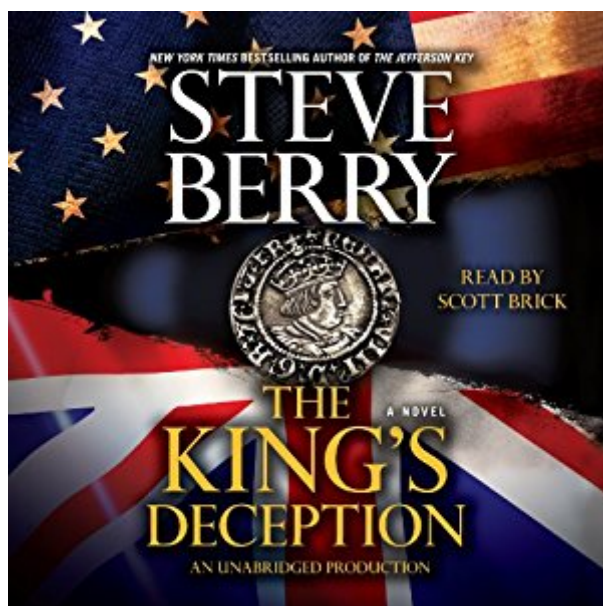


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# The King's Deception: A Cotton Malone Novel, Book 8



## Synopsis

Cotton Malone is back! Steve Berry's new international adventure blends gripping contemporary political intrigue, Tudor treachery, and high-octane thrills into one riveting novel of suspense. Cotton Malone and his 15-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 45-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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Steve Berry has established a very comfortable niche for himself in the world of repeating heroes. Cotton Malone is a real person with real problems in a real world. And Berry's obvious erudition in support of his history-based story lines is enjoyable to behold. But for some reason, Berry has started writing like this. As if giving five words. Their own paragraph. Somehow adds emphasis. And. He. Also. Does. This. Thing. Which is so over. He is being lazy. Emphasis and importance come from words, not paragraphs. C'mon, Steve! You're way too good for this! Get a new editor--one who might God forbid challenge you--and start writing as well as you tell a story.

The King's Deception by Steve Berry is another historical figure with twists and turns. I asked my English son in law if he knew of the Bisley Boy theory and he did not know the specific yearly event celebrating a boy dressed as a girl in Elizabethan England. However he was familiar with the conspiracy myth of Henry VIII's daughter who became later queen as Elizabeth I. The readers will have to determine for themselves whether a conspiracy was committed or not? I love that fact that Berry at the end of the book separates fact from fiction so you have a sense of what is genuine and what helped move his story line along. Cotton Malone is again his protagonist with contemporary situations that could be highly influenced by the outcome of his story. It's a good read and will have you guessing, how he is going to resolve the crises.

Just finished reading "The King's Deception" by Steve Berry. Cotton Malone's latest adventure finds him making a stop over in England with his 15-year-old son Gary. It was just supposed to be a simple stop over. Malone had agreed to "babysit" a teenage runaway and escort the boy into the hands of the British police before heading back to his home/bookstore in Denmark; when unknown men attempt to kidnap the boy - who just happened to have stolen a hard drive off a dead man that contains information that could plunge England and Ireland into a bloody war. A breathtaking read that explores a mystery surrounding Queen Elizabeth 1. Another great Cotton Malone adventure. Highly Recommended! Five Stars!

I've been a fan of Steve Berry and his main character Cotton Malone since I picked up his first novel while just browsing, not looking for anything particular to buy. Now I'm hooked and can't get enough

from Steve Berry. I've always referred to Berry's books as "historical thrillers." Berry chooses a historical mystery and then builds his book around it. This book takes as its starting point the mystery of The Bisley Boy and is set in the UK. Cotton Malone and his son Gary are tasked with merely transporting a suspect from the United States back to the UK before they set off for Malone's home in Copenhagen. Of course things immediately go wrong and Malone is drawn in to a deepening mystery about Queen Elizabeth I that has come to interest the CIA and MI6. In a surprise, Malone's son Gary becomes a major character for the first time. I really enjoyed the character of Gary Malone and hope this isn't the last time he'll be a major character along with his father. As per usual, Berry's book takes place both in the present day and back when the historical mystery occurred. Berry uses many different real life people and places in all of his books and this one is no different. While the book is still fiction, sometimes I feel like I'm getting a historical education while reading. This book has actually spurred me in to reading much more about the legend of The Bisley Boy. As always, as soon as I finished this book I couldn't wait for more. For Kindle owners, before or after reading this book I highly recommend reading Steve Berry's recent novella — The Tudor Plot: A Cotton Malone Novella.

I have to agree with most of the negative reviews. The King's Deception is far too long and drawn out, with little but a repetitive series of unresolved chases and cat-and-mouse games that in the real world of high-level secret intelligence would have been quickly decided by lethal force. On the plus side, I rather enjoyed the author's conceit that Elizabeth I was actually a man, though it bothers some other readers. But, it's fiction, meant to entertain. One major problem I have with Berry is his spotty, often inaccurate historical "knowledge." He loves to fill his pages with historical background of all sorts -- this book is overloaded with such -- but he demonstrates the shallowness of his knowledge with multiple errors of fact which, individually insignificant, accumulate into a mighty big annoyance for me. A few examples: King Harold did not die at Oxford, but far away at the Battle of Hastings; Edward VI died at age 16, not age 15; Berry greatly overstates the role of William Cecil in protecting Princess Elizabeth during the reign of Mary I; the First Baron's War was 1215-17, not 1200; Charles I died in 1649, not 1648; Charles II was the brother, not the father, of James II. Etc. etc. Berry several times references as "probably" true the alleged event in the Temple garden where the proponents of the York and Lancaster factions chose white and red roses as their heraldic emblems; this scene, from Shakespeare's play Henry VI Part I, is purely fictional, since the red rose didn't become a Lancastrian symbol until AFTER the Battle of Bosworth Field, at the end of the Wars of the Roses in 1485. And it's Lancastrian, not "Lancasterian!" Then there's the clumsiness of

things like stating that Katherine Parr's mother was a "courtesan" of Henry VIII -- he meant to say "courtier," for she was nobody's mistress. None of these errors is "literary license," since they have nothing to do with advancing the plot. They are simply mistakes. In addition to revealing Berry's shaky grasp of historical details, they also demonstrate the low state into which professional editing has fallen. Editors used to have command of these subject areas. But nowadays, we're all dumbed down, it seems.

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