

## The Conflict Between The Mystic And The Barbarian In All Of Us

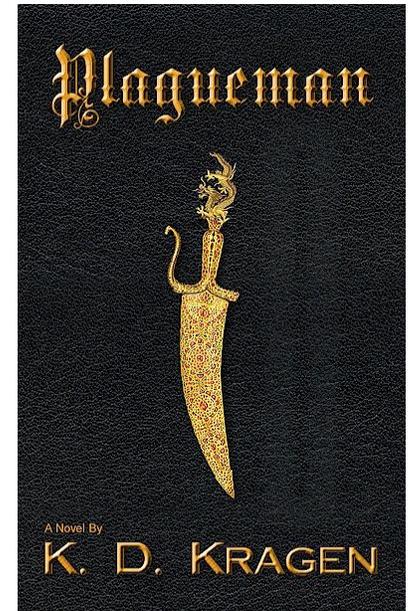


First there was the plague (1347-1665). Then there was *Plagueman*. From the creator of *KillWare* and *The Wastes* (killware.com) comes *Plagueman*, published by ArcheBooks Publishers.

In three hundred pages, an epic of history and death and love and death. A grand celebration of suffering and passion and the Chianti Classico hope and prosciutto-pasta life of medieval Italy during the years of the Black Death. *Plagueman* is the story of awakening desire in the devout heart of a beautiful young girl, Theresa of Siena, who befriends a disillusioned soldier, Kierkive of Sarai. *Plagueman* is about the conflict between the mystic and the barbarian in all of us.

With the possible exception of Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year*, Albert Camus' *The Plague*, and Steven King's *The Stand*, most techno-thriller novels and movies tell about how humans conquer every obstacle, how they survive and overcome every threat to civilization: the plague, a deadly virus, alien spawn, Martian attack. *Plagueman*, on the other hand, is about how to go on in the day-to-day, how to live real life in an age of plague, how not merely to survive but to stand strong in a time of terror without losing one's humanity—and compassion.

*Plagueman* is carefully researched, both concerning medieval medicine and the effects of the plague and concerning details of 14th century life in Tuscany and at the Papal Court of Avignon. Kragen is a philosopher, writer, teacher, editor, husband, father and grandfather. For the past twelve years he has been the managing editor of Scandia Patch Press. He has lectured in philosophy of art at various art schools around Puget Sound. He and his wife, Janet L. Kragen (<http://www.kragen.net>), educator and author, live on Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA.



"The Black Death followed them like a flock of hungry gulls. Their ship was history's hearse, albatross and pelicans its mourners. Days passed as centuries. Dead bodies were cast into the vessel's blood-red wake. Him, too, but for the girl. Always, there was the girl, the beautiful, merciful god. The kind god who pointed to the suffering god, all the while an inexplicable happiness sparking like dawn in her child's eyes."

*Plagueman* (p. 47-8)

## Reviews, Interviews And Coverage

"I felt transported to the colorful yet bleak 14th century world, to see and sense the devastating plague, to witness barbarians leave their prey stripped of dignity and will. How amazing that love could flourish amidst so much chaos—to see the spark of mystic spirit arise in Kierkive, the *Plagueman*. Science fiction or fantasy does not come close to the horror of true, well-drawn and well-researched historical fiction." (Venera Di Bella Barles, author of *They Was Holdin' Hands*.)

"*Plagueman* is a book you are not able to put down. The descriptions are absolutely amazing. You truly feel what it was like to live in 14th century Italy. With a touch of romance, *Plagueman* will keep you guessing to the very last page. A wonderful story." (Steve Maloof, Bainbridge Is., WA)

*Plagueman* is published by and is available from ArcheBooks Publishing: <http://www.archebooks.com/BookIDX/Indexes/History/PM/PMDesc.htm>

## Contact Information

### Book Club Details:

Author will open the first session with book signing and reading, and discuss the historical context of the book. He will visit the Book Club a second time for a Q&A session.

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