

A TOWTON AUDIO DRAMA PRESENTATION

KINGMAKER

WINTER PILGRIMS

RELEASE
MARCH 29
2021

Adapted by
Gregory Evans
from the book by
Toby Clements

Kingmaker: Winter Pilgrims follows the epic tale of two heroic young people who unwittingly hold the key to the throne and must survive against incredible odds in the savage world of 1460's England.

With a deadly enemy closing in and a mysterious ledger in their hands, wherever they flee they are drawn into the calamitous events of the time, culminating in the terrible slaughter at Towton field on Palm Sunday 1461.

This epic tale of survival, courage and love amidst the carnage of the times will be released on the 560th anniversary of the Battle of Towton on 29th March 2021.

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[HTTPS://KINGMAKERAUDIO.COM](https://kingmakeraudio.com)

Kingmaker: Winter Pilgrim's is an epic historic audio drama recorded in July 2020 at Leiston Abbey in Suffolk.

Based on the first in a series of books by Toby Clements, and adapted by Greg Evans, the production involved 27 actors playing 49 roles with 11 crew, and music by Matthew Sheeran. Fiona McAlpine directed.

Spread over 5 x 1 hour episodes, Kingmaker: Winter Pilgrim's is set during what became known as *the Wars of the Roses*, and will be released by Towton Audio on 29th March 2021 to coincide with the 560th anniversary of the battle of Towton.

This adaptation is the first of many releases from Towton Audio® who are launching a new and unique listening platform which can be found through www.kingmakeraudio.com

The original Kingmaker book series was incredibly well received, with Hilary Mantel describing it as:

“An enthralling adventure story, honest and powerful. The Wars of the Roses are imagined here with energy, with ferocity, with hunger to engage the reader.”

About Towton Audio

The Towton Audio brand derives its name from the village in Yorkshire which was the site of the bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil which took place on Palm Sunday in 1461 during what became known as the Wars of the Roses.

For more information visit :
<https://towton-productions.com>

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CAST AND CREW

Katherine	Sophie Walter
Thomas	Will Fletcher
Sir Giles Riven / Robert Doud / Fournier	Julian Harries
Edmund Riven / Edward / Warwick	Ed Jones
Morrant	Joe McArdle
Latham / William Hastings	Theo Fraser Steele
Richard Fakenham	Edmund Attrill
Sir John Fakenham	Richard Braine
Walter	Roderick Smith
Geoffrey / Saxby	Ché Walker
Cobham / Dafydd	Garmon Rhys
Prioress	Georgie Glen
Sister Alice	Alexandra Ewing
Dean (Brother Stephen)	Patrick Marlowe
Prior	Lawrence Werber
Sister Joan	Judith Sharp
Sister Agnes / Goodwife Popham	Tessa Wojtczak
Margaret Cornford	Grace Englert
Gwen / Stationer	Sally Ann Burnett
Mayhew / Official / Sailor	Jack Heydon
Vintemar / Herald / Knight / Captain	Richard Bates
Horseman / Fitzwalter / Old soldier	Richard Blaine
John Grylle / Wounded Solider	Charlie Keable
John Perers / Surgeon / Vintemar	Huw Brentnall
Archer / Walker / Onlooker / Soldier	Jimmy Rutherford
Singers	Sarah Keirle
	Simon Pratt
Composer	Matthew Sheeran
Writer	Gregory Evans
Author	Toby Clements
Executive Producer	Kevin Moorhouse
Director/Producer	Fiona McAlpine
Sound Design / Editor	Alisdair McGregor
Sound Assistant	Jimmy Rutherford
Production Manager	Lucy Barter
Production Assistant	Madeleine Brooks
Production Assistant	Kitty Dunham
Runner	Beatrice Robinson
Production filming	Damian Evans
Armourer	Richard Reeves
Recorded at	Pro Corda
	Leiston Abbey, Suffolk

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FIONA MCALPINE

DIRECTOR

Fiona is an award winning drama producer, who has been working in the industry over thirty years as an actress, director and producer. With her own company, Allegra Productions, she has produced over fifty radio dramas, documentaries and series for the BBC, including live orchestrated theatre events such as The Dark Tower and Elizabeth and Essex.

She has championed and produced several female novelist seasons for Radio 4 including the Iris Murdoch and Angela Carter seasons, and over the last twenty years has worked with many famous names, including David Tennant, Helen McCrory, Jeremy Irons, Fiona Shaw and Stephen Fry.

GREGORY EVANS

WRITER

Since his first play was transmitted on BBC 2 in 1990, Gregory Evans has had over forty television drama scripts produced. He's written even more for radio: original dramas, series and serials, as well as dramatisations based on works by (among others) Joseph Roth, Jules Verne, Edgar Allan Poe, Graham Greene, Thomas Hardy, John Cheever, Stephen King, Martin Amis and H. E. Bates. His dramatisation of Greene's *THE QUIET AMERICAN* was shortlisted for a Sony Award.

