now his trademark gifts are wonderfully demonstrated in a taut new tale of intrigue that will keep you guessing to the final, breathtaking scene. Just two years out of law school, Nick Rey is on the career fast track at a hot Miami law firm when he is suddenly plunged headfirst into a dangerous bid to save his father. Matthew Rey has been kidnapped while on business in Columbia's exotic port city of Cartagena. The ransom demand of three million dollars is far more than the Rey family can ever hope to raise. Fortunately, Matthew had purchased an insurance policy to protect against just such a threat. Unfortunately, the kidnapers seem to know all about the policy, and the insurance company, suspecting fraud, is refusing to pay out. With nowhere to turn, Nick links up with Alex, a beautiful, street-smart woman who may be the only person capable of negotiating with Matthew's abductors. But Nick soon discovers that the gravest dangers to him and his family are not the kidnapers and their guns, but the men in suits: lawyers, to be exact, at a powerful firm with something to hide, and they will stop at nothing to keep Nick from unleashing the truth.

"Reunion with the King turns forbidden... and dangerous"--Page 4 of cover.

When a wealthy businessman is faced with a kidnapping, the ransom could ruin his biggest deal ever ? unless Detective Steve Carella can find the culprits before the kidnapping turns to murder. McBain has the ability to make every character believable ? which few writers these days can do. ? Associated Press McBain forces us to think twice about every character we meet?even those we thought we already knew." ? New York Times Book Review

He'll make me call him daddy. He'll demand my obedience. Drive me to my knees. I've been in love with Stefan Morozov for as long as I can remember. He's fearless. Powerful. A vicious leader of the Bratva underworld. And he barely notices my existence. That is, until the day I see something I shouldn't. The day the man I love makes me his prisoner. The day my love turns to hate...

From the critically acclaimed New York Times bestselling author Sharon Kay Penman comes the story of the reign of King Baldwin IV and the Kingdom of Jerusalem's defense against Saladin's famous army. The Kingdom of Jerusalem, also known as Outremer, is the land far beyond the sea. Baptized in blood when

the men of the First Crusade captured Jerusalem from the Saracens in the early twelfth century, the kingdom defined an utterly new world, a land of blazing heat and a medley of cultures, a place where enemies were neighbors and neighbors became enemies. At the helm of this growing kingdom sits young Baldwin IV, an intelligent and courageous boy committed to the welfare and protection of his people. But despite Baldwin's dedication to his land, he is afflicted with leprosy at an early age and the threats against his power and his health nearly outweigh the risk of battle. As political deception scours the halls of the royal court, the Muslim army--led by the first sultan of Egypt and Syria, Saladin--is never far from the kingdom's doorstep, and there are only a handful Baldwin can trust, including the archbishop William of Tyre and Lord Balian d'Ibelin, a charismatic leader who has been one of the few able to maintain the peace. Filled with drama and battle, tragedy and romance, Sharon Kay Penman's latest novel brings a definitive period of history vividly alive with a tale of power and glory that will resonate with readers today.

The Gift of the Magi is a treasured short story written by O. Henry. A young and very much in love couple can barely afford their one-room apartment, let alone the extra expense of getting Christmas presents for one another. But each is determined to show their love for the other in this traditional time of giving; each sells a thing they hold most dear in order to afford a present, with poignant and touching results that capture their love for one another.

After seven members of their family are kidnapped by an organization called the Vespers, Dan and Amy Cahill must race against time to track down an ancient map to pay as ransom to bring the hostages home.

Enjoy this fan-favorite contemporary romance from New York Times bestselling author Diana Palmer Who is the stranger living in Brianna Scott's apartment?

Ahmed ben Rashid claims to be a foreign diplomat in need of a hiding place.

Though Brianna needs Ahmed's help to take care of her brother, she isn't about to play housemaid to some overbearing sheikh. Soon Brianna discovers Ahmed has the demeanor of a king. Yet the biggest surprise is "His Majesty's" demand that she become his bride. But Brianna isn't walking down the aisle until her royal suitor learns a much-needed lesson—in love. Originally published in 1993.

