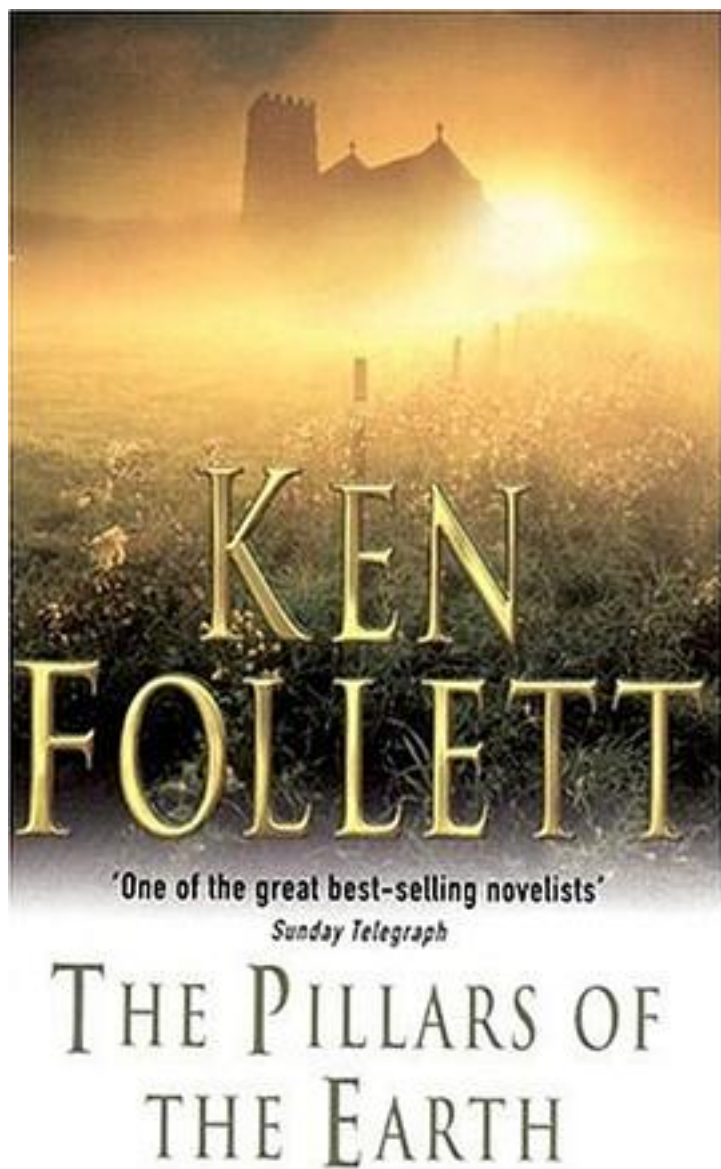


THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH



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著者:Ken Follett

出版者:Pan Macmillan

出版时间:1990-08-10

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780330312738

The Pillars of the Earth is a historical novel by Ken Follett about the building of a cathedral in Kingsbridge (a fictional town located roughly in the area of the present-day town of Marlborough, Wiltshire in England). It is set in the middle of the 12th century, primarily during the time of war known as The Anarchy. Follett's publishers were apprehensive about both the content and the length, which is 973 pages. When the novel was published in 1989, Follett surprised his readers, since he had previously been known for thrillers. However, this book became Follett's best-selling work.

The novel covers the period between the sinking of the White Ship and the murder of Thomas Becket.

The book features some explicit sexuality, including a rape scene. In 1994, it was banned by the Chanute, Kansas school library.

In late 2004, Ken Follett announced on his official website that he is working on the sequel World without End. He expects to release the new book in December 2007.

Synopsis:

A story of passion and idealism, which describes a group of men and women in the Middle Ages whose destinies are fatefully linked with the building of a cathedral. In a country torn by civil war, two generations struggle to rise above their primitive circumstances and create something beautiful.

From Publishers Weekly

With this book, Follett risks all and comes out a clear winner, escaping the narrow genre of suspense thrillers to take credit for a historical novel of gripping readability, authentic atmosphere and detail and memorable characterization. Set in 12th-century England, the narrative concerns the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. The ambitions of three men merge, conflict and collide through four decades during which social and political upheaval and the internal politics of the church affect the progress of the cathedral and the fortunes of the protagonists. The insightful portrayals of an idealistic master builder, a pious, dogmatic but compassionate prior and an unscrupulous, ruthless bishop are balanced by those of a trio of independent, resourceful women (one of them quite loathsome) who can stand on their own as memorable characters in any genre. Beginning with a mystery that casts its shadow on ensuing events, the narrative is a seesaw of tension in which circumstances change with shocking but true-to-life unpredictability. Follett's impeccable pacing builds suspense in a balanced narrative that offers action, intrigue, violence and passion as well as the step-by-step description of an edifice rising in slow stages, its progress tied to the vicissitudes of fortune and the permutations of evolving architectural style. Follett's depiction of the precarious balance of power between monarchy and religion in the Middle Ages, and of the effects of social upheavals and the forces of nature (storms, famines) on political events; his ability to convey the fine points of architecture so that the cathedral becomes clearly visualized in the reader's mind; and above all, his portrayals of the enduring human emotions of ambition, greed, bravery, dedication, revenge and love, result in a highly engrossing narrative. Manipulating a complex plot in which the characters interact against a broad canvas of medieval life, Follett has written a novel that entertains, instructs and satisfies on a

grand scale. 400,000 first printing; \$400,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild main dual selection; author tour.

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.

Book Dimension

Height (mm) 178 Width (mm) 111

作者介绍:

故事讲述了1120年英国皇太子William Adelin坐船于英伦海峡English Channel沉没，英王绝嗣后的政治动荡时代，一个石匠家庭及其身边人发生的事。

位于英国南部城镇Kingsbridge的修道院，院长菲利普Phillip矢志兴建一座大教堂。为了这崇高理想，菲利普纠集各地工匠，为筹建大教堂而奔走。其间大教堂的兴建工作多有波折。小说中男主角杰克Jack最后继承后父志向，担负起大教堂的兴建工作，建成当时英国最为瑰丽的大教堂。

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标签

英文历史小说

KenFollett

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the

评论

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书评

A Canadian friend recommended to me while we visited in late January. Said it's the best novel he'd ever read, and he's already in his 60's. Got the book after we came back, and finished it in a month. I like the author's pace of telling the story: the st...

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