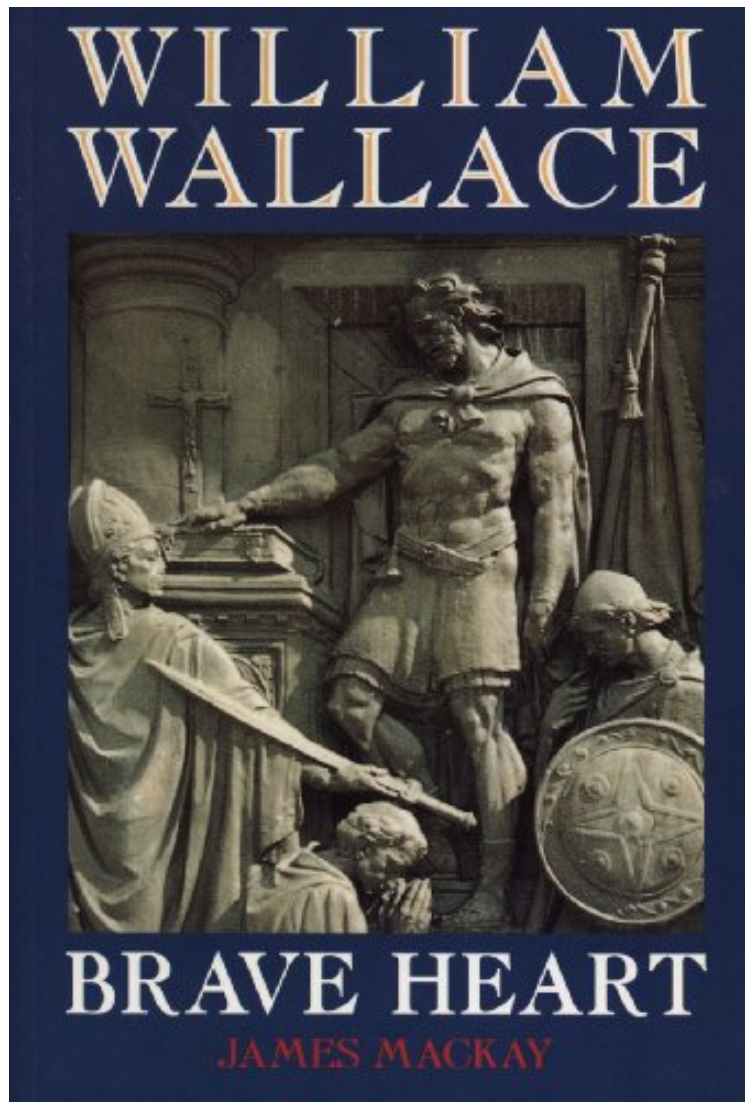


(Download free pdf) William Wallace: Brave Heart

## William Wallace: Brave Heart

Von James A. Mackay

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**Von James A. Mackay : William Wallace: Brave Heart** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised William Wallace: Brave Heart:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. richly details history of Wallace and his risingVon Deborah MacgillivrayAs a child of 9 I picked out the decor for my new room - Wallace Plaid - which dumbfounded my family since our Clans were MacGillivray, Ogilvie, Grant, Fraser and Montgomerie! But I thought Wallace such a great, sweeping figure. This was decades before Randall Wallace accidentally discovered William Wallace on a vacation in Scotland and read Anne Porter's Highland Chiefs. Wallace,

to me, was such a true Patriot - not a Saint, but a man willing to go to the wall, to die for what he believed. Not many of us would walk in his shoes, so I have to admire his willingness to die for an idea. James MacKay gives a richly detailed account of the Scottish climate of politics that formed and fermented Wallace. It might be a little bit more than the average reader would be interested in (I would suggest Grey's book on Wallace in that case), but for those wishing to know more without wading through *Braveheart*, this is a wonderful work. A perfect gift to that friend that watched *Braveheart* more than once!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Do read, but with a pinch of salt. Von Ein Kunde I write this review as possibly the only Scottish person who hated the film - after reading this book it was huge disappointment. MacKay's book is very engaging, providing a very powerful tale of one of Scotland's two biggest heroes that is very enjoyable to read. Wallace's rise from obscurity into a national hero, his massive victory against the odds followed by his spectacularly rapid fall from grace are truly inspirational. Furthermore MacKay has made the effort to try to correct common misconceptions and redirects the spotlight onto those important figures whom are commonly neglected. No, unlike Mel Gibson's claims, William Wallace didn't believe in 'The American Dream'. No, he didn't reluctantly resort to violence and war as a last resort and in revenge for a loved one - he relished battles out of hatred for the English oppressors and corrupt Scottish barons. And finally, no the Irish soldiers didn't change sides and join the Scots out of a desire to please Irish-Americans and thus increase box office takings for a motion picture to be made hundreds of years later - they stuck with the English against their fellow Celts. There is a large problem, namely how much of the book can be trusted as being true. As very little documentation from the period exists, Mackay heavily uses a poem written by 'Blind Harry', which in turn was based on a second hand account by a church figure. Thus parts such as the claim Wallace rose from near death, must be taken with a pinch of salt. In addition Mackay sometimes bombards the reader with too many names at once, which makes it harder to decipher who the main figures are. Still, I would certainly recommend the book as a fine historical tale, which is about as close to the truth as we are likely to get. Oh and to find out what happened next, read Caroline Bingham's book on Robert the Bruce.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book is a soaring tapestry. Von Jason C. Rees that unfolds before you what is known and what is guessed about the life and times of William Wallace. Dealing with a lack of concrete information on this shadowy figure, MacKay leaves no stone unturned, and brings into play a poem written by a minstrel, that supposedly was based in part on information provided by an alleged companion of Wallace. While some have said that the information in this book must be taken with a grain of salt, so must any work on this savage's life. Questions have been raised concerning Mackay's conclusions about Wallace's birth-place, but I think he has done the best job investigating this. As far as readability, *Brave Heart* does start out slow, dealing with the vagueness of William's origins. The pace does pick up nicely, and becomes quite a page-turner. I would have preferred a few more maps, but that doesn't really detract from the quality of the book. NOTE: If you have a hard time following and keeping track of a huge quantity of names, this book may not be for you. MacKay introduces a truly mind-boggling number of people.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Sir William Wallace of Ellerslie is one of history's greatest heroes, but also one of its greatest enigmas - a shadowy figure whose edges have been blurred by myth and legend. Even the date and place of his birth have been mis-stated - until now. James Mackay uses all his skills as a historical detective to produce this definitive biography, telling the incredible story of a man who, without wealth or noble birth, rose to become Guardian of Scotland. William Wallace, with superb generalship and tactical genius, led a country with no previous warlike tradition to triumph gloriously over the much larger, better-armed and better-trained English forces. Seven hundred years later, the heroism and betrayal, the valiant deeds and the dark atrocities, and the struggle of a small nation against a brutal and powerful empire, still create a compelling tale.

Pressestimmen "Dramatic . . . a serious attempt to set Wallace's life in its historical context" (The Herald) "Mackay's research and prose are meticulous . . . but just below the surface breathes a great sympathy for Wallace" (Mail on Sunday) "This serious biography will provide entertaining and instructive reading for anyone who wishes to know about the career of an outstanding patriot" (North Star) "Rich in detail and background . . . this is a fascinating study, ideal for anyone interested in either medieval history or the life of a brave, charismatic and noble Scot" (22) Werbetext The definitive biography of one of history's greatest heroes