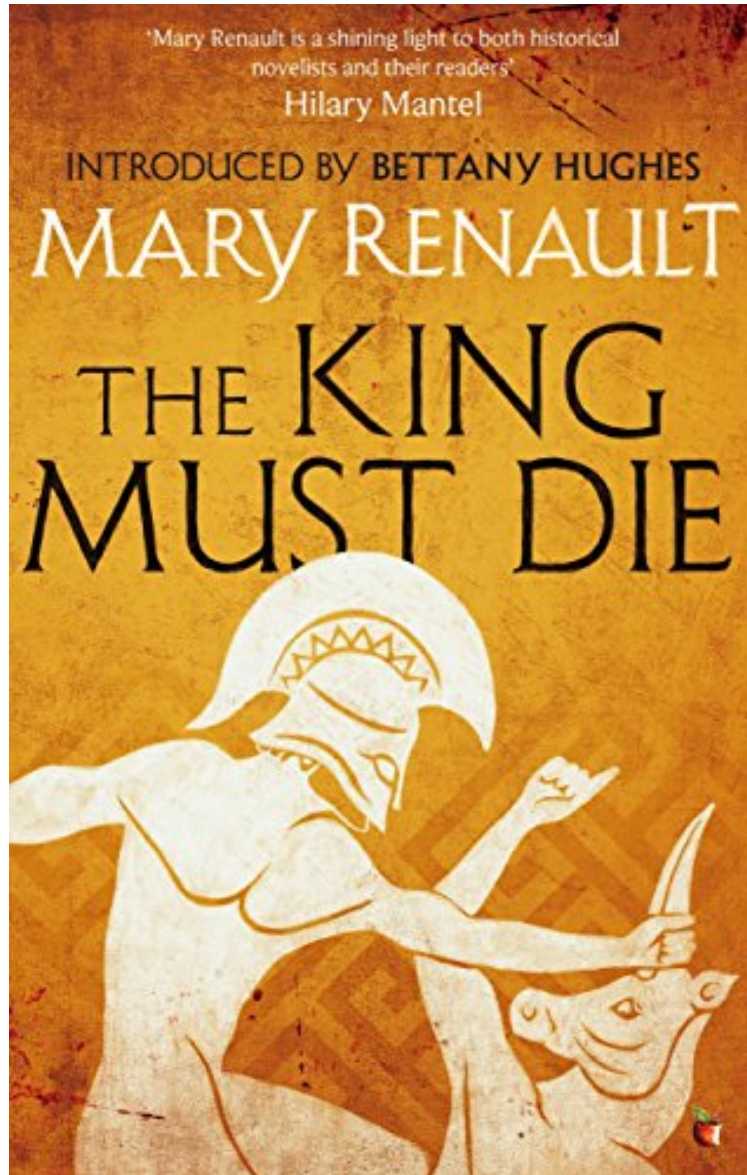


[Free] The King Must Die: A Virago Modern Classic (Theseus Series)

The King Must Die: A Virago Modern Classic (Theseus Series)

Von Mary Renault

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Von Mary Renault : The King Must Die: A Virago Modern Classic (Theseus Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The King Must Die: A Virago Modern Classic (Theseus Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Take The Bull by the HornsVon Donald MitchellAlthough on the surface this book is about Theseus and the legend of his

