Lovereading Reader reviews of The Queen’s Man by Rory Clements

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Carolyn Huckfield

I have enjoyed the previous John Shakespeare novels and am really pleased that this new book is no exception. The events in this story predate the others but that doesn’t matter at all and also allows a youthful William Shakespeare to make an appearance along with Mary Queen of Scots.

John is not as sure of himself as he becomes in the later stories and that is interesting to see how he learns how to handle both the powerful characters that he has to work for and has to investigate.

Fact and fiction are meshed together in a thrilling Elizabethan setting by Rory Clements who is a brilliant writer. His story brings this Elizabethan world to life and he doesn’t just gloss over the brutality of the period. I just had to keep on reading until he got the answers he needed to solve the mystery, find the traitors and still protect his own family.

Riki Gabrielle Bill

An adventure that doesn't disappoint for a first time reader of this author. The author takes the reader on a mysterious adventure through Elizabethan England thwarting enemies at every turn.

You may think that the Shakespeare you’re along for the journey is the lesser, more sedate version but let’s just say now that he packs his own punch and is
not to be underestimated when crossed.

Rory Clements uses the England countryside to inspire a thrilling adventure that has mysterious consequences for all involved in the plot. The historical elements of the book are seamlessly woven throughout and add to the overall story told. I never lost track of the plot and couldn't put the book down.

This book has inspired me to go back to the beginning of this series of books and I will be avidly awaiting more of the Shakespeare series by Mr Clements.

You can follow Riki on Twitter: @rikigabrielle

Liz Robinson

Such an interesting premise, what is history but one big story written to vilify enemies and glorify champions, so I felt more than happy reading this fabulous novel stuffed full of historical characters.

The Elizabethan times are vividly brought to life, I found myself holding my breath while reading descriptions of the rancid reek and artful spies. The characters appear so real, any previous knowledge of them stays grounded while the story dexterously weaves new threads to create a skilful tapestry of manipulation and intrigue.

The main character is portrayed as a man of “courage and honesty”. At times I felt John was potentially a little too good to be true and he slightly jarred against others in the multilayered cast, although perhaps this was because some of the other characters were just so wonderfully grotesque.

The story keeps you guessing; who is aligned with who, are they lapdogs or hunting hounds? There are some surprises along the way, I ended up trusting no one and suspecting everyone which made for a marvellous mystery novel. I found it hard to put down and as a consequence possibly read it too quickly, I will be revisiting it very soon!

Angela Rhodes

The year is 1582, Queen Elizabeth I is on the throne, while her cousin Mary is being held captive, and the country is divided, Protestant on one side, Catholic on the other.

John Shakespeare, the older brother of William is a young intelligence officer and is on a mission to uncover the conspiracy to free Mary.
John and his man Boltfoot, have to travel the country, looking for men of the cloth, who have been named as traitors but not everything is as it seems with double crossing and spies, the journey is not an easy one.

**With a little romance thrown in, this is a novel which had me turning the pages with baited breath.**

You don’t have to have read the other books in the Shakespeare series as the story is straightforward, and well worth reading. With notes at the back, it's as exciting as CJ Sanson’s novels.

A great exciting story for anyone, man woman or teen.

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