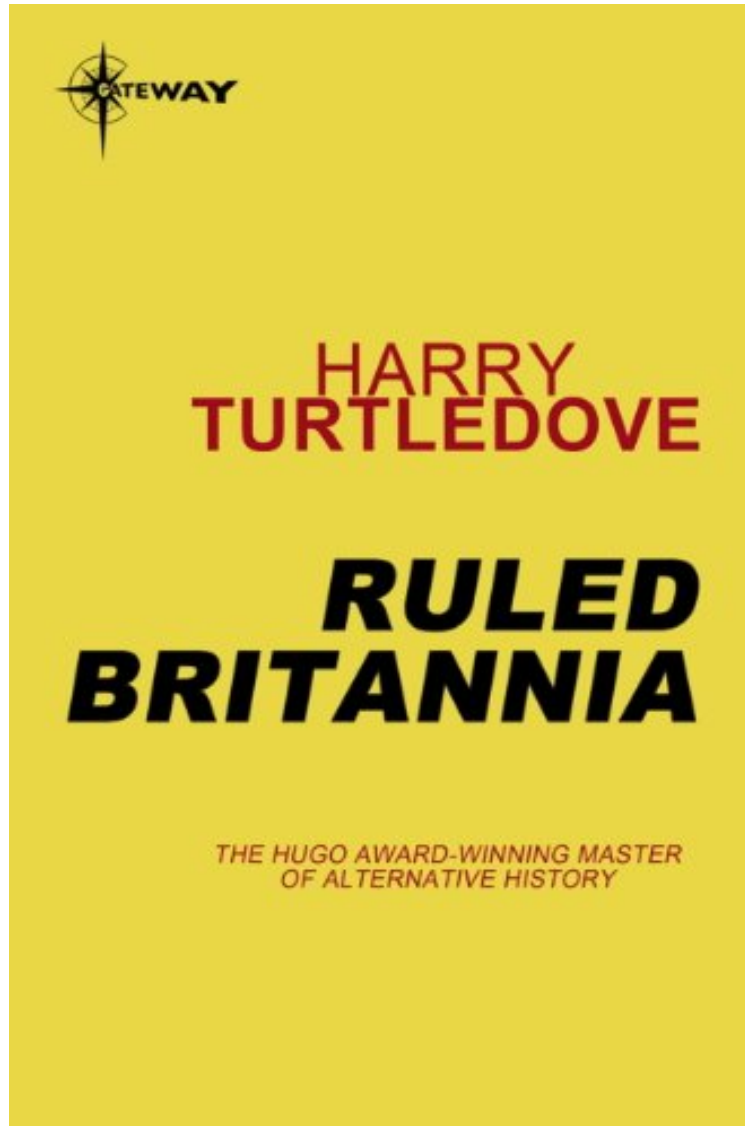


[Get free] Ruled Britannia (English Edition)

Ruled Britannia (English Edition)

Von Harry Turtledove
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Von Harry Turtledove : Ruled Britannia (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ruled Britannia (English Edition):

KurzbeschreibungThe year is 1597. For nearly a decade, the island of Britain has been under the rule of King Philip in

the name of Spain. The citizenry live under an enforced curfew - and in fear of the Inquisition's agents, who put heretics to the torch in public displays. And with Queen Elizabeth imprisoned in the Tower of London, the British have no one to unite them against the enemy who occupies their land. William Shakespeare has no interest in politics. His passion is the theatre, where his words bring laughter and tears to a populace afraid to speak out against the tyranny of the Spanish crown. But now Shakespeare is given an opportunity to pen his greatest work - a drama that will incite the people of Britain to rise against their persecutors - and change the course of history...From Publishers Weekly Bestseller Turtledove (American Empire, etc.) buckles a handsome Elizabethan swash with his latest fascinating what if: suppose the Spanish Armada had beaten the Virgin Queen's little navy and reimposed on England the fanatic Roman Catholicism of Bloody Mary Tudor and her ruthless husband, Philip II of Spain. For almost a decade, the English have chafed under Philip's daughter Isabella and her Austrian consort, as well as the Inquisition, enforced by arrogant dons, their hired-gun Irish gallowglasses (rumored to be cannibals) and English Catholic sympathizers. Good Queen Bess languishes in the Tower of London while her supporters plot rebellion-to be sparked by no less than a patriotic new play by Will Shakespeare, Turtledove's lovingly drawn hero, who's drawn willy-nilly into the conspiracy by Elizabeth's former minister, Lord Burghley. The author revels in complex turns of language and spouts brilliant adaptations of the real Shakespeare's immortal lines. Superbly realized historical figures include the "darkly handsome," doomed Kit Marlowe and the Machiavellian Robert Cecil. Equally engaging are such lesser characters as the "cunning woman" Cicely Sellis, who "thinks of England." Turtledove has woven an intricate and thoroughly engrossing portrait of an era, a theatrical tradition, a heroic band of English brothers and their sneering overlords. O, brave alternative world that has such people in't! Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist*Starred * The dean of alternate historians weighs in again with a novel set far afield in time and space from his vision of a North America altered by Confederate victories. It is 1598, King Philip II of Spain is dying, and Elizabeth I of England is a Spanish prisoner in the Tower of London. Yes, the Armada won. But the Spanish have worn out their welcome, thanks to religious persecution and general bloody-mindedness, and struggling dramatist William Shakespeare is called on to write a play about the British heroine Boudicca as a call to rebellion against the Spanish. He is also commissioned to write a memorial piece for Philip of Spain, and assisting Will is Lope de Vega, aspiring Spanish playwright, not to mention ladies' man, who is rather too frequently present and, given Will's other circumstances, a lethal nuisance, however amiable. The scribblers aren't the only historical characters in this large cast, and the book is altogether dense and erudite, even for Turtledove. Fortunately, it is also one of his finest achievements, the first alternate-Armada novel to surpass Keith Roberts' *Pavane* (1968), full of scenes, such as Elizabeth's liberation from the Tower, that provoke tears, as well as of Turtledove's hallmark good humor. A thoroughly magisterial work of alternate history. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved