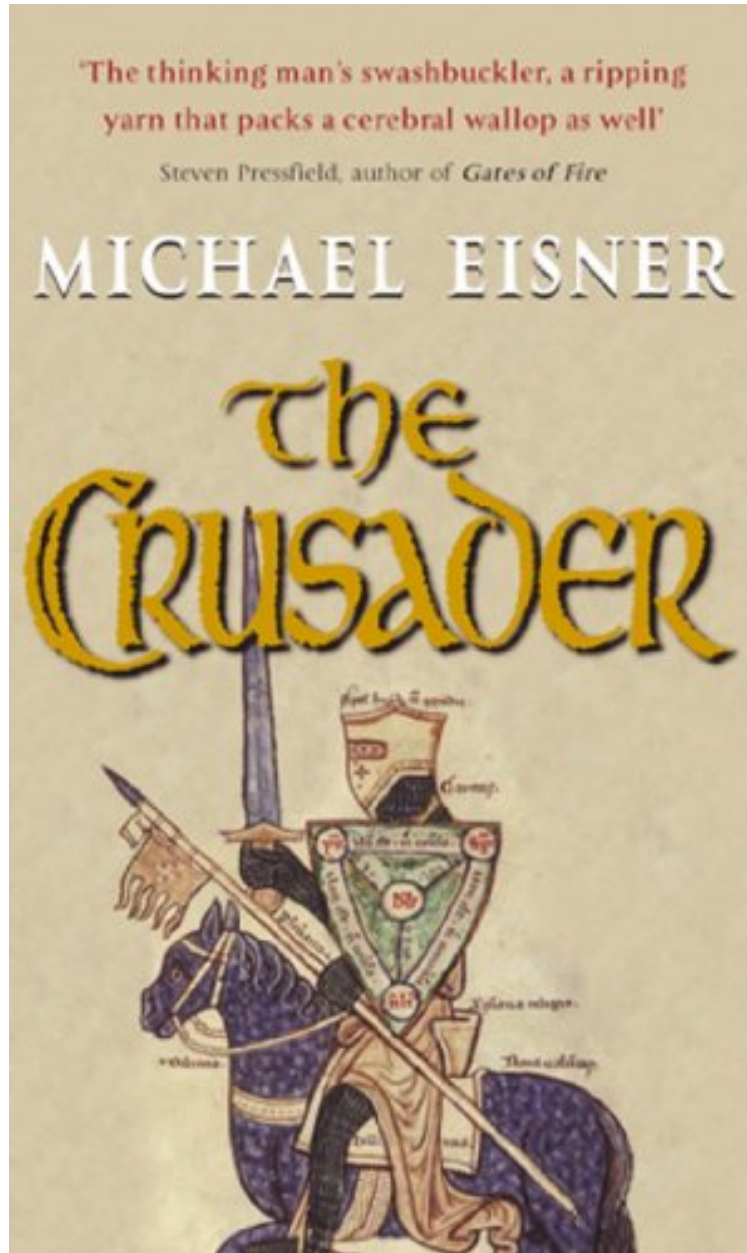


(Library ebook) The Crusader

The Crusader

Von Michael Alexander Eisner
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Von Michael Alexander Eisner : The Crusader before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crusader:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein

depressiver Kreuzritter Von Kyrrdis 1275 wird der aragonesische Prior Lucas gebeten, seinen von Dmonen besessenen Jugendfreund, Ritter und Kreuzfahrer Francisco zu heilen, da er Erfahrungen als Exorzist hat. Lucas praktiziert eine Art "milden" Exorzismus und es gelingt ihm auf diese Weise, Francisco zum Reden zu bringen. Dieser erzählt ihm von seinem Cousin und Freund Andrés, ihrem gemeinsamen Kreuzzug als Ritter des Ordens von Calatrava, dem Fall Torons, dem Fall des Krak des Chevaliers, dem bitteren Ende des Abenteurers und vom Infanten Fernando. Geschichtlich nimmt sich Eisner recht große Freiheiten, indem er die aragonesischen Ritter unter anderem beim Fall des Krak 1271 anwesend sein lässt. Außerdem ist sein Bild der Ritterorden ein eher fragliches, denn er erwähnt niemals, da der Orden von Calatrava ein Mönchsritterorden war und welchen Status Francisco und Andrés (beide die einzigen Söhne und Erben ihrer Familien) dort haben. Doch wird dies durch den Rest des Buches aufgewogen, der sehr gelungen ist. Ganz besonders Franciscos "Besessenheit", die, wie zwischen den Zeilen zu lesen ist, im Prinzip nichts anderes als eine schwere Depression ist, an der Francisco schon vor dem Kreuzzug leidet. Gelungen ist auch die Art und Weise, in der moralische Fragen angeschnitten werden, ohne dem Leser die Antworten gleich mitzuliefern. Nachdenken ist hier gefragt. Die große Stärke des Buches sind die Charaktere, Francisco und Andrés und ihre innige Freundschaft, der zwielichtige Infante Fernando, aber nicht zuletzt der ehrgeizige Lucas, der durch Franciscos "Exorzismus" genauso verändert und vielleicht geheilt wird, wie dieser selbst. Aber, auch das bleibt offen. Historisch etwas fragwürdig, aber trotz allem ein sehr gutes Buch. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. strong character build, lack of actions Von Stevan-C If you're looking for gruesome and full bloody actions of crusader in holy land, you won't find a lot in this book. Though the book is well written, it is more about a story of Francisco de Montcada's journey of life (which happen to be bound with crusader call). The author is too busy building strong character of the young Montcada rather than spent more time in telling story of his actions in the holy land. Though I expect more crusade actions than this book provided, finally I did enjoy reading the book and found it hard to put down until I know what happen with the young Montcada's end. If you're looking for a roman of royal family with crusade background then this book is for you.

