

ken follett century trilogy

Ken Follett Century Trilogy is a captivating series of historical novels that spans the tumultuous and transformative 20th century. Renowned author Ken Follett masterfully intertwines personal stories with major world events, creating an immersive reading experience that appeals to history enthusiasts and fiction lovers alike. This trilogy not only entertains but also offers a profound reflection on the resilience and complexity of human nature amidst global upheavals.

Overview of the Ken Follett Century Trilogy

The Century Trilogy is a sweeping saga that covers significant moments in 20th-century history, from the First World War to the end of the Cold War. Comprising three interconnected novels—*Fall of Giants*, *Winter of the World*, and *Edge of Eternity*—the series explores the lives of multiple generations across different countries, backgrounds, and social classes.

Core Themes and Narrative Style

Ken Follett's storytelling in this trilogy is characterized by meticulous research, compelling characters, and intricate plotlines. Some of the central themes include:

- War and Peace
- Political upheaval and revolution
- Love, loss, and resilience
- Social change and technological advancements
- The impact of history on individual lives

The narrative style is both expansive and detailed, weaving together personal stories with broader historical contexts, which makes the series both educational and emotionally engaging.

Detailed Overview of Each Book

Fall of Giants (2010)

Fall of Giants introduces readers to five families from different nations—American, German, Russian, Welsh, and English—whose lives become intertwined during the tumultuous period surrounding World War I. The novel explores:

- The outbreak of WWI and its global repercussions
- The Russian Revolution and subsequent upheaval
- The changing roles of women and social classes
- The dawn of modern warfare and technological innovations

This installment sets the stage for the epic saga, providing rich character development and historical insights.

Winter of the World (2012)

Winter of the World continues the story through the interwar period and World War II, focusing on the next generation of the families introduced in the first book. Key elements include:

- The rise of fascism and totalitarian regimes
- The devastating impact of WWII across Europe and America
- The struggle for civil rights and social justice
- Personal sacrifices amid global chaos

The novel vividly portrays the brutality of war and the resilience of those who endured it, highlighting the enduring human spirit.

Edge of Eternity (2014)

The trilogy concludes with Edge of Eternity, which spans the Cold War era, Civil Rights Movement, and the social upheavals of the 1960s and 1970s. Themes explored include:

- The division of East and West Germany
- The Vietnam War and anti-war protests
- Technological and cultural revolutions
- The ongoing fight for equality and human rights

This final installment emphasizes hope, change, and the enduring quest for freedom and justice.

Historical Accuracy and Research

Ken Follett's dedication to authenticity is evident throughout the Century Trilogy. He meticulously researches historical events, political climates, and cultural nuances to ensure accuracy. This commitment enriches the narrative, making the series a valuable resource for readers interested in history.

Some aspects of Follett's research include:

- Detailed depictions of key battles and political negotiations
- Authentic portrayals of social customs and daily life in different eras
- Inclusion of real historical figures alongside fictional characters

This blend of fact and fiction creates a believable and immersive world that educates as much as it entertains.

Character Development and Interconnectedness

One of the standout features of the Century Trilogy is its complex, multi-dimensional characters. Each family represents different social classes and nationalities, providing diverse perspectives on the events that shape their lives.

Notable characters include:

- Gus Dewar, an American lawyer and pacifist
- Ethel Williams, a Welsh woman fighting for women's rights
- Lev Peshkov, a Russian revolutionary
- Caroline Hammond, an English nurse

Their stories are interconnected across generations, illustrating how personal choices influence and are influenced by historical currents.

Reception and Critical Acclaim

The Ken Follett Century Trilogy has received widespread praise from critics and readers alike. Its engaging storytelling, depth of research, and compelling characters have made it a bestseller series. Critics commend Follett for:

- Bringing history to life with vivid descriptions

- Creating relatable characters amidst complex political landscapes
- Maintaining a fast-paced narrative that keeps readers hooked

Fans appreciate the trilogy for its educational value and emotional depth, making it a recommended read for those interested in 20th-century history.

Why Read the Ken Follett Century Trilogy?

Choosing to read this trilogy offers several benefits:

1. **Educational Value:** Gain insights into major historical events and their human impact.
2. **Engaging Storytelling:** Enjoy a compelling mix of fiction and history that keeps readers captivated.
3. **Multigenerational Perspective:** Understand how personal lives intertwine with global changes over decades.
4. **Rich Character Development:** Connect with diverse characters whose lives reflect broader societal shifts.

