



Revenge at Elsinore

John O'Donnell

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In 1517, Sweden is on the brink of declaring independence from Denmark, and Martin Luther has posted on a church door in distant Saxony incendiary views that will soon set Europe afire. Sweden's arch-patriot Hemming Gadh has arranged the coincidence. The Danish king Hamlet is plotting to kidnap and deliver Luther to Rome and the stake in exchange for Vatican support of Denmark's depredations upon Sweden. Gadh knows that the monk's heresy is the key to his country's liberation. Sweden must keep Luther alive and encourage his schismatic diatribe. To fulfill that mission, Gadh engages young Magnus Vasa-brother of Sweden's future king-as protector and confidant of the controversial theologian. Disguised as a Norwegian student named Horatio, Magnus enrolls at Wittenberg's university. There he encounters the Danish king's dissolute son Prince Hamlet and embarks upon adventures that will determine not only Sweden's fate but Europe's future. Meanwhile, Gadh, Horatio's mentor and Sweden's master counterspy, has embedded himself at Elsinore as the evil king's chancellor Polonius. When King Hamlet's atrocities culminate in the infamous Bloodbath of Stockholm, Gadh and Magnus-Polonius and Horatio-swear revenge upon the Dane, his bastard son and their kingdom. Gadh summons Magnus to Elsinore, where Horatio falls in love with Queen Gertrude, recognizes the recently deceased king's brother Claudius as a great and kind ruler, witnesses Polonius's death at the prince's hand, and finally-when called upon to duel the Black Prince to the death-finds his path between patriotism and romantic love, obedience and autonomy, vengeance and forgiveness, . Skillfully written, entertainingly intelligent and historically authentic, *Revenge at Elsinore* mesmerizes readers with a vibrant romantic adventure that also provides the key that unlocks mysteries that have puzzled Shakespearian scholars for centuries.

Revenge at Elsinore Details

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Author : John O'Donnell

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Carley Cesare says

* goodreads giveaway *

An imaginative retelling of Hamlet - the royal houses of Scandinavia intertwined with the Protestant reformation. I thoroughly enjoyed the author's ability to impart such a tale; he did so with intrigue while keeping the reader interested. The only part that bogged me down was remembering the names given to the characters versus the names of the roles in Shakespeare's play. I'll admit I was confused as it has been a while since I read Hamlet. However it was great how he was able to link everyone.

John says

Is it possible that I may be prejudiced since I am the book's author? It was a great pleasure after years of re-writes and tweaks finally to read my first work of fiction (I've authored four previous books) between real covers, and I must say that I not only enjoyed it but realized it will remain one of my best accomplishments.

The book has already received a handful of excellent reviews on Amazon. I've only just joined this site and shall be unabashedly marketing my new novel while, hopefully, contributing (more altruistically) to the site's mission and no doubt benefiting from the critical appreciations of the community.

Glad to be here. (PS: you can check out the book at www.RevengeAtElsinore.com. Thanks. --John

Hugh Ashton says

Ingenious to the max. A retelling of Nordic history which melds real-life events with Hamlet. Not being familiar with the struggle for Sweden's independence from Denmark, I found myself consulting Wikipedia at frequent intervals, becoming increasingly impressed at the ingenuity that married these struggles with Shakespeare's play, putting an alternative interpretation on the events that we know.

However, the book was slightly spoiled (emphasis on "slightly") for me by the fact that this book was published by a vanity press, and that the editing failed to find a fair number of homonyms (e.g., "waste" for "waist"), though generally the writing and layout was of a high standard.

It's not a book for everybody, but anyone who enjoys a little stroll through the byways of history (at least these are byways for most English-speakers) and has at least a nodding acquaintance with the play will enjoy this.

Quinn says

I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway. I thought this would be a fascinating read. It may be but

because of the style of writing I did not finish this book. If you love reading about Martin Luther you may enjoy this book.
