



The Pillars of the Earth

By Ken Follett

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Tom Builder's dream is to build a cathedral, but in the meantime, he must scrounge about to find a lord that will hire him. His search pulls him and his family into the politics of 12th-century England, as different lords vie to gain control of the throne in the wake of the recently deceased king. Prior Phillip, a man raised in the monastery since childhood, also finds himself drafted into the brewing storm as he must protect the interests of a declining church. Richard E. Grant seduces readers early on with a soft and deliberate voice that is like a loud whisper. However, his full range quickly reveals itself as he delves into characters with animated voices that exert their true essence. Even throughout the narrative, Grant musters a lively voice that imbues energy into the story. The only shortcoming is that the abridgment of Follett's 1989 novel proves to be too choppy. Though the story appears complete, there still remain abrupt moments throughout the tale. Penguin Audio's unabridged version is read by John Lee and runs 41 hours. (*Dec.*)

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From Library Journal

A radical departure from Follett's novels of international suspense and intrigue, this chronicles the vicissitudes of a prior, his master builder, and their community as they struggle to build a cathedral and protect themselves during the tumultuous 12th century, when the empress Maud and Stephen are fighting for the crown of England after the death of Henry I. The plot is less tightly controlled than those in Follett's contemporary works, and despite the wealth of historical detail, especially concerning architecture and construction, much of the language as well as the psychology of the characters and their relationships remains firmly rooted in the 20th century. This will appeal more to lovers of exciting adventure stories than true devotees of historical fiction. Literary Guild dual main selection.

- *Cynthia Johnson Whealler, Cary Memorial Lib., Lexington, Mass.*

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Review

Praise for *The Pillars of the Earth*

"Enormous and brilliant . . . a great epic tale . . . crammed with characters unbelievably alive across the great gulf of centuries . . . touches all human emotion—love and hate, loyalty and treachery, hope and despair. See for yourself. This is truly a novel to get lost in." —*Cosmopolitan*

"Wonderful . . . will hold you, fascinate you, surround you." —*Chicago Sun-Times*

"Follett is a master." —*The Washington Post*

"A towering tale . . . a ripping read. . . . There's murder, arson, treachery, torture, love, and lust." —*The New York Daily News*

"Ken Follett takes a giant step." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"With this book, Follett risks all and comes out a clear winner . . . a historical novel of gripping readability, authentic atmosphere, and memorable characterization. Beginning with a mystery that casts its shadow, the narrative is a seesaw of tension, suspense, impeccable pacing . . . action, intrigue, violence, passion, greed,

bravery, dedication, revenge, and love. A love that entertains, instructs, and satisfies on a grand scale."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"An extraordinary epic buttressed by suspense . . . a mystifying puzzle involving the execution of an innocent man . . . the erection of a magnificent cathedral . . . romance, rivalry, and spectacle. A monumental masterpiece . . . a towering triumph from a major talent." —*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Judith Tate:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book if they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this *The Pillars of the Earth*.

Esther Watson:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and important the book *The Pillars of the Earth*. All type of book can you see on many methods. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Linda Fite:

Reading a book for being new life style in this yr; every people loves to read a book. When you go through a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and also soon. The *The Pillars of the Earth* will give you new experience in reading through a book.

Scott Reisinger:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that problem was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as examining become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update about something by book. Numerous

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