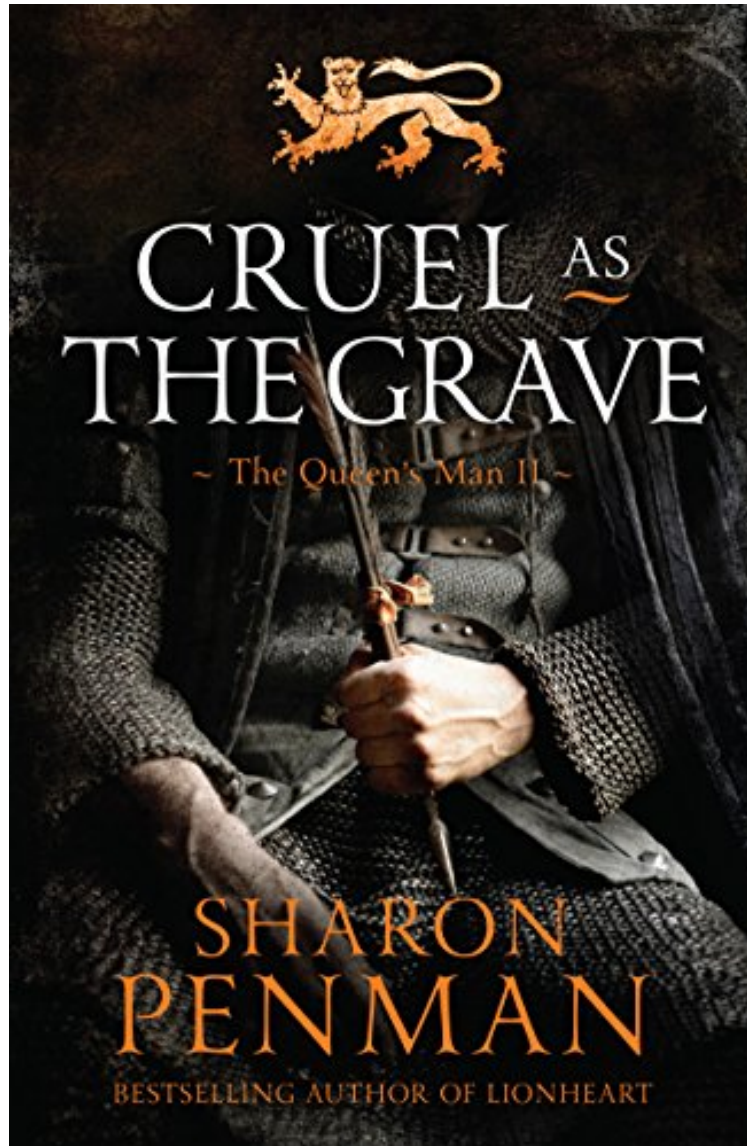


[Library ebook] Cruel as the Grave (The Queen's Man)

## Cruel as the Grave (The Queen's Man)

Von Sharon Penman

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**Von Sharon Penman : Cruel as the Grave (The Queen's Man)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cruel as the Grave (The Queen's Man):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant as all her books have beenVon Ein KundeIn 1193 London, fifteen-year old Melangell, daughter of a Welsh peddler, is found murdered in the St. Mary Magdalene churchyard. Her clothing was torn and blood was spewed all over a nearby cross.While the teen lies dead, across town, Justin de Quincey knows where his duty lies. Being the "Queen's Man",

Justin works for Eleanor in her quest to locate her missing son, Richard. Justin understands that part of his job is to keep Richard's devious younger brother, John, in line even though that dubious task seems at times to be impossible. The bellicose John will do anything to change his job title from prince to king. Would that include having his minions murder the young daughter of a poor Welshman as Justin is beginning to believe? The second de Quincey Medieval mystery, *CRUEL IN THE GRAVE*, is a fantastic historical who-done-it that profoundly brings to life all of the scheming and intrigue that surrounds yet is abetted by John. The characters are all genuine with many of them stepping out of the history books into an exciting murder mystery. Only someone with the talent of Sharon Kay Penman could have penned this spectacular story because only a skilled author could manage to take readers on an amazing trip back to the twelfth century as happens with this book. This reviewer recommends this novel and its prequel *THE QUEEN'S MAN*, for anyone who loves historical fiction, but especially mysteries.

Harriet Klausner  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not as good as previous works  
Von Ein Kunde  
But readable still. The author has got some very interesting characterisations going on and I like seeing how they interact with each other. However other readers don't worry as Ms Penman's next book, *Time and Chance*, is a return to her big historical novels. It's about Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine and will be published next year. Then she'll follow it up with the conclusion to the trilogy, *The Devil's Brood*, and her next Justin de Quincy mystery, *Dragon's Lair*, which takes him to Wales to cross swords with the young Llewellyn Fawr of *Here Be Dragons*. I for one can't wait for these books!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not as good as excellent earlier work  
Von Ein Kunde  
Although I have loved Sharon Penman's earlier work, *Here be Dragons* and *Falls The Shadow* in particular, I am beginning to wonder if she has burned herself out. *Cruel As The Grave* appears shallow and rushed and there are several historical errors in the detail - bales of hay for example which are a result of mechanisation and would not have been around in the late twelfth century. The characters are well realised, but the plot lacks tension and I get the impression that Ms Penman is just going through the motions rather than caring passionately about her work. Could do better.

Kurzbeschreibung  
April, AD 1193: A usurper threatens England's empty throne. Richard the Lionheart languishes in an Austrian dungeon, prisoner of the Holy Roman Emperor. Eleanor of Aquitaine, his mother, searches for a way to free her eldest son, aware her youngest plots to take the crown. When John seizes Windsor castle, Eleanor summons her trusted agent, Justin de Quincy, to do the impossible mediate a truce with her rebel son. De Quincy cannot but heed his Queen's demand, but he is already ensnared in another matter: the cruel murder of a young girl, daughter of an itinerant Welsh peddler. He is determined to bring her killer to justice and nothing, not even the threat of war, can keep him from pursuing her murderer.

de  
Readers of *The Queen's Man*, Sharon Kay Penman's first book about young Justin de Quincy, will feel right at home as Justin--the bastard son of a bishop--continues to help England's aged Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine find out if her son Richard Lionheart is still alive in a German prison while trying to keep another son, John, from usurping the throne. Newcomers might take a few more pages, but Penman's skill at making the daily life of 1193 England so immediately accessible should soon have them equally comfortable. Why would a messenger grab his mantle but not his boots before jumping out of a Winchester bawdy house window on a mild April night? Because that's where a traitorous message is hidden. What would Justin and his friend Luke have for supper at a Thameside cookshop? "Pork-filled pie and ginger wafers, washed down with cider." Why was "breakfast the day's dubious meal, not quite respectable?" Because, Penman tells us, "people were supposed to be able to satisfy themselves with a hearty dinner and a lighter supper." Details like these bond us quickly with distant ancestors--and make us wonder what particulars of our own lives will be fodder for future writers of historical fictions.

--Dick Adler  
Pressestimmen  
Masterfully told... Penman's authentic period details, larger-than-life characters, and fast-paced plot add up to great reading for both mystery fans and history buffs.' Booklist. 'Energetic and adroitly plotted... Justin is so beguiling, and the action so lively and unpredictable, that readers will cheer Justin's return in further adventures'  
Publisher's Weekly.