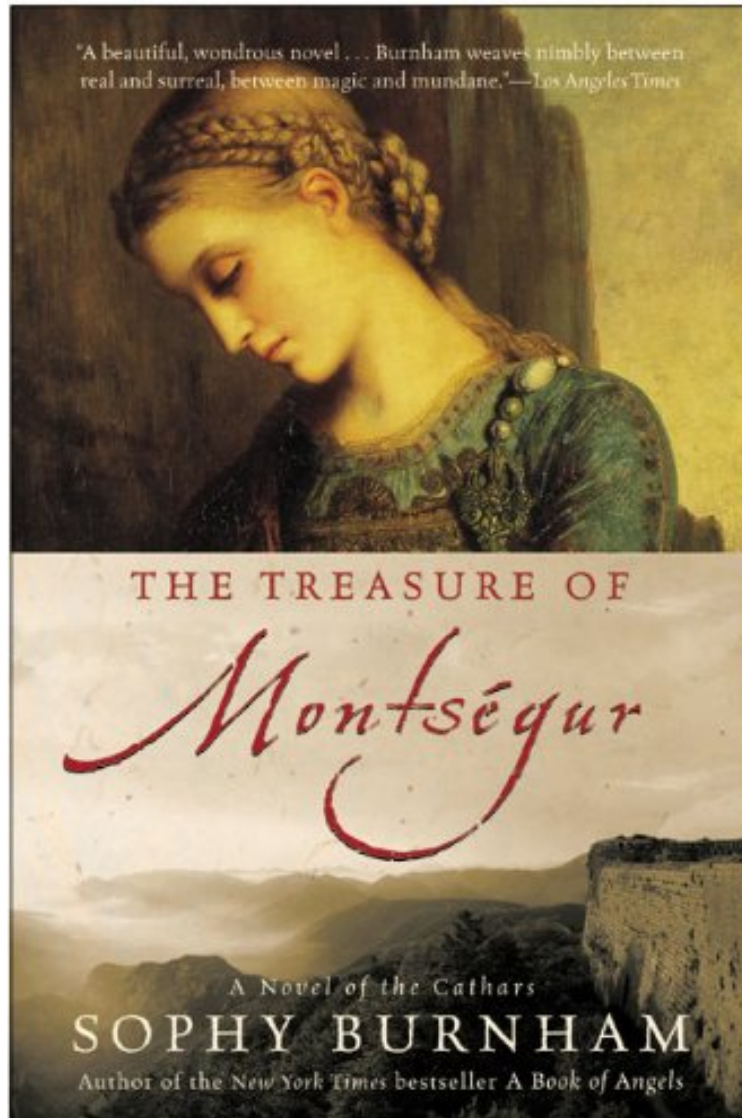


[Free pdf] The Treasure of Montsegur: A Novel of the Cathars

The Treasure of Montsegur: A Novel of the Cathars

Von Sophy Burnham

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Von Sophy Burnham : The Treasure of Montsegur: A Novel of the Cathars before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Treasure of Montsegur: A Novel of the Cathars:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating read Von Gerd Rebler Sophy Burnham's novel 'The Treasure of Montsegur' is brilliant. The way she tells the story by going back and forth between past and present in the life of the main protagonist, Jeanne, intertwining both stories, is a most intriguing and suspenseful way of writing a narrative. Her characters are vivid. They live with you long after you have put away the book. As it unravels it becomes more and more gripping, compelling the reader to

reach the end as fast as possible. However, having put it down, there is a sense of loss that it has finished so quickly and one wants to begin all over again. The writer has a great sense of mysticism and describes, with her usual feeling for the numinous, the heroine's realisation at the conclusion about the real treasure of Montsgur. The book is extremely well researched. The author obviously knows her facts. There is also a bibliography in case anyone wants to find out more about the Cathars. The preface gives a brief history of the Cathars as well, describing their religious practices and their fate during the Middle Ages. The introductory sentence is a plea for tolerance and understanding among people of all faiths. Most relevant to the present day is the way in which events in Languedoc in the 13th century are compared to religious intolerance and atrocities committed during the Balkan war, in Ireland and in today's many trouble spots. I sincerely recommend this novel. Not only is it a 'good read', but it is most sensitively written, with deep undertones about the need for tolerance and lack of prejudice in our troubled world.

Kurzbeschreibung One woman's unforgettable quest for freedom, love, and god. From Publishers Weekly
The extermination of the Cathars, a medieval religious sect settled in southern France that condemned the Catholic Church, provides heavy historic drapery for this somewhat lightweight novel. Having barely escaped burning on a pyre along with hundreds of fellow Cathars and Cathar sympathizers following a brutal year-long siege at the mountain fortress of Montsgur, Jeanne is on the run from the Inquisition. Posing as a homeless madwoman, Jeanne recalls her past as an impulsive, sexually driven young woman raised by the saintly Cathars. When a stranger, Jerome, risks his life vouching for Jeanne to the inquisitors, Jeanne is forced to live with him, or else both will face heresy charges. Predictably, romance ensues. This contrivance allows Jeanne to tell her life story, including her survival at Montsgur, amid snuggles and pillow talk. Jeanne's mood swings from brash, intelligent and determined to innocent and meek make her seem more disjointed than complex. Burnham, author of a number of books on spiritual phenomena, including the New York Times bestseller *A Book of Angels*, is at her best describing mystic and spiritual matters. Jeanne's spiritual transformations ("The soldiers grab me, strip me to the waist: my breasts exposed. They beat me with their leather whips, but oh, my Lady! Each blow brings only exquisite joy. I am transported, for I am filled with Christ and yet I gaze into the glowing eyes of Christ") feel vital and immediate. Despite its flaws, Burnham's novel is an energetic, psychological imagining of the Cathar legend. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
Set in the early thirteenth century, Burnham's novel focuses on the struggles of the Cathars, deemed heretics by the Catholic Church and pursued relentlessly by the Inquisition. Jeanne is found as a child in a field filled with massacred people, and she is taken in by Lady Esclarmonde, a woman devoted to the Cathar ideals. As a young woman, Jeanne longs for the worldly luxuries forsaken by the Cathars, and after going into a jealous frenzy when the man she longs for chooses her friend, Baiona, she is sent to Montsegur. To her surprise, Jeanne finds great happiness there, both in her solitude and in a handsome Englishman. Years later, when the Cathars have been ambushed and all but wiped out, Montsegur comes back to haunt Jeanne, when she returns to seek the treasure there. But the Inquisition dogs her and threatens her new love and even her life. Like Charmaine Craig's *Good Men* [BKL N 15 01], Burnham presents a sympathetic depiction of the Cathars and the insurmountable challenges and persecutions they faced.
Kristine Huntley
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