When a young prince is kidnapped while on a school camping trip in Castle Key, Scott, Jack, Emily and Drift are eager to take on the case. Drift's clever nose is sure to sniff out some clues to the kidnapers - but can the friends rescue the hostage in time?

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. A brutal war of succession has plunged the court of Kingfountain into a power struggle between a charitable king who took the crown unlawfully and his ambitious rival, Devon Argentine. The balance of power between the two men hinges on the fate of a young boy ensnared in this courtly intrigue. A boy befittingly nicknamed Ransom. When the Argentine family finally rules, Ransom must make his own way in the world. Opportunities open and shut before him as he journeys along the path to

knighthood, blind to a shadowy conspiracy of jealousy and revenge. Ransom interrupts an abduction plot targeting the Queen of Ceredigion and earns a position in service to her son, the firstborn of the new Argentine dynasty. But conflict and treachery threaten the family, and Ransom must also come to understand and hone his burgeoning powers."--Publisher.

In *When Christ and His Saints Slept*, the newest addition to her highly acclaimed novels of the middle ages, and the first of a trilogy that will tell the story of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, master storyteller and historian Sharon Kay Penman illuminates one of the less-known but fascinating periods of English history. It begins with the death of King Henry I, son of William the Conqueror and father of Maude, his only living legitimate offspring.

A breathtaking and sweeping epic of a family at its breaking point, *Devil's Brood* shows how Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine—two monumental figures once bound by all-consuming love—became the bitterest of adversaries... A.D. 1172. Henry II's three eldest sons conspire against him and align themselves with his greatest enemy, King Louis of France, but it's Eleanor of Aquitaine's involvement in the plot to overthrow her husband that proves to be the harshest betrayal. As a royal family collapses and a marriage ends in all but name, the clash between these two strong-willed and passionate souls will have far-reaching and devastating consequences throughout Christendom.

*From King to Captive...* On a quest to find his brother, King Kritan of Katarian on the planet of Panucia finds himself ambushed, beaten, tortured and then sold to fight in the arena games. The people of Tamonius—his rival kingdom—condone slavery, take public sex to new lows and try to turn a profit off anything they can. Nothing can change his hatred for everything Tamonius... that is until he meets the most breathtakingly beautiful woman he's ever laid eyes upon. Surina of the House of Argyros, daughter to a powerful senator stirs the beast within him, making it want to lay claim to her as badly as the man does. *From Captive to King...* Free or not, Kritan is a master of seduction and has selected Surina as his newest prey. But this virginal beauty has secrets of her own—ones that change everything. And destiny just might have the last laugh.

Reimagines the dangerous final years of Richard I, tracing his captivity by the Holy Roman Emperor in spite of papal decrees protecting crusaders, and Eleanor of Aquitaine's considerable efforts to secure his freedom.

Kidnap for ransom is a lucrative but tricky business. Millions of people live, travel, and work in areas with significant kidnap risks, yet kidnaps of foreign workers, local VIPs, and tourists are surprisingly rare and the vast majority of abductions are peacefully resolved - often for remarkably low ransoms. In fact, the market for hostages is so well ordered that the crime is insurable. This is a puzzle: ransoming a hostage is the world's most precarious trade. What would be the "right" price for your loved one - and can you avoid putting others at risk by paying it? What prevents criminals from maltreating hostages? How do you (safely) pay a ransom? And why would kidnappers release a potential future

witness after receiving their money? Kidnap: Inside the Ransom Business uncovers how a group of insurers at Lloyd's of London have solved these thorny problems for their customers. Based on interviews with industry insiders (from both sides), as well as hostage stakeholders, it uncovers an intricate and powerful private governance system ordering transactions between the legal and the criminal economies.

