

THE NO. 1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH

KEN
FOLLETT



A
COLUMN
of FIRE

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MACMILLAN

To Emanuele:
49 years of sunshine

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a column of smoke to lead them on their way. By night he went ahead of them in a column of fire to give them light so that they could travel by day or by night.

Exodus 13:21, God's Word Translation

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Who is Real?

Cast of Characters

I hope you won't need this. Any time I think you might have forgotten a character, I've put in a gentle reminder. But I know that sometimes readers put a book down and don't get another moment to read for a week or more – it happens to me – and then sometimes you forget. So here's a list of the people who pop up more than once, just in case . . .

ENGLAND

Willard household

Ned Willard

Barney, his brother

Alice, their mother

Malcolm Fife, groom

Janet Fife, housekeeper

Eileen Fife, daughter of Malcolm and Janet

Fitzgerald household

Margery Fitzgerald

Rollo, her brother

Sir Reginald, their father

Lady Jane, their mother

Naomi, maid

Sister Joan, Margery's great-aunt

Shiring household

Bart, Viscount Shiring

Swithin, his father, earl of Shiring
Sal Brendon, housekeeper

The Puritans

Philbert Cobley, ship owner
Dan Cobley, his son
Ruth Cobley, Philbert's daughter
Donal Gloster, clerk
Father Jeremiah, parson of St John's in Loversfield
Widow Pollard

Others

Friar Murdo, an itinerant preacher
Susannah, Countess of Brecknock, friend of Margery & Ned
Jonas Bacon, captain of the *Hawk*
Jonathan Greenland, first mate aboard the *Hawk*
Stephen Lincoln, a priest
Rodney Tilbury, justice

Real historical people

Mary Tudor, queen of England
Elizabeth Tudor, her half-sister, later queen
Sir William Cecil, advisor to Elizabeth
Robert Cecil, William's son
William Allen, leader of the exiled English Catholics
Sir Francis Walsingham, spymaster

FRANCE

Palot family

Sylvie Palot
Isabelle Palot, her mother
Giles Palot, her father

Others

Pierre Aumande

Viscount Villeneuve, fellow student of Pierre's

Father Moineau, Pierre's tutor

Nath, Pierre's maid

Guillaume of Geneva, itinerant pastor

Louise, marchioness of Nîmes

Luc Mauriac, cargo broker

Aphrodite Beaulieu, daughter of the count of Beaulieu

René Duboeuf, tailor

Françoise Duboeuf, his young wife

Marquis de Lagny, a Protestant aristocrat

Bernard Housse, a young courtier

Alison McKay, lady-in-waiting to Mary Queen of Scots

Fictional members of the Guise household

Gaston Le Pin, head of the household guard of the Guise family

Brocard and Rasteau, two of Gaston's thugs

Véronique

Odette, maid to Véronique

Georges Biron, a spy

Real historical people: the Guise household

François, duke of Guise

Henri, son of François

Charles, cardinal Lorraine, brother of François

Real historical people: the Bourbons & their allies

Antoine, king of Navarre

Henri, son of Antoine

Louis, prince of Condé

Gaspard de Coligny, admiral of France

Real historical people: others

Henri II, king of France

Caterina de' Medici, queen of France

Children of Henri and Caterina:

Francis II, king of France

Charles IX, king of France

Henri III, king of France

Margot, queen of Navarre

Mary Stuart, queen of Scots

Charles de Louviers, assassin

SCOTLAND

Real historical people

James Stuart, illegitimate half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots

James Stuart, son of Mary Queen of Scots, later

King James VI of Scotland and King James I of England

SPAIN

Cruz family

Carlos Cruz

Aunt Betsy

Ruiz family

Jerónima

Pedro, her father

Others

Archdeacon Romero

Father Alonso, inquisitor