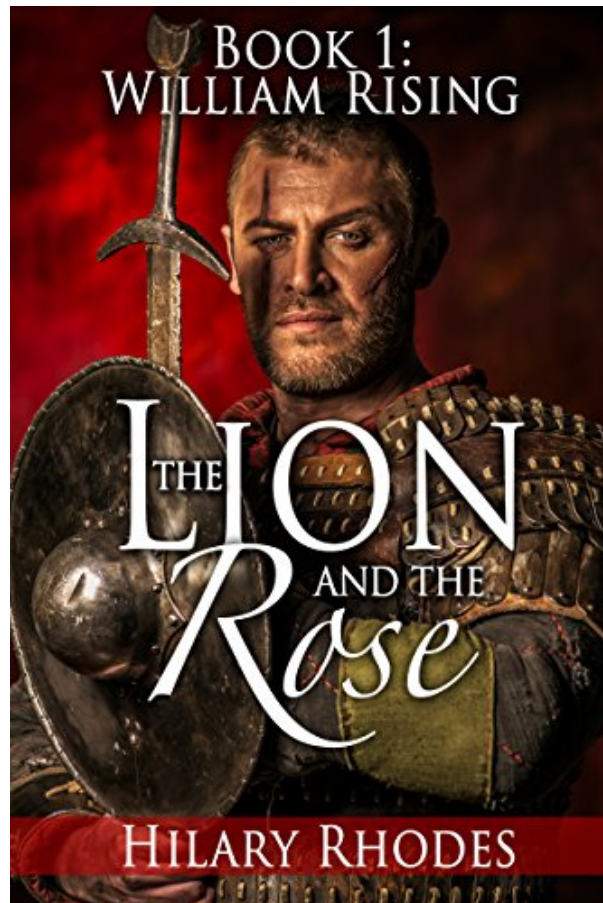
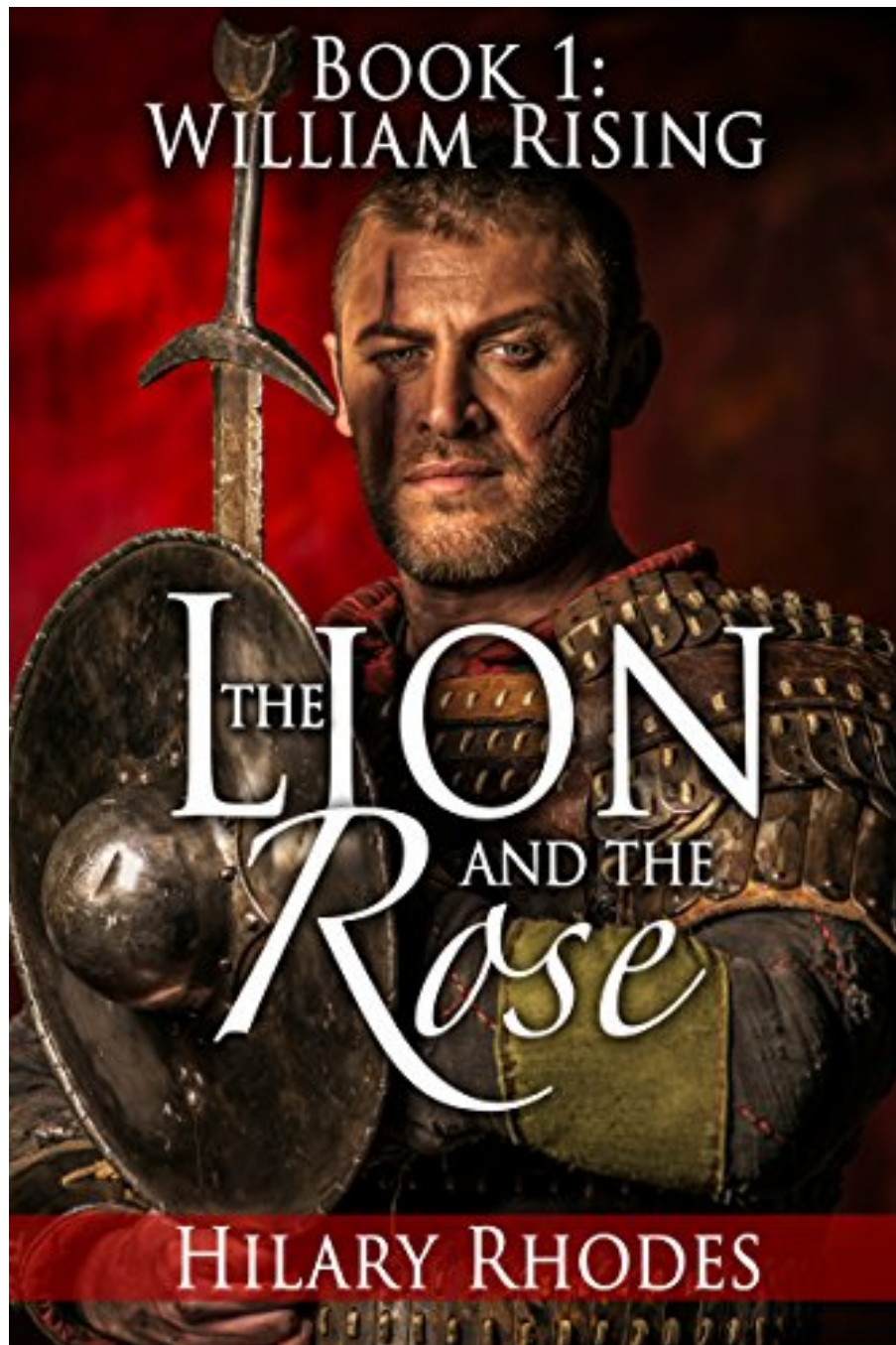


