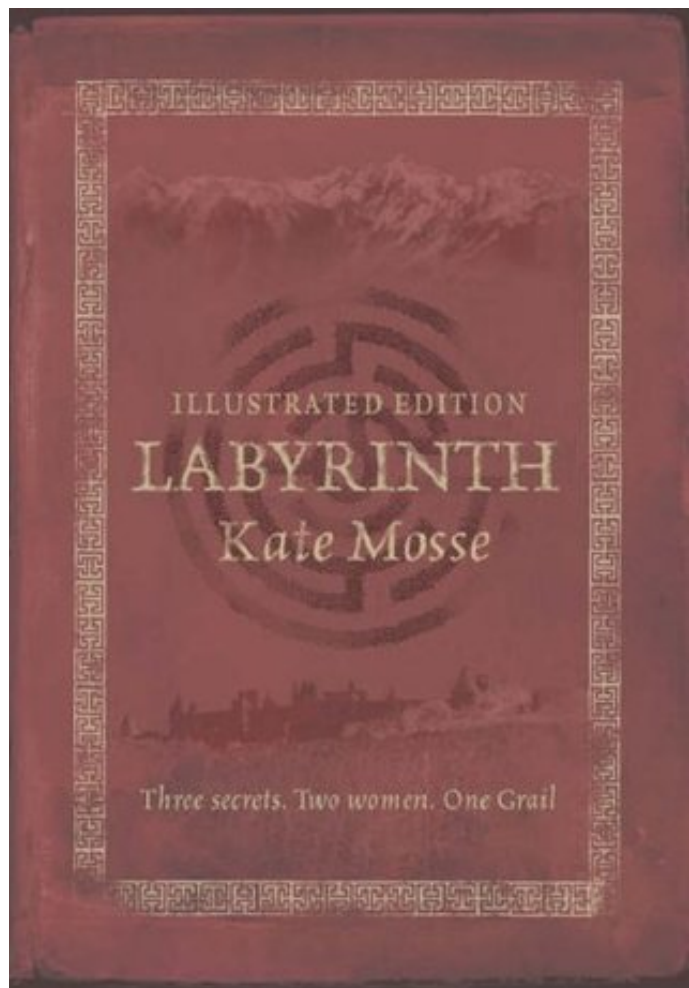

Kate Mosse

Labyrinth (Languedoc #1)



Title: Labyrinth (Languedoc #1)

Author: Kate Mosse

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Description

In this extraordinary thriller, rich in the atmospheres of medieval and contemporary France, the lives of two women born centuries apart are linked by a common destiny.

July 2005. In the Pyrenees mountains near Carcassonne, Alice, a volunteer at an archaeological dig stumbles into a cave and makes a startling discovery—two crumbling skeletons, strange writings on the walls, and the pattern of a labyrinth; between the skeletons, a stone ring, and a small leather bag.

Eight hundred years earlier, on the eve of a brutal crusade to stamp out heresy that will rip apart southern France, Alais is given a ring and a mysterious book for safekeeping by her father as he leaves to fight the crusaders. The book, he says, contains the secret of the true Grail, and the ring, inscribed with a labyrinth, will identify a guardian of the Grail. As crusading armies led by Church potentates and nobles of northern France gather outside the city walls of Carcassonne, it will take great sacrifice to keep the secret of the labyrinth safe.

In the present, another woman sees the find as a means to the political power she craves; while a man who has great power will kill to destroy all traces of the discovery and everyone who stands in his way.

Insightful reviews

Kristen: Most of the other reviewers have compared Kate Mosse's "Labyrinth" favorably to *The Da Vinci Code*. I didn't read *The Da Vinci Code*, but given that it was impossible to avoid or ignore, I understand both books tackle some similar themes. The strongest aspect of "Labyrinth" is that the plot is well-paced and engrossing. The back-and-forth between the medieval era and the present day generally works nicely, and the transitions are smooth, or make sense in their placement and timing. Most of the characters are well-drawn, although I do think it gets quite confusing keeping track of all of them, and a few could have been dropped or at least had their plot lines greatly reduced (such as Noubel, the policeman).

