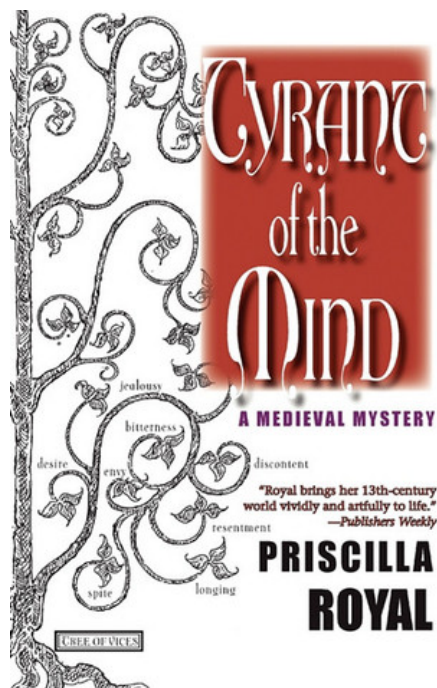




Tyrant of the Mind

Priscilla Royal

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A nun and a monk defy death and dishonor at her family's Welsh fortress...

In the winter of 1271, Death stalks the corridors of Wynethorpe Castle on the Welsh border. When the Grim Reaper touches the beloved grandson of the castle lord, Baron Adam sends for his daughter, Prioress Eleanor of Tyndal, and her sub-infirmarian, Sister Anne, to save the child with prayers and healing talents. Escorting them to the remote fortress is Brother Thomas, an unwilling monk fighting his private demons.

Death may be denied once in his quest for souls but never twice. Soon after the trio arrives, an important guest is murdered. The prioress's brother, bloody dagger in hand, stands over the corpse. All others may believe in his guilt, but Eleanor is convinced her brother is innocent.

Outside her priory, in a world of armed men, Eleanor may have little authority, but she is determined to untangle the Gordian knot of thwarted passions and old resentments even if it means defying her father, a man with whom she longs to make peace. As passions rise with the winter wind and time runs short, Eleanor, Anne and Thomas struggle to find the real killer.

Tyrant of the Mind Details

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Author : Priscilla Royal

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From Reader Review Tyrant of the Mind for online ebook

Sienna says

I enjoy the variety of characters & of issues explored. It's a light, easy book, but it's got an Author's Note & a Bibliography -- Gotta love that! Royal makes the characters real (as in familiar, recognizable) without taking them out of the time period.

Susan says

This claustrophobic mystery is set in the 13th century in a castle on the Welsh border. The really nasty Henry is stabbed and all the evidence points to Prioress Eleanor's brother Robert. Eleanor is motivated to investigate to exonerate her brother, one of the few likeable characters in the story. However, there is little reason to actually care which of the small circle of family members was the actual murderer. The author ascribes a great deal more rationality to medieval judiciary procedures than was actually the case.

Rose Lambert says

Great book

Really enjoy reading this author's books. Look forward to tackling the next one. Holds one's interest until the end with some spice thrown into it.

Tessa in Mid-Michigan says

Too much talking and pretty crude. Don't like the MC enough to keep reading.

Abcdarian says

Disappointing after the first book in this series. Too many murders/attempted murders and too much focus on sexual interests.

Susan says

As much as the first book in this series was interesting, the second one really didn't impress me at all. I didn't take to the story, found it slow going and all in all just didn't enjoy the parts I read.

Don't know if this is a one-off or I ended up not being in the mood for it, but at the moment, I think I'll wait to read the other 2 books I have by this author in the hopes that those will be a good read.

Samantha says

I adored Priscilla Royal's first Medieval Mystery, *Wine of Violence*. The multifaceted creation of Prioress Eleanor and the monk, Thomas, was captivating and well written. Therefore, I was all the more disappointed when this installment fell flat.

In *Tyrant of the Mind*, Eleanor and Thomas are back, but are far from their abbey. Travelling to Eleanor's ancestral home to care for her ill nephew, they find themselves once again in the center of a murder investigation.

Since death follows these two like Angela Lansbury, they quickly take charge of the hunt for a murderer, uncovering a wide variety of family secrets along the way. As the killer struggles to cover their tracks with more violence, the need to discover the truth becomes essential.

Unfortunately, each of these new characters was bland and unlikable. Even Eleanor and Thomas failed to capture my attention the way they did in the first mystery. And, call me a prude, but I simply grew tired of hearing the details of each character's sexual issues.

Here's hoping for more from the next in this series, *Sorrow Without End*.

Mary Meiklejohn says

I liked the story, but the infodumping dialogue was just agonizing. People literally saying, "As you know, the common wisdom of our time holds that..." OMG.

