

**SCORCHER** — Borders on erotic. Very graphic sex. **HOT** — Most romance novels fall into this category. Ranges from conventional lovemaking to explicit sex. **MILD** — May or may not include lovemaking. No explicit sex. ★★★★★ **GOLD PHENOMENAL** — In a Class by Itself. ★★★★★½ **FANTASTIC** — Keeper. ★★★★★ **COMPELLING** — Page-Turner. ★★★ **ENJOYABLE** — Pleasant Read. ★★ **PROBLEMATIC** — May Struggle to Finish. ★ **SEVERELY FLAWED** — Pass on This One.

young, intelligent, matches Jane in wit and shares her interests. Jane is thrilled to have captured his attention, but she is not the only young lady at the party. To take her mind off her problems, Jane begins dabbling in matchmaking, but her machinations don't work out as planned and Jane learns several lessons in love before she and Edward part. (BERKLEY, Aug., 380 pp., \$16.00)

**Kathe Robin**

*Historical Fiction*

## THE AGINCOURT BRIDE

Joanna Hickson

★★★★ MILD

SETTING: 15th Century France and England

*Hickson's fictionalized biography of Catherine de Valois is a treat. The rich and lavishly drawn descriptions are from the point of view of an ordinary woman, Catherine's nurse/servant Mette, devoted to her young charge. This realistic and human approach works well and readers will be caught up in every phase of Catherine's and Mette's lives.*

**SUMMARY:** When Catherine's mother dies in childbirth, Mette, whose own child was stillborn, is brought in as the infant's wet nurse. Mette's devotion to Catherine is unquestionable. Growing up, Catherine is caught up in the corrupt, intrigue-ridden court of King Charles VI of France and becomes a pawn in the games devised by her conniving brother and the cunning Duke of Burgundy. After the fateful Battle of Agincourt, Henry V enters Catherine's life and she is set on a course that will change the tide of history. (HARPER, Aug., 592 pp., \$14.99)

**Kathe Robin**

*Historical Fiction*

## THE FORTUNE HUNTER

Daisy Goodwin

★★★★ MILD

SETTING: 1875 England

*Goodwin has a gift for evoking the atmosphere of the era with well-researched period details. Readers will empathize with awkward Charlotte,*

*trying to find herself, glamorous Sisi — who appears to have everything — and the enigmatic Bay, whose desires force the love triangle that gives the story its center and purpose. Fans of unconventional historical fiction can relish this novel.*

**SUMMARY:** Charlotte Baird allows her brother to manage her fortune so she can indulge in her passion for photography. Any suitors are more interested in her wealth than in her. Then, handsome cavalry officer Bay Middleton arrives. He seems to be the perfect man. When her family plans a fox hunt and invites Empress Elizabeth of Austria, everything changes. Privileged, wealthy and titled, Sisi arrives with a large retinue. When Bay becomes her guide for the hunt, she sees a man more than capable of keeping up with her. Soon, rumors of their affair swirl. Is Bay her guide, her lover or a fortune hunter after any woman he can get? (ST. MARTIN'S, Aug., 480 pp., \$26.99)

**Kathe Robin**



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