

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*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pamela Adair:

The book *The Pillars of the Earth* (Kingsbridge) can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the great thing like a book *The Pillars of the Earth* (Kingsbridge)? A few of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *The Pillars of the Earth* (Kingsbridge) has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Sarah Creamer:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular *The Pillars of the Earth* (Kingsbridge) book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Charlotte Lee:

Is it you who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Pillars of the Earth* (Kingsbridge) can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Ryan Fox:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as looking at become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update about something by book. Many

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