life prior to becoming King of Athens, the book is much more fundamentally an adventure tale featuring all of the most desirable male adolescent fantasies. If you read it as the latter, you will be thrilled. If you read it as historical fiction, you will be disappointed because the potential to develop the historical side is clearly subordinated to the adventure tale. The classical story about Theseus features his slaying of the Minotaur. In this book, by contrast, the central theme is Theseus fulfilling his fate, as decreed by the gods. The primary backdrop is the conflict between "the old religion" of Mother Dia and "the new religion" of the Sky Gods (all sired by Zeus). Theseus brings about a reconciliation between the two sets of beliefs by honoring both, while rejecting the practice of routinely sacrificing the king (Kerkyon) as a fertility offering. The book has enough material in it to be four books. The first story is about Theseus as a young man growing up with his mother, Aithra, without knowing who his father is in the household of his grandfather in Troizen. The second story starts with his finding that he is the son of the King of Athens and continues through his becoming King of Eleusis. The third story starts with leaving Eleusis to meet his father, King Aigeus, and continues through writing his name on the lot that selects him as a bull dancer slave as tribute for the Cretans. The fourth story begins with his leaving Athens for Crete through his return. Although each of these stories is exciting and interesting, the fourth one is the best. Bull leaping entailed running toward and grasping the two horns of a live Cretan bull and performing gymnastic feats, like one does today by vaulting using a pommel horse. Naturally, it was a lot more dangerous than vaulting is. Theseus revels in the danger and excitement. He also feels committed to keeping his fellow slaves from Athens alive, in a team that he has named the Cranes, for a dance that they do in the bull ring. Some of the many adventure themes that will resonate with young male readers include being specially selected by the gods for an exalted purpose, being the unknown son of a king, being sought out by powerful and beautiful women, unlimited sexual access, being a popular hero with other males, successful conquests of animals, leading successful battles with men, and being invincible in all endeavors. I cannot remember a book with so many of these themes packed into one. Placing the book in these ancient times gives you a fresh perspective on our own world. What are the proper roles for men and women in society? How should they relate to one another? What is the role of piety? What is the purpose of life? How can we contribute to one another? If you ask and answer these questions after you finish, you will have gotten much benefit from the book as well as much pleasure from the adventure tales in it. Take the bull by the horns to accomplish more!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of my all time favorite books! Von Customer I first read this book about 30 years ago and I have reread it several times since then. I generally don't reread books, so for me to do so as many times as I have with this one says a lot for the book. Before I read this, I was mildly familiar with the Theseus legend. After reading this book, I became extremely interested in the legend, particularly in the true-life palace at Knossos. The book gives some excellent background in the religions of the old matriarchal societies in which, each year, the king was sacrificed to the earth mother to ensure good crops for the next year. The theories on the bull dance which are based upon the findings at the palace of Knossos are excellently done. And the connection with Theseus' belief that he is descended from the god Poseidon and so many things coinciding either with earthquake or something to do with the ocean prove that Mary Renault never left out any parts of her story when considering events that would take place. The research done for this book is great, and if you're like me it will lead you to do further research on your own. I recommend that you purchase this book and also its sequel *The Bull from the Sea*. You won't be going wrong!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. People Who Complain About This Book Are Probably Dumb Von Ein Kunde Having not read anything about Theseus was probably a good way to start this book. Having no annoying preconceived notions of how it should be told made it possible for me to enjoy this as a story like any other - so I could let it win me on its own merits, instead of accordance with other versions, which it did completely. I know just for myself that it affected me really strangely when I finished it; I started feeling the flame and passion of my youth, just like the story's Theseus does, which certainly has to do with the intelligent way Renault wrote the book. There are admittedly a few convoluted sentences, but nothing one can't figure out; and that didn't disqualify it in my mind at all. This is a good book by any but the worst priggish standards, and I wouldn't be surprised if it becomes something of a classic.

Kurzbeschreibung Theseus is the grandson of the King of Troizen, but his paternity is shrouded in mystery - can he really be the son of the god Poseidon? When he discovers his father's sword beneath a rock, his mother must reveal his true identity: Theseus is the son of Aegaeus, King of Athens, and is his only heir. So begins Theseus's perilous journey to his father's palace to claim his birth right, escaping bandits and ritual king sacrifice in Eleusis, to slaying the Minotaur in Crete. Renault reimagines the Theseus myth, creating an original, exciting story. **Pressestimmen** "One of the truly fine historical novels of modern times. Not since Robert Graves's *I Claudius* has there been such an exciting living image of the Ancient World on this grand scale" (New York Times) "Takes the raw material of myth and makes it credible- I am spellbound by Miss Renault's art" (Observer) "Vivid and convincing... it brims with feeling" (Sunday Times) **Werbetext** Bringing Greek mythology vividly to life, *The King Must Die* and its sequel, *The Bull from the Sea*, tell the amazing adventures of Theseus, famous for slaying the Minotaur, defeating the sea monster and rescuing Persephone

from the underworld. (2003-07-23)