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The Lion and the Rose, Part One: William Rising is the first book in an epic historical saga from debut author Hilary Rhodes. Extensively researched and compellingly told, it introduces us to the passionate drama and violent upheaval of eleventh-century Europe. The world as we know it, and the English language, would have been vastly different were it not for the driving ambition of one man: William the Conqueror. But conquerors are made, not born, and William was made in fire and blood. How does a boy become a man, surviving a tumultuous and terrifying childhood? And how does that man become a legend?

William Rising plunges us into this world of danger and betrayal, of choosing sides and dying for absolutes. It follows the creation of a conqueror, as he grows up abandoned, learns to fight at an early age for anything he hopes to keep, and is sculpted into a remorseless, far-sighted, ruthlessly efficient soldier and statesman. From his origins as an orphaned, penniless bastard boy, to his personal and political trials by fire, to the climactic battle with his rebellious barons where he finally comes of age, the young duke increasingly establishes himself as a force to be reckoned with. But as the shadowy intrigues of English politics, and the all-consuming question of an heir for a childless king, begin to draw him into their web, it may just be that William of Normandy has a destiny far greater than even he has ever dreamed.

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Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Great beginnings

By Claire Bourgarel

I was really not disappointed by this book, which is the first one published by the author.

The characters were all very touching and made so very human. It is, I think, a great feat to give a plausible personality, dreams and fears to what is known by the general public as only a name, vaguely associated with a period.

The story of William the Conqueror is a lively one, full of treachery and ambition, peace treaties and bloody battlefields, and is told in a very gripping way by the author, with different point of views so as to have the best idea of the situation on every sides. What I really liked was the realism of the novel, the humanity of the characters, the exactitude of the places, habits and every other details making it a very believable version of what really happened. It is clearly a work based on extensive research, and I enjoyed picturing so vividly those names that I learnt at school.

The beginning can seem a little daunting with a lot of names and relationships to remember, but as the story

moves on, it all comes naturally.

I really can't wait for the sequel, and I recommend this series for anyone interested in history and great storytelling.

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Engaging and well-written

By tersaseda

It's obvious that the author was mindful of staying true to her characters and to historical accuracy. This is a book I will be reading again and again, as I will future books of hers. Very well done!

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent male characterizations

By Amazon Customer

The author creates a believable, even pitiable character in William. We can only imagine what it was like to be essentially orphaned in the eleventh century. This is the first book I've ever read which contains two -- count 'em -- two, sex scenes written from the point of view of a male virgin. These were well done, not crass at all, although, sigh, I hate to say it, the book's female characters are a bit flat -- even Matilda, who desires to be a "full-fledged" wife to William. At first I thought the author is male, but apparently not. We shall see how the women develop in book two. But don't let this put anyone off. The male characters are excellently drawn and it's not all sword fights -- plenty of sensitive moments between the men as well, but also plenty of bloodshed. Something else I enjoyed - the mention of the Scottish king Duncan, he of Macbeth/Shakespearean fame. Really a good book, and I hope this book gets more positive reviews and publicity. There aren't too many novels out about William the Conqueror, and I am enjoying this one. It's obviously well researched and again, very enjoyable.

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