Moreover, the trilogy's narrative structure allows readers to see the progression of history through personal stories, making complex events more accessible and memorable.

Conclusion

The Ken Follett Century Trilogy stands as a monumental achievement in historical fiction, blending meticulous research with compelling storytelling. It offers a panoramic view of 20th-century history through the lens of interconnected characters whose lives span generations and continents. Whether you are a history buff, a fan of epic sagas, or simply looking for an engaging series to immerse yourself in, this trilogy promises an enriching and unforgettable reading experience. Exploring the triumphs and tragedies of the century, Ken Follett's series reminds us of the enduring resilience of the human spirit amidst the chaos of world-changing events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Century Trilogy' by Ken Follett about?

The 'Century Trilogy' by Ken Follett is a series of historical novels that explores the 20th century through the lives of interconnected families across three generations, covering major events like the World Wars, the Great Depression, and the Cold War.

In which order should I read Ken Follett's Century Trilogy?

The recommended reading order is: 'Edge of Eternity,' followed by 'Fall of Giants,' and then 'Winter of the World.'

What are the main themes explored in the Century Trilogy?

The trilogy explores themes such as love and betrayal, political upheaval, war, social change, and the resilience of the human spirit across turbulent times.

Are the characters in the Century Trilogy based on real historical figures?

While the characters are fictional, they are woven into real historical events and sometimes interact with actual figures, providing an immersive historical experience.

How historically accurate is Ken Follett's Century Trilogy?

Follett combines extensive research with compelling storytelling, striving for historical accuracy while also creating engaging fictional narratives.

Will I need prior knowledge of 20th-century history to enjoy the Century Trilogy?

No prior knowledge is necessary, but having some background in 20th-century history can enhance your understanding and appreciation of the novels.

Are the Century Trilogy books suitable for young readers?

The books contain mature themes and detailed descriptions of war and social issues, so they are generally recommended for adult readers or older teens.

Has the Century Trilogy been adapted into films or TV series?

As of now, there are no official film or TV adaptations of the Century Trilogy, but there have been discussions about possible adaptations.

What makes Ken Follett's Century Trilogy popular among readers?

Its compelling characters, detailed historical backdrop, and exploration of universal themes across a tumultuous century make it both educational and highly engaging.

Where can I find the latest updates or discussions about the Century Trilogy?

You can follow Ken Follett's official website, book forums, social media pages, and reader communities like Goodreads for the latest news and discussions about the trilogy.

Additional Resources

Ken Follett Century Trilogy: An Epic Saga of History, Humanity, and Intrigue

Introduction

In the vast landscape of historical fiction, few series have managed to capture the breadth of human experience with such detail, depth, and storytelling finesse as Ken Follett's Century Trilogy. Spanning over a century of tumultuous global history, this trilogy offers readers an immersive journey through the 20th and early 21st centuries, weaving together personal stories, political upheavals, technological advancements, and societal transformations. As an expert reviewer and avid enthusiast, I will explore each component of the trilogy, its thematic richness, narrative structure, and why it stands as a landmark achievement in contemporary literature.

Overview of the Century Trilogy

The Century Trilogy comprises three interlinked novels:

1. Fall of Giants (2010)
2. Winter of the World (2012)
3. Edge of Eternity (2014)

Collectively, these novels delve into the lives of multiple families across different nations, illustrating how individual destinies intertwine with major historical events such as World War I, the rise of fascism and communism, World War II, and the Cold War era. Follett's masterful storytelling provides visceral insights into the human cost of these upheavals, making history accessible and emotionally resonant.

Thematic Depth and Narrative Structure

Core Themes Explored

Follett's trilogy explores a multitude of themes, including:

- War and Peace: The devastating impacts of global conflicts and their aftermath.
- Class and Social Change: The shifting social hierarchies and struggles for equality.
- Political Ideologies: The rise of fascism, communism, democracy, and their

influence.

- Technological Innovation: How technological progress shapes societies and warfare.
- Love and Loss: Personal relationships set against the backdrop of historic upheavals.
- Resilience and Humanity: The enduring spirit of individuals amid chaos.

Interwoven Narratives and Character Development

One of Follett's strengths lies in his multi-POV storytelling. Each novel introduces a cast of characters from different backgrounds—miners and aristocrats, farmers and politicians, Americans and Europeans—whose stories are carefully woven together. This structure allows readers to see events from diverse perspectives, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human experiences.

The characters are crafted with nuance, evolving over decades, confronting moral dilemmas, and embodying the era's complexities. Their personal arcs serve as microcosms of broader historical trends, enriching the narrative with emotional depth.

Detailed Breakdown of Each Novel

Fall of Giants: The Beginning (1911–1924)

Setting: From the pre-World War I era through the aftermath of the war and the early 1920s.

Key Focus: The origins of the 20th century's upheavals, examining the causes and consequences of WWI, the Russian Revolution, and the shifting balance of global power.

Main Characters:

- The Fitzherbert family: A British aristocratic family navigating the decline of the British Empire.
- The Williams family: An American mining family experiencing the rise of American influence.
- The Peshkov family: A Russian revolutionary family caught in the upheaval of the Russian Revolution.
- The Barbers: A German family dealing with the rise of militarism.

Highlights:

- The detailed depiction of the outbreak of WWI, including diplomatic tensions and battlefield realities.
- The portrayal of social and political upheavals, highlighting how ordinary people are affected.
- The personal struggles of characters as they navigate loyalty, love, and survival.

Significance: This installment sets the stage for understanding the origins

of the 20th-century conflicts, emphasizing the interconnectedness of nations and individuals.

Winter of the World: The Second Great War (1933–1949)

Setting: From the rise of Nazi Germany to the aftermath of WWII.

Key Focus: The emergence of fascism, the global conflict, and the ideological battles that defined this era.

Main Characters: Several from the first book reappear, along with new characters:

- The Fitzherbert descendants: Facing the decline of old aristocratic privileges.
- The American family: Now involved in WWII efforts.
- The German characters: Dealing with the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust.
- The Russian characters: Living through Stalin's regime and WWII.

Highlights:

- The detailed military campaigns, including D-Day, the Battle of Stalingrad, and the Pacific Theater.
- The depiction of totalitarian regimes and the moral complexities faced by individuals.
- Personal stories of love, betrayal, and heroism amid chaos.

Significance: The novel underscores how the war reshaped nations and individual lives, with a focus on the moral dilemmas faced by characters.

Edge of Eternity: The Cold War and Beyond (1950–2010)

Setting: From post-WWII tensions through the collapse of the Soviet Union and into the 21st century.

Key Focus: The ideological conflict between East and West, civil rights movements, technological revolutions, and the tumult of modern geopolitics.

Main Characters: The descendants of earlier characters, now navigating a world of nuclear threat, social upheaval, and technological change.

Highlights:

- The rise of the Civil Rights movement and social justice campaigns.
- The Cold War confrontations, espionage, and nuclear fears.
- The technological revolution, including the space race and information age.
- The fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Soviet Union.

- Contemporary issues such as terrorism, economic globalization, and digital transformation.

Significance: This final installment offers a reflection on how the 20th-century conflicts and ideologies continue to influence the modern world, emphasizing resilience and hope.

Literary Style and Historical Accuracy

Follett's writing style is characterized by meticulous research, vivid descriptions, and compelling character development. He balances historical accuracy with compelling storytelling, making complex political events accessible to the average reader. His attention to detail in depicting battles, political negotiations, and everyday life lends authenticity to the narrative.

The trilogy is also notable for its ability to educate while entertaining. Readers gain insights into historical events, figures, and cultural shifts without feeling overwhelmed, thanks to Follett's engaging prose and relatable characters.

Why the Century Trilogy Stands Out

1. Epic Scope and Personal Intimacy: The trilogy's grand scale is matched by its focus on individual stories, making history come alive through personal journeys.
2. Intergenerational Narrative: Spanning multiple generations, the series captures the continuity and change across decades, highlighting how past events shape future generations.
3. Rich Characterization: From aristocrats to revolutionaries, each character's arc adds depth and emotional resonance.
4. Educational Value: The series serves as a detailed primer on 20th-century history, blending factual accuracy with compelling storytelling.
5. Accessibility: Despite its scope, the trilogy remains accessible to a wide readership, appealing to history buffs and casual readers alike.

Critical Reception and Impact

The Century Trilogy has received widespread acclaim for its scope, storytelling, and educational value. Critics praise Follett's ability to handle complex historical material without sacrificing narrative pace or character development. Many readers find the series a transformative experience, deepening their understanding of world history while providing engaging entertainment.

The trilogy has also sparked discussions about historical memory, the cyclical nature of conflict, and the importance of resilience and hope in turbulent times.