Kurzbeschreibung In the latter half of the 13th century, Christian Europe again sought to prise the Holy Land out of the grasp of the Infidel. Tens of thousands took up the Cross - some for the greater glory of God, others for baser motives: lust for power, for riches, for revenge. THE CRUSADER tells the story of the seventh and last Crusade, as experienced by a young Spanish nobleman, Francisco de Montcada. He is the hero of this novel, but his tale is told by his former friend and a fellow acolyte, a venal and moderately trustworthy Cistercian monk named Brother Lucas. For Francisco has returned from the Levant a broken and seemingly possessed man. The Inquisition decrees that his tortured soul be exorcized and the task falls to Brother Lucas. Eschewing the Inquisition's more usual methods, the monk sits with the silent, emaciated knight in his cell and talks to him. Slowly, tentatively, Francisco begins to recount his story - a tale of how an honourable man took up the Cross and found not the glory and redemption for which he'd yearned but instead unimaginable cruelty, barbarism and bloodshed. Set against a thrillingly authentic historical backdrop, this stirring novel of religious fervour and human passions, of greed and betrayal, and love and war, brings a tumultuous era brilliantly to life. From Publishers Weekly This engrossing tale about one Spanish knight's experiences in the Crusades during the latter half of the 13th century is a first-rate historical novel, richly imagined and plainly written. After his brother Sergio drowns along with 500 other knights while sailing from Barcelona to the Holy Land, Francisco de Montcada dedicates himself to the Cross. Reported dead after the siege of the Crusader castle Krak des Chevaliers, Francisco returns to Spain mute and seemingly possessed, and is chained in the dungeon of a Cistercian monastery for his own protection. There, Cistercian monk Brother Lucas attempts to get him to speak of his experiences, and in the process earn the reward Francisco's father has offered for his son's recovery. Francisco's tale, when he begins to speak, involves the ghost of his brother, his warlike cousin Andrés and Andrés's intelligent sister Isabel, with whom Francisco is just beginning to fall in love when he goes off to train with the knights of Calatrava in preparation for their journey to the Holy Land. Artfully balancing Francisco's reminiscences with Brother Lucas's framing narration, Eisner smoothly turns the tables on the reader by slowly revealing that the real question of salvation does not concern the knight alone, but the monk as well. Brother Lucas, justifying his dreams of glory and renown with dogma and doctrine, must weigh his beliefs against the hypocrisy of everyone from promiscuous abbots to the evil Don Fernando, the bastard son of Spain's King Jaime, whose encounter with Francisco at Krak des Chevaliers is the centerpiece of the novel. Meticulously researched and artfully told, this is a historical novel that illuminates as it entertains, and proves Eisner to be a promising writer. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist *Starred* Eisner's debut novel is an adventure story in the purest sense of the word, complete with a brooding hero, the beautiful woman he loves, and a despicable villain. But another character brings a layer of complexity to the story: the narrator, Brother Lucas, a not-quite-trustworthy monk who is constantly trying to balance his fierce ambition with his conscience, which might be stronger than he would wish it to be. Lucas first meets Francisco, the son of a very wealthy nobleman, at the monastery Santes Creus. The hypocrisy at the monastery troubles Francisco, but he befriends Lucas, and they form a

bond that is still strong when, 11 years later, Francisco returns from the Crusades, apparently possessed by the devil. It is up to Lucas to exorcise the demon, but once he gets Francisco to talk to him, even Lucas is disturbed and horrified by his story. Francisco gradually reveals everything to Lucas: the battles against seemingly insurmountable odds; the increasing tension between their commander, Ramon, and the king's illegitimate son, Don Fernando, who delights in torturing helpless innocents; and even his love for his beautiful, opinionated cousin Isabel. As the story draws together, Lucas is ultimately forced to choose between his ambition and the loyalty he feels toward Francisco. Thrilling and gripping, *The Crusader* is everything an adventure story should be. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved