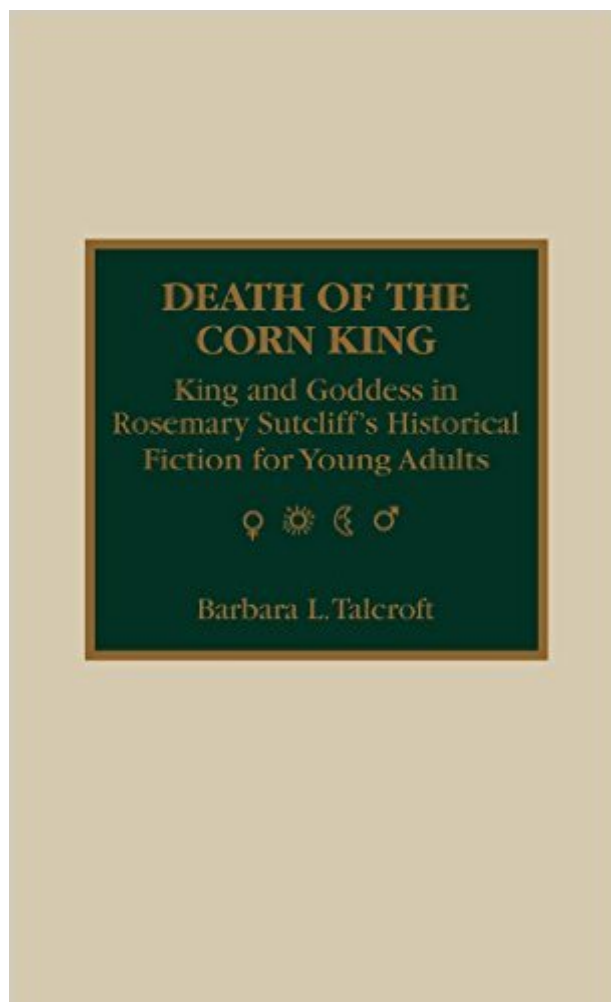


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Death Of The Corn King



Synopsis

Rosemary Sutcliff has long been acclaimed for her historical novels, especially those about the early peoples of Britain. She was a master at recreating in fiction the rites and rituals of primitive religions. The author explores Sutcliff's use of sacred themes through twelve of her most famous novels. Students of children's literature, librarians, and teachers of literature and history will find, in addition to a detailed analysis of each novel, an examination of Sutcliff's sources and influences, implications for use with students, a short biography of Sutcliff, and a complete list of her published work. Especially relevant to readers and teachers interested in sacred mythology or feminism. Bibliography and index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The editor's description above gives a concise summary of this book, so I will just offer a reader's impression. Adapted from Barbara Talcroft's graduate thesis, her work is a perfect balance of organized scholarly research, and very entertaining reading. She focuses her study on 3 major themes that run through Sutcliff's work, set in early Britain: the Sacrificial King, the Maimed King, and the worship of the Goddess. She examines only Sutcliff's novels aimed at young adults, as well as the incomparable 'Sword at Sunset' (in my opinion, the best Arthurian novel ever written). Talcroft's concise analysis and observations about these themes, and how they play out in the characters and storylines, offer a very valuable supplement to Sutcliff's novels. I agreed completely with Talcroft's appreciation of Rosemary Sutcliff as a writer whose brilliance goes far beyond that of

simply a novelist of historical fiction. She illuminates the major influences on Sutcliff's work, notably the classic study of ancient religion "The Golden Bough", and the works of Rudyard Kipling, Sutcliff's favorite writer. Her argument that Sutcliff's genius lies not only in her masterful skills as a writer, but in her talent for helping young adults to appreciate history and their own roots in ancient cultures, is a fine completion to this valuable book. Rosemary Sutcliff herself reported that she enjoyed this book enormously, noting that she gained fresh insights into her novels, from Talcroft's observations and analysis. So did I, and so will any of Sutcliff's many fans. This book was worth every penny.

Fascinating read for anyone who's interested in kingship themes or just Rosemary Sutcliff (and I happen to be interested in both).

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