Final Thoughts

Ken Follett's Century Trilogy is a monumental achievement in historical fiction, offering an expansive, nuanced, and emotionally compelling portrayal of the 20th and early 21st centuries. It stands out not only for its meticulous research and vivid storytelling but also for its ability to humanize history through relatable characters and personal stories.

For readers seeking an immersive experience that combines history, drama, and human resilience, this trilogy is an essential addition to their literary collection. It is a testament to Follett's mastery as a storyteller and his profound understanding of the forces that shape our world.

In conclusion, the Ken Follett Century Trilogy is more than just a series of books—it's a panoramic view of the human saga in modern history. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a fan of epic storytelling, or someone looking to better understand the forces that have shaped our times, this trilogy offers an enriching, entertaining, and enlightening experience that will resonate long after the last page is turned.

[Ken Follett Century Trilogy](#)

ken follett century trilogy: The Century Trilogy Trade Paperback Boxed Set: Fall of Giants; Winter of the World; Edge of Eternity Ken Follett, 2015-11-03 The #1 New York Times bestselling historical epic, the Century Trilogy, now in one deluxe boxed set. Ken Follett follows the fortunes of five international families--American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh--as they make their way through the 20th century. The boxed set includes all three volumes: Fall of Giants, Winter of the World, and Edge of Eternity. [Follett] is a commanding storyteller who has taken on an impossibly large task and accomplished it with passion, intelligence, and skill. --The Washington Post Follett is masterly in conveying so much drama and historical information so vividly . . . grippingly told. --The New York Times Book Review Look out for Ken's newest book, A Column of Fire, available now.

ken follett century trilogy: Edge of Eternity Ken Follett, 2016-09-06 Ken Follett's extraordinary historical epic, the Century Trilogy, reaches its sweeping, passionate conclusion. In Fall of Giants and Winter of the World, Ken Follett followed the fortunes of five international families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—as they made their way through the twentieth century. Now they come to one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the 1960s through the 1980s, from civil rights, assassinations, mass political movements, and Vietnam to the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution—and rock and roll. East German teacher Rebecca Hoffmann discovers she's been spied on by the Stasi for years and commits an impulsive act that will affect her family for the rest of their lives. . . . George Jakes, the child of a mixed-race couple, bypasses a corporate law career to join Robert F. Kennedy's Justice Department and finds himself in the middle of not only the seminal events of the civil rights battle but a much more personal battle of his own. . . . Cameron Dewar, the grandson of a senator, jumps at the chance to do some official and unofficial espionage for a cause he believes in, only to discover that the world is a much more dangerous place than he'd imagined. . . . Dimka Dvorkin, a young aide to Nikita Khrushchev, becomes an agent both for good and for ill as the United States and the Soviet Union

race to the brink of nuclear war, while his twin sister, Tanya, carves out a role that will take her from Moscow to Cuba to Prague to Warsaw—and into history.

ken follett century trilogy: Winter of the World Ken Follett, 2013-08-27 This book is truly epic. . . . The reader will probably wish there was a thousand more pages. —The Huffington Post Picking up where *Fall of Giants*, the first novel in the extraordinary Century Trilogy, left off, *Winter of the World* follows its five interrelated families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—through a time of enormous social, political, and economic turmoil, beginning with the rise of the Third Reich, through the great dramas of World War II, and into the beginning of the long Cold War. Carla von Ulrich, born of German and English parents, finds her life engulfed by the Nazi tide until daring to commit a deed of great courage and heartbreak American brothers Woody and Chuck Dewar, each with a secret, take separate paths to momentous events, one in Washington, the other in the bloody jungles of the Pacific English student Lloyd Williams discovers in the crucible of the Spanish Civil War that he must fight Communism just as hard as Fascism Daisy Peshkov, a driven social climber, cares only for popularity and the fast set until war transforms her life, while her cousin Volodya carves out a position in Soviet intelligence that will affect not only this war but also the war to come.

