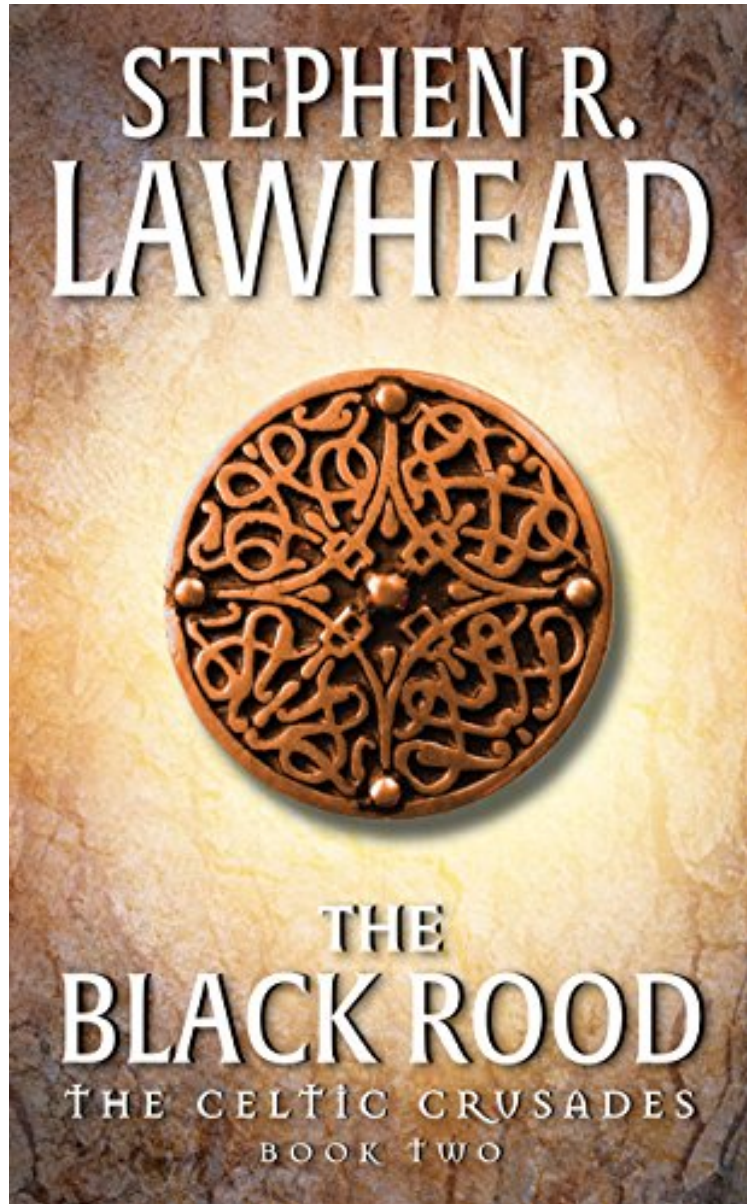


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## The Black Rood: The Celtic Crusades: Book II: 2

*Von Stephen R. Lawhead*

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**Von Stephen R. Lawhead : The Black Rood: The Celtic Crusades: Book II: 2** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Black Rood: The Celtic Crusades: Book II: 2:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spannender 2. Teil der TrilogieVon timediver"The Black Rood" ist der zweite Teil der Trilogie "The Celtic Crusades