Asteropê says

I enjoyed it. Perhaps because I haven't read many of the other historical/clerical mysteries that other reviewers have and seem to compare this series against? I didn't think it was overly boring. It's not a WOW! sort of book, but I felt for what it was, it presented fine enough. I also find Thomas to be an interesting character and look forward to seeing how he progresses in his life as a monk, with his past and other issues. I also learned some things about Medieval life and their thought/beliefs that I did not know before.

Time reference - takes place just over 1 year from book #1

Awallens says

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This is the second in the series and I really love how the characters are human with their flaws and all. They aren't perfect and are fighting their own demons and I think I like that best of all. the historical details are also well-done. The first is Wine of Violence and is as good as this one.

George says

#2 in the Eleanor of Wynethorpe prioress of Tyndal Priory, East Anglia, mystery series. It is winter, 1271, and Eleanor has been called back to her home Wynethorpe Castle near Wales and Brother Thomas travels with her to deal with a seriously ill youngster. There is a murder that threatens to destabilize 2 families and their futures. Eleanor and Thomas work to prevent this from happening while dealing with several characters with conflicting desires.

Vicki Cline says

Prioress Eleanor, Brother Thomas and Sister Anne travel to Eleanor's childhood home to care for her sick nephew. Her brother is supposed to become betrothed to her childhood friend Juliana, who refuses, as she wants a religious life. Juliana's obnoxious brother is killed and Eleanor's brother is the main suspect. Naturally everything works out OK. The best part was being introduced to one of the most interesting continuing characters. I've read three of the books in this series and I still can't figure out how the titles relate to the stories.

Timothy Williams says

Started out not as strong as the first book but about chapter 3 or 4 it really took off and carried me away. Also love the author 's notes at the end of the book. Highly recommended!

Jayne dArcy says

Priscilla Royal may be a new favourite author.

This is second in a currently 9-book series that features the clever, young Prioress Eleanor of Wynethorpe, and dubious new priest, Thomas who was given the choice of burning or God after being accused of the crime of Sodomy. His betrayer was the very man he had begun to develop feelings for. Oh, did I mention that Eleanor is falling in love with Thomas?

This story takes place in Castle Wynethorpe, the seat of Prioress Eleanor's childhood home. A murder is committed just as a visiting family begins to unravel. When Eleanor's brother is accused of the murder it becomes not just her duty, but the love that she bears for her family, that spurs her to find the truth. Brother Thomas is also there to help.

The history takes place in the rough times of the 11th century, and the author has woven a believable world, and memorable characters. This is my second book, and the two main characters are only built stronger, and more believable.

Eleanor is a woman, and despite a woman who is Prioress of her own world, Tynedale Abbey, she is just that, a woman. Although loved by her father she is still thought less of because of her sex. As Eleanor seeks the truth her father has to come to the realisation that his daughter is grown up, but that she is as strong, and as clever as her own mother was. Her father, Baron Adam, comes to see Eleanor is a confidant light, and he grows stronger in his pride of her. He gains new respect for her, and Eleanor learns that the love and respect she had long thought her father unable to give her he had, and he was able to face her as an adult, yet still as her father, and let her know how he truly felt about her.

Thomas becomes more settled in his ecclesiastical role but he still has not found himself in God's embrace. He is less rebellious, and more contemplative and that is due to those he meets at Wynethorpe. He seems to dislike the family's Confessor Father Anselm -- who is a big and smelly proponent of bad teeth, and awful hygiene. Yet, despite that Thomas finds the soul of a man who truly believes in God, and cares about the family he is Confessor, and Spiritual Protector of.

The true delight in the story comes from the interaction between young Richard and Brother Thomas who is the much beloved bastard of Eleanor's elder brother Hugh who is off fighting. Richard has become ill and Eleanor returns home bringing with her Infarmarian(sp?) Sister Anne and Brother Thomas.

Thomas finds that his heart is quickly stolen by the little boy who also has endeared himself even to Father Anselm who plays the fierce dragon for the little boy. Thomas becomes fully embraced by Eleanor's family when Richard declares Thomas his 'uncle'.

My only problem with the story came towards the end as the murderer was revealed. The confessions were a bit muddled, and I found I had to re-read a few paragraphs to make sense of what was happening. Even so, I did understand, and it was shocking.

I am ready for the third tale in this series.

Megan says

A slow-moving mystery. I liked the historical details, but the reason I returned to this series was because I found the main characters compelling: Prioress Eleanor, set up to fail as a young and unlikely authority figure but who keeps herself empathetic at all times; Brother Thomas with the traumatic backstory, who was not called to his vocation but who is finding depths in himself; and Sister Anne, who was not called to her vocation either but who chose it for reasons of love and healing. The prose was quite good on occasion, the

mystery itself was average, and the plot's characters were too overly dramatic for my taste, but I'm interested in reading further in this series, in hopes that the three main characters find peace. (I mean, it's a long-running mysteries series, so I'm pretty sure they're going to mainly find lots of corpses, but I hope there's some peace, too.)
