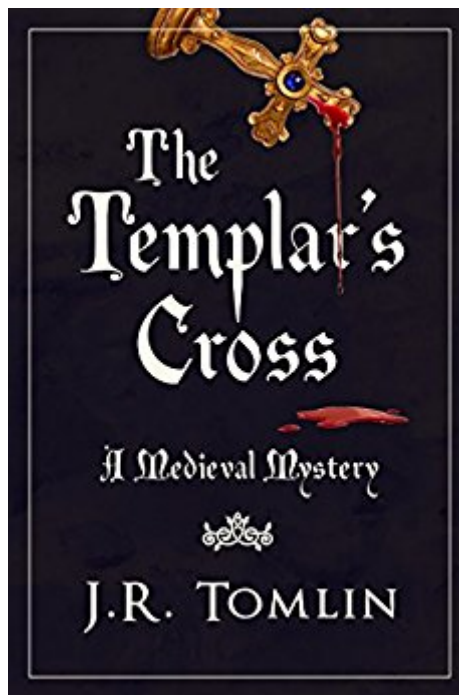




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The Templar's Cross: A Medieval Mystery (The Sir Law Kintour Mysteries Book 1)



Synopsis

Sir Law Kintour has returned from the war in France injured, broke, and in need of a patron. In desperation, he reluctantly accepts a commission to find a nobleman's runaway wife. He enlists the help of a fellow Scot with whom he escaped after their defeat at the Battle of Verneuil. But his friend is murdered, and Law discovers he has been lied to. As the murders continue to mount, powerful interests come into play. When the Sheriff of Perth considers him a convenient scapegoat, it gives Law no choice but to untangle the lies and find the killer or hang for the murders.

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Customer Reviews

If you like a good mystery that really has you asking who did it until the end, this is just the book. Though it is not set in modern time, it is still a good story. The only thing I didn't like about it and many others I've read, is all of the typos and grammatical errors. I'm not sure why the editor/author did not catch the errors, but I wish more would take their time and proof their work.

This book could have been if it had been shortened. It held my attention for the most part, but I suspect that is because I only read it for a small amount of time each sitting. I'm not sure I could have stood to just sit down and read this book. The entire premise is rather silly. There is no real reason for the main character to be hired, as he has none of the required skills. Most of his discoveries are more through luck than actual investigative work. The minstrel is there to give Sir Law someone to work with, rather than for anything he can contribute. The ending comes out of nowhere, and almost seems like the author suddenly ran out of ideas and had to throw together anything to end the book. The use of Scottish words was not terribly jarring, and context went a long way to allowing me to understand what they were saying. (I did not realize there was a glossary in the back until I finished the book.)

As another reviewer mentioned, this is, essentially, *The Maltese Falcon*, transported from 1920's San Francisco to 1420's Scotland. Indeed, the scene in which Sam Spade interrogates Brigid O'Shaughnessy over her lies and the death of Miles Archer is recreated, here, beat for beat. The Knights Templar stand in for the Knights of Malta, and instead of a jewel encrusted bird, the object of desire is a jewel encrusted cross. Sir Law fills the role of Sam Spade, Maguerite and Johnne Wrycht are analogs for Brigid O'Shaughnessy and Joel Cairo, Carre is the Fat Man, and Dave Taylor and Roger share the role of Wilmer. We even have the Lord Sheriff and the Sergeant of the Watch filling the roles of Detectives Dundy and Polhaus. I'm not sure if the author intended this to be an homage, but considering that this book is a retelling of one of the most famous detective novels (one that has been filmed, at least, three times), the story is very familiar. If you've read *The Maltese Falcon*, or seen the movie, you'll know how this book plays out. If you haven't read *The Maltese Falcon*, go do that right now! Though the story and characters are familiar, the author does a good job of evoking the time and period. The use of vernacular is fun, and I liked our hero. This is a fun and quick read, and I'll definitely check out the other books in the series. Who knows, maybe the next book is a re-imagining of *The Big Sleep* or *Red Harvest*!

[[ASIN:B01ETKCW16 *The Templar's Cross: A Medieval Mystery* (The Sir Law Kintour Mysteries Book 1)]] This is a very good medieval mystery which includes the sights and sound of the middle ages as we know it from our historical readings. People did eat only bread and beer, even the young children without families were abused or killed or died. Many died young and men fought in the Crusades and or wars of state and found, when they returned, they had no place town or in society. They scrambled for a penny for a slice of bread. Thieves and pickpockets abounded. The

Cross is lost, hidden, stolen, and an able man is asked to retrieve it. Thieves betray him, a man is found murdered and the sheriff is willing to hang the man who found him. The tale is nicely told. I enjoyed Tomlin's writing. Nothing bashful here.

The Templars' Cross by J.R. Tomlin. Sir Law Kintour, a wounded and masterless man returns from war in France. The earl he served having been killed in battle, he seeks another noble to serve under, but is having little success. To fill his time--and pockets--he takes an offer from a stranger to find his missing wife and her lover. The search leads him into a web of lies, spies, lost Templar treasure and the possibility of being hanged for a murder he didn't do unless he solves the puzzle and identifies the true murderer. I suspect, in later books, Sir Law will have forsaken war for crime solving and am anxious to read of his further adventures. This book is recommended for its depiction of the times as well as for the excellence of its writing.

15th Century Perth is the setting for a mystery involving con-artistry, seduction, ambitions, and the will to survive. Sir Law Kintour has survived warfare, but doesn't know if he can survive the coming winter until he is hired to find a rare artifact, a cross lost when the Templars had been destroyed a hundred years before. Finding it will make its finder rich. Law is to be well paid, but almost pays with his life as his partner dies, he is suspected, and must find the real culprit before the sheriff takes him into custody and charges him with the murder of Duncan and the man who they thought had possession of the jewel-encrusted cross. Many fortunate coincidences and a couple loyal friends come between him and his own destruction.

Liked reading the story with old English, Gaelic, French words. Convolutional story and you know the murderer almost from the beginning. Interesting characters

Interesting story of how a detective was used in this era. Enjoyed learning about the culture back in that century. A great story woven into a mystery with some real characters of the past. Nicely written.

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