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Montrose



Synopsis

A classic study of James Graham a hero, nobleman and military genius who struggled for years against the anti royalists in the Civil War in Scotland. It covers his life from his youth through to the marches across mountains and glens until he was executed in 1650. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This well-written book documents the life of James Graham, Marquess of Montrose, in the 1600's. It is indeed a page-turner: the crisp writing is full of factual references but never burdened by them, like the photos, period paintings and documents illustrating the book, they enhance and support the narrative. It is free of ornamental flourishes or fawning, relying only on exposition of facts and quality writing. Rarely do I agree with the marketing hype that usually makes up the front flap of a book's dustjacket, but in this case, I agree wholeheartedly: "This remarkable story of a great romantic hero separates the facts from legend and yet still manages to capture brilliantly all the excitement of the tale, of gallantry and heroism, of conspiracy and intrigue, of massacres and tragedy, set against the magnificent scenery of seventeenth-century Scotland." At least as thrilling as the story of William Wallace (alongside whom one of Graham's ancestors had fought two centuries earlier), this book is a very exhilarating tale of a remarkable person.

My cyber friend Iain Grimston was assisting as a reader of my pending novel THE LAST KNIGHT and the Queen of Scots, centering on the adventures of Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange, and in an

exchange of information on Scotland's heroes, he mentioned Montrose, about whom I knew shamefully little. When I took a break during the editing and production process of my Kirkcaldy book, I ordered Montrose. I did not expect the treasure that came. First of all, there is James Graham himself, a hero by any standard, in a setting so colorful that his story defies fictionalization. I could never write a Montrose as exciting as the one who actually lived. Second, C.V. Wedgwood's well-written treatment is just enough to whet the appetite and entice the reader who is a serious scholar such as I am to want more, without scaring the more casual reader away. Third, the illustrations and plates are magnificent, equal to any of the 'coffee table histories' I displayed before my malamutes ate them all. Montrose now enjoys protected status on a high shelf in a locked library. Anyone interested in the history of Scotland or who is intrigued by men and women who seem larger than life would enjoy adding this gem to his or her library.

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