

CONNIE  
WILLIS  
DOOMSDAY BOOK

Kivrin wanted to study the Black Death, not live it...

*'A tour de force'*

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

# DOOMSDAY BOOK

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CONNIE  
WILLIS  
DOOMSDAY BOOK

A SUE HINES BOOK  
ALLEN & UNWIN

First published in Australia 2005

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National Library of Australia  
Cataloguing-in-Publication entry:

Willis, Connie.  
Doomsday book.

ISBN 1 74114 195 8.

1. Middle Ages - Fiction. 2. Black Death - Fiction. 3.  
Time travel - Fiction. 4. Europe - History - 476-1492 -  
Fiction. I. Title.

813.54

Text design by Ellie Exarchos  
Typesetting by Midland Typesetters  
Printed by McPherson's Printing Group

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*To Laura and Cordelia – my Kivrins*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My special thanks to Head Librarian Jamie LaRue and the rest of the staff of the Greeley Public Library for their endless and invaluable assistance.

And my undying gratitude to Sheila and Kelly and Franzier and Cee, and especially to Marta – the friends I love.

*'And lest things which should be remembered perish  
with time and vanish from the memory of those  
who are to come after us, I, seeing many evils and the whole  
world, as it were, so placed within  
the grasp of the Evil One, being myself as if among  
the dead, I, waiting for death, have put into  
writing all the things that I have witnessed.*

*And, lest the writing should perish with the writer  
and the work fail with the labourer, I leave parchment  
to continue this work, if perchance any man survive  
and any of the race of Adam escape this pestilence  
and carry on the work which I have begun . . . '*

BROTHER JOHN CLYN

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# BOOK ONE

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*What a ringer needs most is not strength  
but the ability to keep time . . . You must  
bring these two things together in your  
mind and let them rest there forever—  
bells and time, bells and time.*

RONALD BLYTHE

*Akenfield*