ken follett century trilogy: The Century Trilogy Boxed Set Ken Follett, 2014-11-18 The perfect gift for the Ken Follett fan--a beautifully packaged, limited edition boxed set of his bestselling historical epic, *The Century Trilogy*, with a signed case Master storyteller and #1 internationally bestselling author Ken Follett is regularly praised by critics for the deeply researched and brilliantly rendered historical backgrounds that serve as the framework for his novels, as well as his ability to seamlessly blend memorable characters and scenes from his own imagination with real-life characters and events. This is on display nowhere better than *The Century Trilogy*, a sweeping epic following the fortunes of five intertwined families--American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh--throughout the twentieth century, now in a collection for the very first time. From the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage in *Fall of Giants*, to the heroism and honor of World War II in *Winter of the World*, to *Edge of Eternity's* breathtaking conclusion amid the enormous social, political, and economic turmoil of the 1960s through the 1980s, Follett's characters illuminate the seminal events of the twentieth century that shattered and transformed the lives of individuals and reveal the ways in which seemingly disparate events were in fact intimately related. This limited edition boxed hardcover set includes a case autographed by Ken Follett and comes complete with a beautifully designed poster displaying all four maps of *The Century Trilogy* and a timeline of the major events of twentieth century. Each book has been reprinted especially for this boxed set with new beautifully designed family trees. With a display as stunning as the text within, *The Century Trilogy Boxed Set* is a necessity for any Follett fan. Look out for Ken's newest book, *A Column of Fire*, available now.

ken follett century trilogy: Fall of Giants Ken Follett, 2012-09-04 Ken Follett's magnificent historical epic begins as five interrelated families move through the momentous dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage. A thirteen-year-old Welsh boy enters a man's world in the mining pits. . . . An American law student rejected in love finds a surprising new career in Woodrow Wilson's White House. . . . A housekeeper for the aristocratic Fitzherberts takes a fateful step above her station, while Lady Maud Fitzherbert herself crosses deep into forbidden territory when she falls in love with a German spy. . . . And two orphaned Russian brothers embark on radically different paths when their plan to emigrate to America falls afoul of war, conscription, and revolution. From the dirt and danger of a coal mine to the glittering chandeliers of a palace, from the corridors of power to the bedrooms of the mighty, *Fall of Giants* takes us into the inextricably entangled fates of five families—and into a century that we thought we knew, but that now will never seem the same again. . . .

ken follett century trilogy: The Century Trilogy by Ken Follett (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2016-10-20

ken follett century trilogy: Fall of Giants Ken Follett, 2014-08-28 Abridged, 12 CDs, 14 hours

Read by TBA Ken Follett's *World Without End* was a global phenomenon, a work of grand historical sweep beloved by millions of readers and acclaimed by critics. *Fall of Giants* is his magnificent new historical epic.

ken follett century trilogy: *Fall of Giants* Ken Follett, 2010 Ken Follett's *World Without End* was a global phenomenon, a work of grand historical sweep, beloved by millions of readers and acclaimed by critics. *Fall of Giants* is his magnificent new historical epic. The first novel in The Century Trilogy, it follows the fates of five interrelated families-American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh-as they move through the world-shaking dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage. Thirteen-year-old Billy Williams enters a man's world in the Welsh mining pits ... Gus Dewar, an American law student rejected in love, finds a surprising new career in Woodrow Wilson's White House ... two orphaned Russian brothers, Grigori and Lev Peshkov, embark on radically different paths half a world apart when their plan to emigrate to America falls afoul of war, conscription, and revolution ... Billy's sister, Ethel, a housekeeper for the aristocratic Fitzherberts, takes a fateful step above her ...

ken follett century trilogy: *Ken Follett World War II Thriller Collection* Ken Follett, 2011-09-06 This collection of three books from the #1 New York Times bestselling master of World War II suspense includes "the most exciting novel in years" (Cincinnati Enquirer), about the espionage war between the British and the Nazis; "a very entertaining, very cinematic thriller" (Publishers Weekly) about a gang of female saboteurs behind German lines; and a "blitzkrieg-paced read" (People) about one man's desperate mission to bring crucial intelligence to England.

ken follett century trilogy: *Winter of the World: Book Two of the Century Trilogy* Ken Follett, 2014-02 Japanese edition of *Winter of the World: Book Two of the Century Trilogy* by Ken Follett. An epic world-spanning novel following the lives of a half dozen people as the political world experiences one gigantic upheaval after another. Continuation of *Fall of Giants*, follows conflicts both personal and national from the 1930s to 1950s. By a master story teller. vol. 4 of 4. In Japanese. Annotation copyright Tsai Fong Books, Inc. Distributed by Tsai Fong Books, Inc.

