



The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge)

By Ken Follett

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#1 New York Times Bestseller

Oprah's Book Club Selection

If you liked the Century Trilogy, you'll love the “extraordinary . . . monumental masterpiece” (*Booklist*) that changed the course of Ken Follett’s already phenomenal career.

“Follett risks all and comes out a clear winner,” extolled *Publishers Weekly* on the release of *The Pillars of the Earth*. A departure for the bestselling thriller writer, the historical epic stunned readers and critics alike with its ambitious scope and gripping humanity. Today, it stands as a testament to Follett’s unassailable command of the written word and to his universal appeal.

The Pillars of the Earth tells the story of Philip, prior of Kingsbridge, a devout and resourceful monk driven to build the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has known . . . of Tom, the mason who becomes his architect—a man divided in his soul . . . of the beautiful, elusive Lady Aliena, haunted by a secret shame . . . and of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state and brother against brother.

A spellbinding epic tale of ambition, anarchy, and absolute power set against the sprawling medieval canvas of twelfth-century England, this is Ken Follett’s historical masterpiece.

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The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) By Ken Follett Bibliography

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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*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dorothy Guillen:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even an issue. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) as the daily resource information.

Teresa Sullivan:

The e-book untitled The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) is the book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you actually. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Colleen Williams:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Rose Rafferty:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written within good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still skepticism The Pillars of the Earth (Kingsbridge) as good book not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't assess book by its handle, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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