



## The King's Deception (Cotton Malone)

By Steve Berry

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**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • This Cotton Malone adventure blends gripping contemporary political intrigue, Tudor treachery, and high-octane thrills into one riveting novel of suspense.**

Cotton Malone and his fifteen-year-old son, Gary, are headed to Europe. As a favor to his former boss at the Justice Department, Malone agrees to escort a teenage fugitive back to England. But after he is greeted at gunpoint in London, both the fugitive and Gary disappear, and Malone learns that he's stumbled into a high-stakes diplomatic showdown—an international incident fueled by geopolitical gamesmanship and shocking Tudor secrets.

At its heart is the Libyan terrorist convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103, who is set to be released by Scottish authorities for “humanitarian reasons.” An outraged American government objects, but nothing can persuade the British to intervene.

Except, perhaps, Operation King’s Deception.

Run by the CIA, the operation aims to solve a centuries-old mystery, one that could rock Great Britain to its royal foundations.

Blake Antrim, the CIA operative in charge of King’s Deception, is hunting for the spark that could rekindle a most dangerous fire, the one thing that every Irish national has sought for generations: a legal reason why the English must leave Northern Ireland. The answer is a long-buried secret that calls into question the legitimacy of the entire forty-five-year reign of Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, who completed the conquest of Ireland and seized much of its land. But Antrim also has a more personal agenda, a twisted game of revenge in which Gary is a pawn. With assassins, traitors, spies, and dangerous disciples of a secret society closing in, Malone is caught in a lethal bind. To save Gary he must play one treacherous player against another—and only by uncovering the incredible truth can he hope to prevent the shattering consequences of the King’s Deception.

**Don’t miss Steve Berry’s novella *The Tudor Plot* and an excerpt from *The Lincoln Myth* in the back of the book.**

### **Praise for *The King's Deception***

“A Dan Brown-ian secular conspiracy about the Virgin Queen driving nonstop international intrigue.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

### **Praise for Steve Berry**

“Berry raises this genre’s stakes.”—*The New York Times*

“I love this guy.”—#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Lee Child

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### **The King's Deception (Cotton Malone) By Steve Berry Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

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After an exciting departure from his Cotton Malone novels (*The Columbus Affair*, 2012), Berry returns to the series formula. When Malone's 15-year-old son is briefly kidnapped in London, the spy-turned-bookseller discovers he has inadvertently stumbled upon an international plot that involves secrets about Queen Elizabeth I and the impending release from prison of one of the men behind the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. It takes awhile, but Berry does forge a thinly plausible connection between a modern-day terrorist act and the last Tudor ruler of Britain. Berry populates the novel with the usual assortment of characters—the shifty intelligence agent, the stalwart investigator—and even offers us an ancient society that will stop at nothing to keep Elizabeth's shocking secrets from getting out. Fans of the series will no doubt enjoy this one, although it breaks no new ground, holding tightly to the series format. The galley circulated for review contains a troubling chronological inconsistency—depending on which internal evidence you listen to, the story is set either in 2005–06 or 2009—but this could be cleared up when the book goes to print. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Berry's books, best-sellers all, have been translated into 40 languages with more than 15 million copies in print in 51 countries. --David Pitt

Review

### Praise for *The King's Deception*

"[A] perfect blend of history and adventure . . . The history enhances the main narrative and gives it an added punch. . . . Pick up this new fast-paced book by Berry and have an excellent thrill ride while you also get a wonderfully enjoyable history lesson. Education has never been this much fun."—**The Huffington Post**

"Steve Berry does what Dan Brown thought he did. [He combines] a love of history with global thriller action and creates books that are impossible to put down and even educational. . . . A perfect blend of history and action . . . perfect summer reading."—**Crimespree Magazine**

"Cotton Malone returns in a thriller that combines history and gunfire. . . . Readers old and new will enjoy *The King's Deception*."—**Associated Press**

"A complex, rollicking forty-hour ride through a very dangerous and wild weekend in London where the betrayals collide with current events and the deceptions of hundreds of years ago, resulting in an explosive finish that no one who reads it will forget. . . . Berry is a wonderful guide as always, interweaving fascinating bits of history into the narrative. . . . I can't give you a better endorsement for a book or an author."—**Bookreporter**

"There are more twists and turns in this plot than in a 1970s disco bar. Interspersed between the modern incidents of betrayals and counter-betrayals are numerous episodes of Tudor/Elizabethan history sure to ruffle the skirts of the most avid Tudor fan. With its great plot and interesting characters, this book is a real page-turner and an enjoyable read. Highly recommended."—**Historical Novels Review**

"History, mystery and murder surround perennial protagonist Cotton Malone in a fast-moving tale featuring Elizabeth I, England's 'Virgin Queen.' . . . A heart-pumping adventure."—**The Florida Times-Union**

"Action interspersed with unbelievable shockers from the past . . . [Cotton Malone] continues to do battle

with history and those who would kill to keep its secrets buried.”—*Library Journal*

“All the elements of a *Da Vinci Code* adventure are in place [including] undeniably fascinating historical material.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Contemporary politics mixes with treachery from Tudor England for a novel filled with suspense. The detailed history of Tudor England will entrance fans of British historicals. The castles mentioned are real and worth a visit. There are assassins, traitors, spies and mystery surrounding Cotton and his son, Gary.”—*British Weekly*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

#### About the Author

**Steve Berry** is the *New York Times* and #1 internationally bestselling author of *The Lincoln Myth*, *The King's Deception*, *The Columbus Affair*, *The Jefferson Key*, *The Emperor's Tomb*, *The Paris Vendetta*, *The Charlemagne Pursuit*, *The Venetian Betrayal*, *The Alexandria Link*, *The Templar Legacy*, *The Third Secret*, *The Romanov Prophecy*, and *The Amber Room*. His books have been translated into 40 languages with more than 18,000,000 copies in 51 countries.

History lies at the heart of every Steve Berry novel. It's this passion, one he shares with his wife, Elizabeth, that led them to create History Matters, a foundation dedicated to historic preservation. Since 2009 Steve and Elizabeth have traveled across the country to save endangered historic treasures, raising money via lectures, receptions, galas, luncheons, dinners, and their popular writers' workshops. To date, nearly 2,500 students have attended those workshops. In 2012 their work was recognized by the American Library Association, which named Steve the first spokesman for National Preservation Week. He was also appointed by the Smithsonian Board of Regents to serve on the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board to help promote and support the libraries in their mission to provide information in all forms to scientists, curators, scholars, students, and the public at large. He has received the Royden B. Davis Distinguished Author Award and the 2013 Writers for Writers Award from *Poets & Writers*. His novel *The Columbus Affair* earned him the Anne Frank Human Writes Award, and his historic preservation work merited the 2013 Silver Bullet from International Thriller Writers.

Steve Berry was born and raised in Georgia, graduating from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. He was a trial lawyer for 30 years and held elective office for 14 of those years. He is a founding member of International Thriller Writers—a group of more than 2,600 thriller writers from around the world—and served three years as its co-president.

For more information, visit [www.steveberry.org](http://www.steveberry.org).

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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##### Eric Frances:

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