

(continued from front flap)

as an avenging angel of God, wielding his power of excommunication like a sword. It is this last apparition, the one for which history remembers him best, that would lead to his martyrdom at the hands of the king's minions—a grisly episode that Guy recounts in chilling and dramatic detail.

An uncommonly intimate portrait of one of the medieval world's most magnetic figures, *Thomas Becket* breathes new life into its subject—cementing for all time his place as an enduring icon of resistance to the abuse of power.



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**JOHN GUY** studied history at Clare College, Cambridge, and became a lecturer on early modern British history and Renaissance political thought. He has held academic positions in Britain and the United States throughout his career and is still a Fellow in history at Clare College, Cambridge, and teaches on the Yale in London program at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. He appears regularly on BBC Radio and has presented five documentaries for BBC2 television. He also writes reviews for various newspapers and magazines, including *The Sunday Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Economist*.

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