



2014

Changeling (Order of Darkness #1) by Philippa Gregory

Cyndee Frazier
cynthia_frazier@byu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Frazier, Cyndee (2014) "Changeling (Order of Darkness #1) by Philippa Gregory," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol34/iss1/2>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Author: Gregory, Philippa

Title: *Changeling (Order of Darkness #1)*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Simon Pulse

ISBN: 9781442453449

Number of pages: 256

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Christianity; Historical Fiction; Fantasy; Witches; Paranormal; Folklore; Myth; Werewolves; Bandits; Superstitions; Intrigue: Nunneries.

Review:

Luca Vero is freed from a prison cell and given a mysterious quest by the Order of Darkness, to investigate evil and its threat to Christianity. Accompanied by his friend Frieze and a cleric, Brother Peter, the first assignment is to look into reports of strange and disturbing events at a nunnery. The Abbess Lady Isolde, and her companion from childhood, Ishraq are implicated in the evil that permeates the Abbey. But all is not as it seems and secrets are revealed when a conspiracy involving a stolen inheritance is uncovered.

Philippa Gregory has oversimplified both the storyline and characterization in her first young adult novel. Even though it is initiated with predictable plot points and underdeveloped protagonists, the book is quite short, easily read and entertaining. The most interesting individuals in the book were secondary characters Frieze and Ishraq. Their interactions were amusing and believable. The main characters of Luca and Isolde remain insipid. Strengths in the novel are its rich historical background and descriptive, imaginative locations in medieval Europe. Situations and dangers for women in this time period were illustrated. Sadly the novel only hints at Luca's mysterious origins, the intrigue of the Order of Darkness itself, and any connections to the book's title 'The Changeling' are only briefly mentioned at the beginning. Perhaps readers will find that Gregory will explain more and flesh out the characters in the next book in the series, *Stormbringers*.

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

TEXT © The Children's Book and Play Review 2014