South of the border the bad guys have kidnapped seven young American girls. One man, former Special Operations legend, Xander King, has the skills and the resources to stop them before the girls are sold into slavery. But compromised agents, faulty intel, and ex-military mercenaries leave Xander in a fight for his life, and the fate of the innocent, literally dangling from his fingertips. "The latest action-packed thriller from bestseller Bradley Wright will leave you breathless." Sharon Kay Penman follows up her acclaimed novel *Lionheart* with this vivid and heart-wrenching New York Times bestseller about the last event-filled years in the life of Richard I of England, *Coeur de Lion*. November 1192. After his bloody crusade in the Kingdom of Jerusalem, Richard and his crew are overcome by a sudden storm, its fierce winds propelling the ship onto the Sicilian shore. But this misfortune is just the beginning. Forced to make a dangerous choice, Richard finds himself in enemy territory, where he is captured—in violation of the papal decree protecting all crusaders—and handed over to the Holy Roman Emperor. Imprisoned in the notorious fortress at Trifels, from which few ever leave alive, Richard, for the first time in his life, experiences pure, visceral fear—while his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, moves heaven and earth to secure his release. Amid betrayals, intrigues, infidelities, wars, and illness, Richard's courage and intelligence will become legend.

Amy and Dan are in a race for their lives . . . and the enemy may be even closer than they think. When seven members of their family were kidnapped by a sinister organization known as the Vespers, thirteen-year-old Dan Cahill and his older sister, Amy, vowed they'd stop at nothing to bring the hostages home. But then the ransom comes in and the Vespers demand the impossible. Amy and Dan have just days to track down and steal an ancient map. The only catch? No one has seen the map for half a century. Now Amy and Dan are on a desperate search that will lead them to the Nazis, spies, a mad king and some of history's dirtiest secrets. It's the race of their lives . . . and one misstep will mean certain death for the hostages.

When revenge turns into a fake engagement... It was supposed to be a simple case of revenge: get to know King Tech owner and CEO Beckett King, learn his secrets, and ruin his life like he ruined my brother's. But Beckett King offers me a deal I can't refuse. Not only does he want me to pretend to be engaged to him, he needs to marry me to get his grandmother off his back. And at the end of the year, we can go our separate ways, only I'll be a whole lot richer. I won't fall for his irresistible good looks, or that aw, shucks country-boy charm he still possesses from growing up on a ranch. I'm smarter than that. He has a lesson to

learn and I'm the best one to teach him. But that's the tricky thing with revenge. It doesn't always go as planned. King's Ransom is a standalone novel in the Oil Kings series written by an award-winning author.

A young American is mistaken for a mad king and the adventure begins! A story of action and intrigue and a noble hero!

Broke, jobless, and stranded in Las Vegas on Valentine's Day, I am forced to call my parents for a bailout. Again. A pampered princess and wannabe environmentalist, I know I'm a cliché and would do anything to change it. So when I meet Xander, a struggling photojournalist with absolutely nothing in common with my domineering, millionaire parents, I know just where to go next: A wedding chapel. But when I wake up the next day, my matrimonial rebellion comes with an unpleasant surprise. My husband is no penniless globetrotter—Xander King is the son of a billionaire oil tycoon, and my parents couldn't approve of the match more. Now the only thing that could shock them would be a quickie divorce...except my new husband has a proposition for me. \*\*\* I take one look at Savvy and know I could spend the rest of my life with her. The feeling is mutual...until she figures out who I am. I didn't mean to hide my identity, and I thought a desire to get out from under the weight of familial baggage was something we had in common. But with Savvy just moments from proposing divorce, I offer her the one thing I'd been ready to walk away from: A trust fund worth millions. All Savvy has to do is stay married to me for a year and then she'll get half—except I have no intention of letting her go after 365 days. I've spent a decade running from my father's disapproval and my brothers' successes. Now I'm willing to spend a lifetime convincing the woman I love to stay put by my side. King's Treasure is book 3 in the Oil King's series. It's a Vegas wedding romance with a small town, western romance feel. Add a dash of millionaire romance and it has all the feels.