I enjoy novels set in the medieval era as a guilty pleasure, as I often find they are saddled with ridiculous, stilted language and rather heavy-handed, melodramatic plots. While parts of "Labyrinth" are a bit silly (such as the sex scenes, oh brother), overall the plot is actually quite moving. The persecution of the Cathars, a heretic sect in thirteenth-century France, is handled deftly and movingly. Some of the material about the Grail was a bit complicated, I thought, and unnecessarily so.

This is a far from perfect book--as others have noted, this really could have been edited into a much leaner story. But the author clearly knows her material, and overall the history and religion are handled intelligently. This is an enjoyable read that you don't have to feel guilty about indulging in, as you actually come away having learned some medieval history.

Dana B: I had seen the cover of this book a while back, and thought it sounded interesting but just didn't have time to read another book. It wasn't until I heard about the mini-series starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Tom Felton, Katie McGrath, and many other amazing actors/actresses

that I finally got around to reading it, and I'm so glad I did!

While the two parallel time periods make it harder to be addicted at times (as soon as i got hooked it would switch to the other era), it was also one of the things that made me love the book so much. It's a mystery and it takes a while to figure out where each character fits in, but that is what makes it so enjoyable. And I really cared equally about each story.

My two complaints are that sometimes Kate Mosse gets too into writing the history which she has clearly spent hours researching, and needs to pull back and focus more on the characters. My other comment is that towards the end of the book, a huge time gap occurs in the past-era, and where many key events occur us as a reader only hear about them, instead of experiencing them first-hand as we do in the rest of the novel. This really bothered me as many key events occurred here, but since I loved the rest of the novel I'd still recommend it.

Laurie: This was very disappointing, it's at least 250 pages too long and the writing leaves much to be desired. The chapters in the past are much better than the ones in the present because things actually do happen and the history of the Cathars & daily castle life in the 1200s is interesting. It starts off intriguing and the landscape descriptions towards the end are quite lovely, but I wasted way too much time on this one. I also thought it was strange to see Mosse's next book looks & sounds identical to this one.

Mikayla: If somebody loved the Davinci Code by means of Dan Brown, you will take pleasure in this.

Hannah Elizabeth: I learn this ebook a while ago, and feature lately been reminded of its sorry life by way of the truth that a dramatisation is because of be screened within the no longer so far away future. Personally, i'm pleased with having made to the tip the place such a lot of others fallen within the effort. The writing was once diabolical, the plot thoroughly over-blown and all around the place, and the characters have been pitifully one-dimensional. Although, I do imagine it takes a different type of genius to return up with anything this bad, i actually do. Personal, er, "highlights" for me included, the most personality (Alice) wandering round a few village in the course of nowhere in basic terms to stumble upon a bloke she as soon as met yunks in the past in one other country. They knew one another immediately away. Sure, occurs all of the time. Well, it's been a while for the reason that I invested (badly) weeks of my existence to analyzing this (ten occasions too long) novel. yet I needed to depart this assessment just because others will be misled via the approaching dramatisation. in case you see it, and are tempted to shop for the book: store yourselves once you nonetheless can. Others were much less fortunate. One ultimate point: please have in mind the blameless timber that died so this e-book should be printed.

Beth: As i used to be examining this I drastically disliked it at a few occasions and used to be quite into it at different times. It was once challenging to get into, yet total I loved it greater than not. Mosse's writing made me recoil at times. quite a bit pointless description. (Who did her

editing? they need to be ashamed.) And the passiveness of characters telling one another the tale whereas the reader "listens in" bugged me. I might have most popular simply have the old storyline. yet I comprehend why the writer had to have the current day concerned about her tale as she desired to write it. I enjoyed studying in regards to the Cathars. Any enemy of the Crusades is a pal of mine. Although, come to consider it, there wasn't a variety of targeted dialogue concerning the Cathars in "Labyrinth," yet i've been encouraged to perform a little interpreting on my own. and that is been interesting.

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