ken follett century trilogy: *Edge of Eternity* Ken Follett, 2018-09-20 When Rebecca Hoffmann, a teacher in East Germany, finds herself pursued by the secret police, she discovers that she has been living a lie. Her younger brother, Walli, longs to escape across the Berlin Wall to Britain to become part of the burgeoning music scene. In the United States, George Jakes, a bright young lawyer in the Kennedy administration, is a fierce supporter of the Civil Rights movement -- as is the woman he is in love with, Verena, who works for Martin Luther King, Jr. Boarding a Greyhound bus in Washington to protest against segregation, they begin a fateful journey together. Russian activist, Tania Dvorkin, narrowly evades capture for producing an illegal news sheet. Her actions are made all the more perilous as her brother, Dimka, is a rising star in the heart of the Communist Party in the Kremlin.

ken follett century trilogy: *Ken Follett and the Triumph of Suspense* Carlos Ramet, 2014-11-26 Ken Follett wrote his first international bestseller, *Eye of the Needle*, when he was 25 years old. He has since been one of the most consistent international best-selling authors, with approximately 130 million copies of his books sold worldwide. His manifold influences on the thriller genre includes the pioneering use of strong female characters in espionage stories and the development of the historical thriller as a new form of novel, exemplified by *Winter of the World* (2012). This book is an investigation of Follett's development as an author, and of the craft of writing and the negotiation of serious versus popular literary value, from his earliest short stories and screenplays through his mature thrillers and entertainment fiction. Unpublished materials are also considered, including his notes, business and personal correspondence, unpublished drafts, journal entries and outlines. Follett's dramatic shift to writing historical fiction may be his most enduring legacy.

ken follett century trilogy: *Edge of Eternity Deluxe Edition* Ken Follett, 2014-09-16 Ken Follett's extraordinary historical epic, the Century Trilogy, reaches its sweeping, passionate conclusion. In *Fall of Giants* and *Winter of the World*, Ken Follett followed the fortunes of five

international families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—as they made their way through the twentieth century. Now they come to one of the most tumultuous eras of all: the 1960s through the 1980s, from civil rights, assassinations, mass political movements, and Vietnam to the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution—and rock and roll. East German teacher Rebecca Hoffmann discovers she's been spied on by the Stasi for years and commits an impulsive act that will affect her family for the rest of their lives. . . . George Jakes, the child of a mixed-race couple, bypasses a corporate law career to join Robert F. Kennedy's Justice Department and finds himself in the middle of not only the seminal events of the civil rights battle but a much more personal battle of his own. . . . Cameron Dewar, the grandson of a senator, jumps at the chance to do some official and unofficial espionage for a cause he believes in, only to discover that the world is a much more dangerous place than he'd imagined. . . . Dimka Dvorkin, a young aide to Nikita Khrushchev, becomes an agent both for good and for ill as the United States and the Soviet Union race to the brink of nuclear war, while his twin sister, Tanya, carves out a role that will take her from Moscow to Cuba to Prague to Warsaw—and into history.

ken follett century trilogy: The Armour of Light Ken Follett, 2023-09-26 The grand master of gripping fiction is back. International No.1 bestseller Ken Follett returns to Kingsbridge in the 18th century, with an epic tale of revolution and a cast of unforgettable characters. Revolution is in the air 1792. A tyrannical government is determined to make England a mighty commercial empire. In France, Napoleon Bonaparte begins his rise to power, and with dissent rife, France's neighbours are on high alert. Kingsbridge is on the edge Unprecedented industrial change sweeps the land, making the lives of the workers in Kingbridge's prosperous cloth mills a misery. Rampant modernization and dangerous new machinery are rendering jobs obsolete and tearing families apart. Tyranny is on the horizon Now, as international conflict nears, a story of a small group of Kingsbridge people - including spinner Sal Clitheroe, weaver David Shoveller and Kit, Sal's inventive and headstrong son - will come to define the struggle of a generation as they seek enlightenment and fight for a future free from oppression . . . Taking the reader straight into the heart of history with the fifth novel in the ground-breaking Kingsbridge series, The Armour of Light is master storyteller Ken Follett's most ambitious novel to date. 'Follett's storytelling skills make their adventures riveting' - The Times 'An effortlessly engaging and entertaining read' - Daily Mail 'Bold in scale and meticulously researched' - Sunday Times 'The plague scenes are expertly handled. Where Follett excels is in telling a yarn' - Independent More than 175 million copies sold worldwide. Published in over eighty territories and thirty-seven languages. The international no.1 bestselling phenomenon returns.

