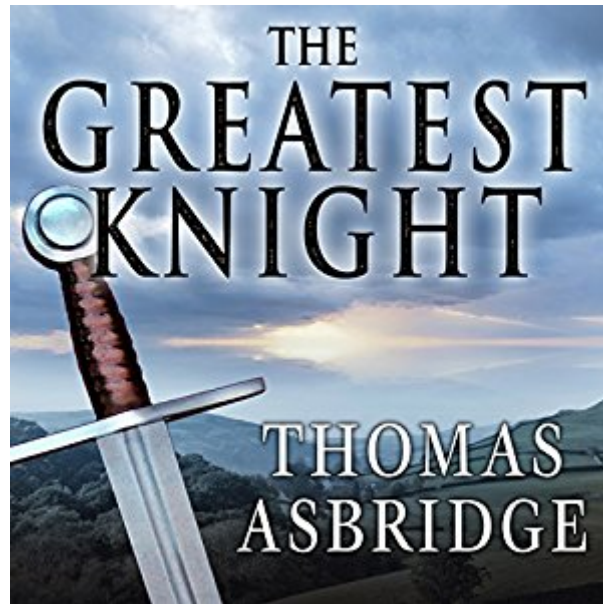


The book was found

The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life Of William Marshal, The Power Behind Five English Thrones



Synopsis

In *The Greatest Knight*, renowned historian Thomas Asbridge draws upon the thirteenth-century biography and an array of other contemporary evidence to present a compelling account of William Marshal's life and times. Asbridge charts the unparalleled rise to prominence of a man bound to a code of honor yet driven by unquenchable ambition. Marshal was the true Lancelot of his era - a peerless warrior and paragon of chivalry. As a five-year-old boy, William was sentenced to execution and led to the gallows, yet this landless younger son survived his brush with death and went on to train as a medieval knight. Against all odds Marshal rose through the ranks - serving at the right hand of five English monarchs - to become a celebrated tournament champion, a baron and politician, and, ultimately, regent of the realm. This knight's tale lays bare the brutish realities of medieval warfare and the machinations of the royal court and draws us into the heart of a formative period of our history. It is the story of one remarkable man, the birth of the knightly class to which he belonged, and the forging of the English nation.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 14 hours and 29 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 10, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00U1IOPMU

Best Sellers Rank: #135 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Europe #192 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain #248 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical & Political Figures

Customer Reviews

This biography reads like a novel with a momentum that makes you turn the page. While it is something of an academic work supported by extensive research of royal and church documents of the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries the storyline is fascinatingly supported by a biography commissioned by William Marshall's oldest son and written soon after Marshall's death.

Rediscovered in the late 19th century this biography provides a remarkably intimate portrayal of a

leading figure during a period that created the foundation of British Parliamentary Government. Based upon what can only be described as interviews with friends and family the biography shows you William Marshall the man rather than just the historical figure. Thomas Asbridge uses all these different sources to craft a truly remarkable read.

There were men who lived in a time dominated by the belief that the greatest failure was to be forgotten after death. But for a single text, rediscovered in 1861, this might well have been the sole legacy of William Marshal. Thomas Asbridge's account of the nearly forgotten Marshal is not the first book to recount Marshal's exploits, but frankly may be one of the very best. The challenge for Asbridge in "The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, The Power Behind Five English Thrones" was to give a fresh interpretation of Marshal, whose story is represented primarily by one contemporary biography. In the wake of that primary source, several modern works are in print, any one of which could easily have pulled Asbridge into a rut of repetition. Not unlike his subject matter in this book, this is a challenge Asbridge ably accepts and readily accomplishes. To pull off a book of this type, Asbridge had to balance the need to present an engaging and colorful view of Marshal which remains true to the historical sources available, with the need to portray the foibles of a human being in the context of his own time without being a biographer/apologist championing the legacy of the subject. To his credit, Asbridge masters this balance in a seamless text. There are a few fleeting moments when Asbridge falls short of the mark. At times, the narrative feels too beholden to the ancient text "History of William Marshal" in that Asbridge's work feels as though it will become a 400 page book review of a centuries old work. Asbridge largely avoids this though, and quickly herds the narrative back into place in the few instances that it strays. The result is an entertaining, educational work that ensures the name of William Marshal will survive at least one more generation. This review is based on an advance reader's copy provided free of charge by the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review.

If you're interested in Medieval history and the rule of the Angevin Kings, this is a pretty decent book. If you're interested in learning about the person it's supposed to be about, William Marshal, it's still a pretty good book. The Greatest Knight by Thomas Asbridge is not, however, exactly a page turner. There's an obvious amount of work and knowledge that Asbridge has put into the book and he provides a lot of useful back matter to back up his work. It's just that the book meanders in focus. The first quarter is as much about what life was like in the late 12 century as it is about Marshal. The next half is a lot about the various kings Marshal worked for and with. The final quarter

seems to be a little more focused on our main player, but only just. When considered as a whole, the book is a decent history about a time when there isn't always good source material to reconstruct. I learned a lot about the early days of knighthood, a bit about the Crusades, plenty about the kings of the period, both English and French, and the occasional reconstruction of what William Marshal's life was like. This is a book of more broad swaths and the occasional speculation rather than digging into specifics all the time. Since Marshal lived for 72 years or thereabout, a lot of ground is covered and it's incredible that he survived through so much. Not definitive, but if the topic is of interest, worth checking out.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones
Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U. S. Marshal
(Exceptional Social Studies Titles for Intermediate Grades) (Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux)
The Hedge Knight: The Graphic Novel (A Game of Thrones)
The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True & Fictional Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in West
Men of the Rifles: The Reminiscences of Thomas Knight of the 95th (Rifles) by Thomas Knight; Henry Curling's Anecdotes by Henry Curling
& Knight and Play: Knight Series, #1
Beginning Power BI with Excel 2013: Self-Service Business Intelligence Using Power Pivot, Power View, Power Query, and Power Map
Power Pivot and Power BI: The Excel User's Guide to DAX, Power Query, Power BI & Power Pivot in Excel 2010-2016
Left Behind Series Prequel Set (The Rising, Anarchist is Born Before they were Left Behind/ The Regime, Evil Advances Before they were Left Behind/ The Rapture, In the Twinkling of an Eye Countdown to the Earth's Last Days)
William Shakespeare's Tragedy of the Sith's Revenge: Star Wars Part the Third (William Shakespeare's Star Wars)
William Shakespeare's The Clone Army Attacketh: Star Wars Part the Second (William Shakespeare's Star Wars)
Stella Adler on America's Master Playwrights: Eugene O'Neill, Thornton Wilder, Clifford Odets, William Saroyan, Tennessee Williams, William Inge, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee
Today's Greatest Pop & Rock Hits: The Biggest Hits! The Greatest Artists! (Easy Piano) (Today's Greatest Hits)
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe
Spanish-English English-Spanish Medical Dictionary: Diccionario Médico Español-Ingles-Ingles-Español (Spanish to English/ English to Spanish Medical Dictionary) (Spanish Edition)
LIFE The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton: Expanded, Commemorative Edition (Life (Life Books))
The Official A Game of Thrones Coloring Book: An Adult Coloring Book (A Song of Ice and Fire)
Song of the Wings Coloring Book: Dragons Adult Coloring Book (Dragon Thrones)
HBO's Game of Thrones Coloring Book A Game of Thrones: A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 1

