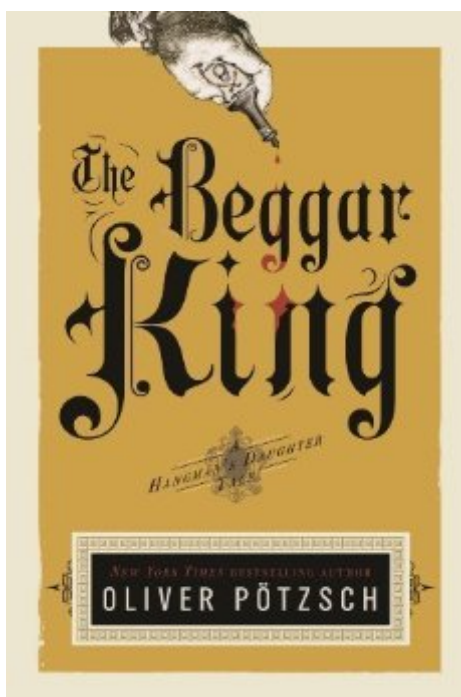


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The Beggar King (US Edition) (A Hangman's Daughter Tale Book 3)



Synopsis

The year is 1662. Alpine village hangman Jakob Kuisl receives a letter from his sister calling him to the imperial city of Regensburg, where a gruesome sight awaits him: her throat has been slit. Arrested and framed for the murder, Kuisl faces first-hand the torture he's administered himself for years. Jakob's daughter, Magdalena, and a young medicus named Simon hasten to his aid. With the help of an underground network of beggars, a beer-brewing monk, and an Italian playboy, they discover that behind the false accusation is a plan that will endanger the entire German Empire. Chock-full of historical detail, *The Beggar King* brings to vibrant life another tale of an unlikely hangman and his tough-as-nails daughter, confirming Pötsch's mettle as a writer to watch.

Book Information

File Size: 2008 KB

Print Length: 514 pages

Publisher: Crossing; 1 edition (January 8, 2013)

Publication Date: January 8, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B008O5O8GU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,491 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > German #8 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > German #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > German

Customer Reviews

I was so anxious for the next Hangman's Daughter Tale, that I dropped everything when it arrived and I've been reading almost ceaselessly since yesterday morning! *The Beggar King* is the third in a series by Oliver Pötsch. The first is *The Hangman's Daughter*, which introduces Jakob Kuisl, the Hangman of Schongau, along with other main characters, his wife Anna Maria, children Magdalena, Georg and Barbara and the son of the town doctor, Simon Fronweiser. The second book, *The Dark Monk* was just as strong a story as the first and was my favorite in the series until I just finished *The*

Beggar King. This story had me on the edge of my seat and didn't let go of me until the very end. I see that there is another installment coming, The Warlock, and I think you can imagine how excited I am to hear another book in this series is on the way! Mr. Potzsch crafts a brilliant, gripping tale. The setting is described so well that the places we read about become as familiar to us as our own home. This book takes place primarily in the city of Regensburg, where Jakob's sister lives with her husband. The story starts out with a letter from Jakob's sister telling him of her illness, and naturally, he sets out to help her with his bag of medicines. Unfortunately for the Hangman, it's a trap, and an intricate one at that! It takes all the strength Jakob has to withstand torture at the hand of the Regensburg Hangman (don't want to give too much away, but our beloved Hangman is put on the rack by one of his own!) and his daughter and her lover, Simon, have to work fast to solve the mystery of who set her father up before he is executed.

In the third installment of the historical mystery series featuring Magdalena Kuisl, the hangman's daughter, Oliver Potzsch shifts the location to Regensburg, a bustling German city awaiting a meeting of the most powerful members of the German Empire. Potzsch has descended quickly to a formula, and one that has become tiresome in rather short order. His checklist includes gruesome scenes of physical torture, the misogynistic views of 17th century Germany, the fight-to-the-death scene featuring Jakob Kuisl, the hangman, the shrill lovers' tiff between Magdalena and her diminutive lover Simon Fronweiser, and a subterranean world. Readers of the three books in the series get a distinct whiff of "been there, done that." The premise had promise: Jakob is lured to Regensburg by a letter that states his sister is sick and may be dying. Instead he is framed for her murder and tortured by the Regensburg hangman, a neat plot turnabout. The substrata of Regensburg's population is people by beggars, thieves, prostitutes and cripples, all led by Nathan the Wise, THE BEGGAR KING of the title. Nathan, ever a tribute to the German penchant for organization and order, rules over these misfits as if they were a guild. Magdalena and Simon also leave Schongau to travel to Regensburg, in order to start a new life. As the daughter of the hangman she and Simon cannot marry, as her station in life is distinctly that of the untermensch. Magdalena is also being harassed by one of the town fathers who has whipped the ignorant into a frenzy in a misdirected retribution over the death of a maid. Once in Regensburg the couple discovers that Jakob is in jail, convicted of a double murder, which under Carolingian law must be supported by a confession.

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