Book" und damit die Fortsetzung des ersten Bandes "The Iron Lance". Lawhead hat sich einen Zeitraum ausgesucht, bei dem die Geschichtsschreibung sowohl im Hinblick auf die Templer, als auch bei den Ereignissen in Outremer, verhältnismäßig wenig berichtet. (Zwischen dem Konzil von Troyes und dem Fall von Edessa.) Dieser Umstand erlaubt ihm große literarische Freiheiten zur Schaffung seiner Szenarien, wie Bündnisverhandlungen zwischen den verfeindeten Kalifen, einem geheimen Pakt zwischen Templern und Assassinen und den kriegerischen Ereignissen um Armenien. Neben der Geschichte vom "Black Rood" (=dem wahren Kreuz Christi) gelingt es ihm auch andere christliche Legenden, z. B. von der schwarzen Maria (Magdalena) in Südfrankreich und den ersten Kopten, die bei der Steinigung Stephanus anwesend waren, in die Handlung einzubauen. Auch die um 1900 spielende Rahmenhandlung mit der uralten, bis auf die Clans der Kelten zurückgehenden geheimen Bruderschaft, ist originell und verleiht dem Roman eine zusätzliche mystisch-mythische Komponente. Lawhead ist mit "Black Rood" eine spannende und solide Fortsetzung gelungen, die mit 4 Sternen zu bewerten ist. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A worthy sequel Von N. Lee Lawhead has done it again in proving his mastery of book series. Rarely have I seen the plots of several books tied together so well as in the Pendragon Cycle, and the Celtic Crusades is shaping up to be just as well done. Contrary to previous reviewers, I had no trouble picking the story line right up despite the lack of reference to the previous book, The Iron Lance. I don't remember there being any "backtracking" in the Pendragon Cycle either. The history of the story seems to come out in bits and pieces as Duncan follows his father, Murdo's, footsteps through the Holy Land, then branches off into his own travels. If you have read the previous book, you know the history, and memory is refreshed in a way that saves the reader the redundancy that is often hard to avoid, there is no wasting of a lot of space and time covering what is already known. If you have not read The Iron Lance, as much history as is logical is presented to you as Duncan learns of it, in a way, you discover Duncan's past with him. I agree in that a few of the characters could have been a little more "fleshed out", and I found this a rare lapse in Lawhead's prose. Usually we come to know each character intimately, to the point that they feel like old friends, but the only character I really felt that with in this book was Duncan. I would have liked to hear more from Padraig and Sydoni, as I found them fascinating and was left without getting to know them as well as I would have liked. The plot, however, is well-paced, dialogue easy to read, and overall very believable. It reminded me at times of Byzantium, a very extensive work by Lawhead, and a high recommendation on my part. Overall, I would recommend The Black Rood to new and old readers of Lawhead alike, though I would caution new readers to buy The Iron Lance first, if only for continuity. 2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Lawhead Masters History and Story-Weaving Von Jill M. Clark After ordering The Black Rood last fall, I was thrilled to see my copy had arrived while I was on vacation. I read it in the space of two days. The research Lawhead must have undertaken to craft this continuing saga is almost mind-boggling. The main character is easy to "get into" although I did have to go back and review the first book in the series to refresh my memory. It would've been nice, considering the span of time between books, if Lawhead had backtracked just a wee bit and reminded us of what had taken place previously in the first Crusade. Having an interest in all things Scottish, it does ring true that the very north of Scotland was more Norse than Celtic at the time this story takes place. Most of the tale does flow well and is an enjoyable read. There were a couple of items I would've liked to have seen treated differently. One of them being Duncan's relationship with Sydoni which unfolds rather unevenly. At one point she says that she wouldn't want to live in Scotland because they rarely see the sun, yet at the end of the book . . . well, I don't want to give it away! Let's just say that Lawhead could've done a better job of building their relationship. The core of the story is the Black Rood and when Duncan does find a portion of the cross the description of the vision he has while in the Arab treasure tent has no equal. Lawhead's writing here is focused and inspiring. This section alone is worth the price of the book and hopefully will be read aloud by families, small groups, book club meetings, and Bible studies.

Kurzbeschreibung LAWHEAD KNOWS HOW TO SPIN A TALE. Booklist In a time of legends and heroes, blood and mystery, one man will carry on his family's destiny as he sets upon a dangerous and glorious quest. The Great Crusade is long over, or so Duncan, son of Murdo, believes until a long-lost uncle appears from the East bearing tales of immense treasure. Though the Iron Lance had been won for the emperor, an even holier relic has been found: the Black Rood—the prayer-worn, blood-stained remnant of the True Cross now endangered by the greedy ambitions of ruthless crusader barons bent on carving kingdoms from the desert sands of the Middle East. When Duncan's life is shattered by tragedy, he sets sail on his own pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following in the footsteps of his father. But the gates to the Holy Land are guarded by the warrior priests known as the Knights Templar. These fearsome guardians hold the key to more than just Duncan's fate—the very destiny of the West is in their hands. HISTORICAL DETAILS BRING THE SETTING TO ROBUST LIFE. Publishers Weekly.de The Celtic Crusades is a trilogy of stories about a noble Scottish family whose successive generations venture to the Holy Land at the time of the Crusades to retrieve sacred relics. In the first book, The Iron Lance, Murdo Ranulfson went to Jerusalem and brought back the iron lance used at the crucifixion. Now Duncan, Murdo's son, must find and preserve the Black Rood—a piece of the true cross.

As in *The Iron Lance*, the main narrative is framed by the memoirs of Gordon Murray, nineteenth century scion of the ancient Scottish clan and member of a Christian secret society whose mission is to bring the world back to the true path. This middle volume follows a format familiar to fantasy readers: an unformed youth leaves home to find himself and fulfill his destiny. In his travels through distant and dangerous lands, our hero rescues and is rescued by a series of quirky characters who join his quest, encountering divine visions, politics in the court of the Caliph, and cult assassins. He returns from his adventures older and wiser, triumphantly clutching the Black Rood, and accompanied, as an added bonus, by a new and beautiful wife. Lawhead sprinkles his tale with delicious hints about revelations regarding the potential offspring of Jesus, which, if expanded upon in the final volume, threaten to elevate this fiction from competent to genuinely intriguing. --Luc Duplessis *Pressestimmen* Praise for *Byzantium*: 'I can confidently assure you that fantasy writing doesn't get much better than this' *The Express* 'This is a rip-roaring adventure story; the pace rarely flags. There's scheming, murder and betrayal aplenty' *Interzone* 'Amusing and interesting' *Locus* 'A vivid historical setting and a lengthy and satisfying plot' *Publishing News*