


# THE BLACK DEATH

SEAN MARTIN  
new edition

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For a review copy, or for further information, please contact: **Chris Burrows PR**  
 +44 (0)161 445 6635  
 email: [chrisburrows\\_authorpr@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisburrows_authorpr@btinternet.com)

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 PO Box 394  
 Harpenden  
 Herts AL5 1XJ  
 Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1582 761264

**UK Distribution: Turnaround**  
 3 Olympia Trading Estate  
 Coburg Rd  
 London N22 6TZ  
 Tel: +44 (0)208 829 3000  
 Fax: +44 (0)208 881 5088  
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**SALES POINTS:**

- The Black Death was the greatest demographic disaster in European history – around 25 million dead in Europe alone
- Interest in history has seen a dramatic increase following *The Da Vinci Code* success
- The Pocket Essentials small hardback format has proved to be very popular

**MARKET:**

History, medieval history

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Black Death is the name most commonly given to the pandemic of bubonic plague that ravaged the medieval world in the late 1340s. From Central Asia the plague swept through Europe, leaving millions of dead in its wake. Between a quarter and a third of Europe's population died. In England the population fell from nearly six million to just over three million. The Black Death was the greatest demographic disaster in European history.

Sean Martin looks at the origins of the disease and traces its terrible march through Europe from the Italian cities to the far-flung corners of Scandinavia. He describes contemporary responses to the plague and makes clear how helpless was the medicine of the day in the face of it. He examines the renewed persecution of the Jews, blamed by many Christians for the spread of the disease, and highlights the bizarre attempts by such groups as the Flagellants to ward off what they saw as the wrath of God. His book is a vivid and dramatic account of one of the great catastrophes of history.

**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY:**

**Sean Martin** is a filmmaker, poet and writer. His books for Pocket Essentials include the bestselling *The Knights Templar*, *The Cathars*, *The Gnostics*, *Alchemy and Alchemists* and *Andrei Tarkovsky*. He has also directed the critically acclaimed feature film *The Notebooks of Cornelius Crow*.