In this new installment of the bestselling Aunt Dimity series, a dark and stormy night kicks off a ghost chase in rural England. On a dull and dreary October day, Lori Shepherd and her husband Bill set off for the historic town of Rye, on the southeast coast of England, for a quiet weekend together without the kids. Bill must first pay a visit to a reclusive client—but after Lori drops him off, a powerful storm drives her off course and leaves her stranded in an ancient, rambling inn called The King's Ransom. When Lori is spooked by ghostly noises in the night, Aunt Dimity reminds her rather tartly that not all ghosts intend to harm the living. But the longer Lori is stuck at the inn, the stranger things seem. She learns that the inn was once a hangout for smugglers, and that it's riddled with secret tunnels the smugglers used to reach a network of hidden caves. Then there's the inn's cook—a brawny, gruff ex-con—who seems to have a beef with a mysterious French guest. Are the noises Lori hears made by the spirits of long dead smugglers? Or should she be more worried by the inn's living inhabitants? Joining forces with her new friend Bishop Wyndham, and guided by Aunt Dimity's wise counsel, Lori sets out to discover once and for all who—or what—is haunting The King's Ransom. Scarred billionaire Elias Hart wants one night with a blindfolded stranger...but ends up with his best friend's all-grown-up little sister in book one of Jackie Ashenden's *Playing for Pleasure* duet! My billions can buy me anything...but they can't stop the women who beg for my touch from cringing at my scars. That's why the blindfolds never come off... In the dark, I can be the golden athlete I was—before the part of me that cared about others was burned away. When I recognize the striking woman in my

hotel suite, I know I should send her packing. But my best friend's little sister has grown up in the most enticing way since I disappeared from her life ten years ago. And I don't want Vesta going to some other "stranger" to lose her virginity. As long as she keeps the blindfold on, I can give her the pleasure she craves... But the touch of Vesta's skin, her plush lips and taut body drive me wild. And her fierce nature stirs unwelcome emotions. Vesta is marking my scorched soul as her own. But when the mask comes off, will she run from the beast whose heart she now holds in her hands? Take control. Feel the rush. Explore your fantasies—Harlequin DARE publishes sexy romances featuring powerful alpha males and bold, fearless heroines exploring their deepest fantasies. Read all the books in Jackie Ashenden's Playing for Pleasure duet: Book 1: In the Dark

Get swept away in the action and thrills of this heart-pounding classic romantic suspense by New York Times bestselling author Sharon Sala. The nightmare was always the same: The sudden awareness that she wasn't alone. The odor of sweat and alcohol. The rough, ugly words. And the knife. In real life Jesse LeBeau had fought off her attacker with his own knife, but the terrifying memory remained, along with the cuts on her hands and the threat of another attack—until one day she looked up from her hospital bed and saw the dark-haired, dark-eyed cowboy who'd always been like a brother to her. The minute King McCandless saw Jesse's face, he decided to bring her back to Oklahoma. No way was he leaving her alone in St. Louis with a madman on the loose. Back home on the sprawling Double M Ranch, Jesse realized that she was still in danger, just from a different direction. As much as she hated the thought, she knew she couldn't stay much longer. She couldn't pretend that King was her big brother anymore, because the truth was that she wanted this man—heart, body and soul. Previously published.

Douglas King has a king-sized problem. His chauffeur's son has been kidnapped. If he pays the ransom, it could ruin the greatest business deal of his life. If he doesn't pay it, the boys at the 87th Precinct could end up with a case of cold-blooded murder on their hands. . . .

From the New York Times bestselling author comes the stunning sequel to Lionheart Travelling home from the bloody battlefields of the Holy Land, the Crusader King Richard the Lionheart is shipwrecked in the Mediterranean after an encounter with pirates. He should be protected by a papal decree, but he is betrayed and captured by the Duke of Austria - a man who has good reason to loathe him - and is immediately claimed by the Holy Roman Emperor, who also bears him a bitter grudge. Richard is to spend fifteen months imprisoned, much of it in the notorious fortress at Trefils, which few men ever left. Meanwhile, his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, is moving heaven and earth to raise a staggering ransom, travelling across Europe herself to buy the release of her favourite son. But her determination may not be enough. At the eleventh hour, the Duke announces that he has had a better offer from the French king, Philippe, and Richard's own treacherous brother, John. They will pay an even larger sum to continue Richard's captivity - or to turn him over to their tender mercies. Told with masterful insight and rich historical detail, A King's Ransom is a striking portrayal of the darker, troubled years of Richard - a man whose courage, compassion and intelligence became the stuff of legend.

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