ken follett century trilogy: World Without End Ken Follett, 2010-07-27 #1 New York Times Bestseller In 1989, Ken Follett astonished the literary world with The Pillars of the Earth, a sweeping epic novel set in twelfth-century England centered on the building of a cathedral and many of the hundreds of lives it affected. World Without End is its equally irresistible sequel—set two hundred years after The Pillars of the Earth and three hundred years after the Kingsbridge prequel, The Evening and the Morning. World Without End takes place in the same town of Kingsbridge, two centuries after the townspeople finished building the exquisite Gothic cathedral that was at the heart of The Pillars of the Earth. The cathedral and the priory are again at the center of a web of love and hate, greed and pride, ambition and revenge, but this sequel stands on its own. This time the men and women of an extraordinary cast of characters find themselves at a crossroads of new ideas—about medicine, commerce, architecture, and justice. In a world where proponents of the old ways fiercely battle those with progressive minds, the intrigue and tension quickly reach a boiling point against the devastating backdrop of the greatest natural disaster ever to strike the human race—the Black Death. Three years in the writing and nearly eighteen years since its predecessor, World Without End is a well-researched, beautifully detailed portrait of the late Middle Ages (The Washington Post) that once again shows that Ken Follett is a masterful author writing at the top of his craft.

ken follett century trilogy: A Column of Fire Ken Follett, 2019-08-27 #1 NEW YORK TIMES

BESTSELLER "Absorbing . . . impossible to resist." —The Washington Post As Europe erupts, can one young spy protect his queen? #1 New York Times bestselling author Ken Follett takes us deep into the treacherous world of powerful monarchs, intrigue, murder, and treason with his magnificent new epic, *A Column of Fire*. In 1558, the ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn apart by religious conflict. As power in England shifts precariously between Catholics and Protestants, royalty and commoners clash, testing friendship, loyalty, and love. Ned Willard wants nothing more than to marry Margery Fitzgerald. But when the lovers find themselves on opposing sides of the religious conflict dividing the country, Ned goes to work for Princess Elizabeth. When she becomes queen, all Europe turns against England. The shrewd, determined young monarch sets up the country's first secret service to give her early warning of assassination plots, rebellions, and invasion plans. Over a turbulent half century, the love between Ned and Margery seems doomed as extremism sparks violence from Edinburgh to Geneva. Elizabeth clings to her throne and her principles, protected by a small, dedicated group of resourceful spies and courageous secret agents. The real enemies, then as now, are not the rival religions. The true battle pitches those who believe in tolerance and compromise against the tyrants who would impose their ideas on everyone else—no matter what the cost. Set during one of the most turbulent and revolutionary times in history, *A Column of Fire* is one of Follett's most exciting and ambitious works yet. It will delight longtime fans of the Kingsbridge series and is the perfect introduction for readers new to Ken Follett.

ken follett century trilogy: *Bad Faith* Ken Follett, 2017-07-06T15:05:00+02:00 I now describe myself as a lapsed atheist. I still don't believe in God, and I never take Communion. But I like going to church. My favourite service is choral evensong, Follett writes. Why do I go? The architecture, the music, the words of the King James Bible, and the sense of sharing something with my neighbours all work together. What they create, for me, is a feeling of spiritual peace! Going to church soothes my soul.

ken follett century trilogy: Ken Follett Mary Ellen Snodgrass, 2025-05-19 This book surveys the stellar writing by the Welsh master Ken Follett. The 76 A to Z topics analyze 35 published works and highlight the intangibles--parenting, achievers, literacy--alongside historical themes of plague, healing, religion and spies. Stylistic touches appear in entries on secondary characters, villains, sense impressions, names, humor and language. Details authenticate the role of fictional households in global and racial movements. Key to the author's appeal, the progress of women toward full citizenship fuels admirable domestic and career progress by his heroines.

ken follett century trilogy: *The Big Needle* Ken Follett, Ken Follett, 1993-10 Success came easily to Chad Carstairs. Then, without warning evil invaded his pleasure-filled life... a chilling evil that sent him racing from an elegant English country estate to the sleazy clubs of London's West End, from the drug-ridden streets of Marseilles to a farmhouse on the desolate coast of Wales. Driven by revenge, he was a man willing to risk his fortune, his future, even his life in a desperate gambit to outwit the world's deadliest organization at its own game and finger the powerful men behind... *The Big Needle*.

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