He's written a bestselling children's book, as well as short stories, features and reviews for *The Observer*, *the Guardian*, *Harper's & Queen*, *Woman's Journal* and various little magazines. He has also been a film critic for *Harper's*.

Gregory is a career-long member of the Writers' Guild and has served on its Executive Council. He's a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts; and a mentor for the London Film School.

TOBY CLEMENTS

AUTHOR

Toby Clements worked as a journalist and editor on the literary desk of the *Daily Telegraph* for ten years before writing the four critically-acclaimed *Kingmaker* novels set in England during the Wars of the Roses. Toby continues to write historical fiction and lives in London with his wife and three children.

'It is Clements's ability to excite both tender emotions and a capacity for blood-thirstiness that has allowed him to achieve what Shakespeare couldn't manage, and spin a consistently enthralling story out of the Wars of the Roses.' *Daily Telegraph*

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EPISODE SUMMARIES

EPISODE ONE

Midwinter 1460, five years into the bloody quarrel between the noble houses of York and Lancaster that will tear England apart for the next quarter of a century. Caught outside the walls of her priory, Katherine, a young nun, is assaulted by Edmund Riven and his henchmen. She fights back fiercely, severely injuring Riven. Thomas, a holy brother, comes to her aid. When Edmund's father Sir Giles arrives with his entourage seeking revenge, blood is shed, men and women are murdered, and Katherine and Thomas are forced to leave the safety of their priory and escape into the ravaged, war-torn land.

EPISODE TWO

Hunted by Riven, outlawed by the Church, Katherine and Thomas flee for their lives through a cold and hostile land. To make her less vulnerable Thomas cuts Katherine's hair and she becomes Kit, a teenage boy. A chance encounter with another traveller leads Kit and Thomas to board a ship sailing to Kent, but the vessel is seized mid-voyage by Sir John Fakenham and his son Richard, who conscript the runaways into the Earl of Warwick's army: Kit becoming Richard's squire, Thomas an archer. Soon they find themselves guarding a castle in Calais ... which comes under attack.

EPISODE THREE

The Lancastrian knights attacking Calais are ambushed by Sir John's archers, giving Thomas his first taste of combat. When Richard is struck by an arrow, Katherine (still disguised as Kit) removes it, saves his life, and discovers her gift for surgery. Thomas and Kit grow ever closer as Warwick's army fights its way into Kent and marches on London. In every battle, Thomas looks for Giles Riven, meaning to challenge and kill him. At last the armies of York and Lancaster meet near Northampton. The Lancastrians seem certain to win until one of their nobles defects and the Yorkists achieve a decisive victory. This double-cross was engineered by Giles Riven, back in favour and now on the same side as Thomas.

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EPISODE SUMMARIES

EPISODE FOUR

It seems the fighting is over. Thomas and Katherine (still Kit) kick their heels in Marton Hall, home of Sir John and his company. Kit performs a difficult and dangerous operation to cure Sir John of a severe ailment. But the serpent in this Eden is Giles Riven. As part of a plan to defeat him, Thomas, Kit and a few others make a perilous winter journey into deepest Wales to find Lady Margaret Cornford. As the storm clouds of war gather again, Thomas, Kit and Margaret are pursued by Edmund Riven and his henchmen. Margaret dies of sickness and cold, Thomas and Katherine are cornered. Thomas declares his feelings for Katherine – as he prepares to kill her to prevent Edmund from taking her alive.

EPISODE FIVE

After cheating death, Thomas and Katherine (now passing herself off as Lady Margaret Cornford) are again taken up by the Yorkist army. For helping win a battle in the Welsh Marches, Thomas is allowed to return with Katherine to Marton Hall. They travel north through a land laid waste by the enemy and arrive to find Riven has got there first: old friends murdered, Richard blinded, Sir John consumed by grief and rage. Thomas, Katherine, Sir John and Richard leave Marton to join Yorkist forces heading for the village of Towton ... where, in the greatest, bloodiest battle of all, Katherine's gift for healing is tested to its limit and Thomas finally meets Riven in combat.

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PRESS QUOTES

ABOUT THE NOVEL KINGMAKER : WINTER PILGRIMS

‘An enthralling adventure story, honest and powerful. The Wars of the Roses are imagined here with energy, with ferocity, with hunger to engage the reader.’ - Hilary Mantel

‘Magnificent. An historical tour de force, revealing Clements to be a novelist every bit as good as Cornwell, Gregory or Iggulden. Kingmaker is the best book I’ve read this year by some margin.’ - Ben Kane

‘Achieves what Shakespeare couldn’t manage, spinning a consistently enthralling story out of the Wars of the Roses’ - Daily Telegraph

‘Captures the grimness, grit and grime of 15th-Century life, but with compassion and humanity... the period detail is wonderfully accurate, as are the setpiece skirmishes and bloodbath at Towton’ - Daily Mail

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

INFO@TOWTON-PRODUCTIONS.COM

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