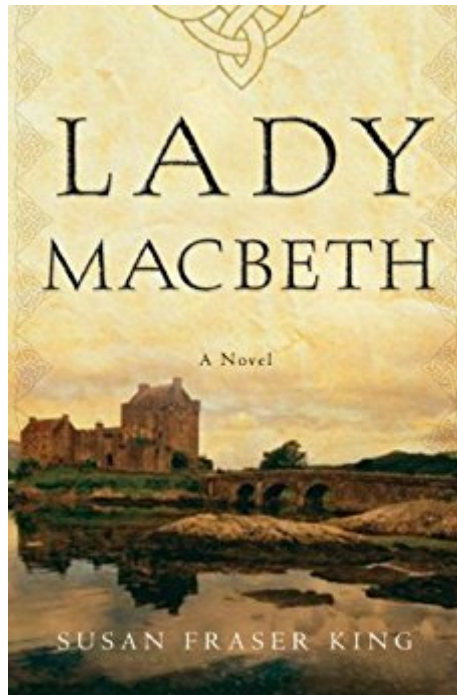




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Lady Macbeth: A Novel



Synopsis

From towering crags to misted moors and formidable fortresses, Lady Macbeth transports readers to the heart of eleventh-century Scotland, painting a bold, vivid portrait of a woman much maligned by history. Lady Gruadh--Rue--is the last female descendant of Scotland's most royal line. Married to a powerful northern lord, she is widowed while still carrying his child and forced to marry her husband's murderer: a rising warlord named Macbeth. As she encounters danger from Vikings, Saxons, and treacherous Scottish lords, Rue begins to respect the man she once despised. When she learns that Macbeth's complex ambitions extend beyond the borders of the vast northern region, she realizes that only Macbeth can unite Scotland. But his wife's royal blood is the key to his ultimate success. Determined to protect her son and a proud legacy of warrior kings and strong women, Rue invokes the ancient wisdom and secret practices of her female ancestors as she strives to hold her own in a warrior society. Finally, side by side as the last Celtic king and queen of Scotland, she and Macbeth must face the gathering storm brought on by their combined destiny. This is Lady Macbeth as you've never seen her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a fictional account of the real Macbeth, King of the Scots and his wife, definitely not the ones Shakespeare created for dramatic effect. Told from the first person (Lady Macbeth's is the only point of view), it is set, as it must be, in 11th century Scotland when warlords vied for control of the Scottish throne. Lady Gruadh, called Rue (for the sorrow she had experienced), is the last female descendant of Scotland's most royal line (several families had royal blood). As a young teen, she is married to a powerful northern lord and then widowed while carrying his child. The man who slayed her husband, Macbeth, Mormaer of Moray, forces her to marry him, both to protect her and to gain her royal blood. Rue grudgingly accepts the forced marriage but then comes to respect the man she once despised, and realizes he has a chance to reign as King of the Scots. Macbeth has the wisdom and skill to unite the Scots, and he is popular among the people, but Rue's royal lineage will guarantee him the throne. Determined to protect her son and her husband, Rue seeks out the ancient wisdom and secret practices and the story contains the magic she adds to her Christian faith. It is difficult to see which she believes in more. Steeped in deep research, the author deftly weaves in actual historical events. The novel will transport you back in time. The pace is slow but the story well told and held my interest. What is lacking is any passion between Macbeth and Rue. Alas, we had to settle for respect in their tepid relationship. Still, if you love historical fiction I do recommend it.

Wonderful, intriguing, thoughtful, and mesmerizing. Such proud people and I am so thrilled to be born of this character. Historical fiction works hard to make these people and their stories real and I think Ms King does a whale of a job. Please take time to read and enjoy her words, you will find real pleasure.

This was different from most of Ms. King's books. I LOVED it. It seemed so real. I missed the R-rated bits but it was a good read. It was written in the first person, which I normally do not enjoy. I listened and read it with Audible and found that it enhanced the story. I looked on to read the next and found it was more than I could pay. But for people who work KEEP on reading. And if you haven't read Ms. King's other books GO DO it.

I have always been a fan of Shakespeare's Macbeth. I love to read the play during thunderstorms at

night, for it brings alive the danger, suspense, darkness, and horror of the play, particularly the witches scenes, which are my favorite in the play. Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is a story of how ambition changed an honourable man into a tyrant. However, while I knew and studied Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, I knew very little about the real historical Macbeth. I also did not know anything at all about Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's faithful partner in the murder of the benevolent King Duncan. In Susan Fraser King's *Lady Macbeth, Gruadh or Rue*, as she is frequently known in the novel, is the most desirable woman in Scotland because she is the last female descendant of Scotland's royal line. She is forced into an arranged marriage to a powerful lord, the Earl of Moray, who is Macbeth's cousin and is twice her age. She falls in love with him, but it is short-lived. Her husband goes off to war with Macbeth, and gets killed. Because of her lineage, Rue is forced to marry Macbeth, her husband's warrior. She despises him at first, but slowly grows to love him. Together both of them unite Scotland and eventually become king and queen. The historical retelling is very entertaining. It is so different from Shakespeare's *Lady Macbeth*. This Lady Macbeth is strong, bold, and intelligent. I love how the author painted Lady Macbeth as a warrior. I did not expect it when I read it, and it was a pleasant surprise. Macbeth is ambitious, a skilled warrior, and he is kind to Rue. He is a king that wants nothing but the best for Scotland. In fact, unlike the Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, this Macbeth reigns for seventeen years until his downfall. Overall, this novel is not like Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The characters are well-developed. Rue is a strong and likable heroine, and you will find Macbeth sympathetic. The plot is fast-paced, and the story is well-told. It shows how Scotland was divided at the time, and it showed warring factions and the war victor's customs. I recommend this book to people who want to learn more about Scottish history. I also recommend this to fans of Shakespeare and those interested in putting Shakespeare's *Lady Macbeth* aside and want to read a story about the real historical Lady Macbeth.

I loved this book. It has been well researched and the characters were well fleshed out. Having read (and love) Shakespeare's *Macbeth* many times, I greatly enjoyed reading a story that was more realistic than the play. One understood that sometimes harsh decisions had to be made in such violent times.

I loved this novel. It easily took me back to eleventh-century Scotland, was as historically accurate as possible given the available sources, and I actually cried to see it end, even though I knew well what was coming. Excellent writing and highly recommended.

Interesting novel set in Scotland about the wife of Macbeth. Although little is really known of her, the author does a good job of portraying her in a believable way. Also, the historical perspective of this period is very good. It seemed like some parts of the story were rushed, while others dragged on too long. But otherwise, it was a good and enjoyable read.

Little is known about Lady Macbeth, but this historical fictional account is well written and interwoven with the known facts into a believable story. Anyone who is interested in early Scottish history will find this an enjoyable read.

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