

Synopsis & Screenplay

Christina of Eibingen and the Grail of the Teutonic Order

Historical drama & medieval crime novel



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Template: Screenplay, 145 pages, German and English (AI translation)
Format: Three-part TV series or feature film, approx. 145 minutes
Genre: Drama; History, mystery, action thriller
Theme: German history, history of the Teutonic Knights, power, combat, loyalty
Faith vs. knowledge; forbidden love; Holy Grail equal to the Shroud of Turin?
Playtime: 1312 nC
Location: Former Teutonic Knights' castle Marienburg on the Nogat; today Marbork, Poland



Storyline: In the year of our Lord 1312. After King Philip the Fair banned the Knights Templar, many Templars found refuge in Marienburg, the headquarters of the Teutonic Knights. There, a dark trail of enigmatic symbols also led to the greatest secret of Western Christendom – the Holy Grail.

Without knowing what the Grail actually represents, the Benedictine legate, a former student of Hildegard von Bingen and graduate of Studium Universalis in Bologna, Christina Maria von Eibingen, the order to find the Holy Grail in Marienburg, which is kept hidden there protected by an aura of myths and legends.

Christina is accompanied by Heinrich of Salem, a ruthless crusader, laments the gradual decline of the Crusader orders following the loss of the Holy Land. Heinrich is responsible for Christina's life. He enables her to fulfill her mission in the harsh world of the Crusaders, where a human life is worth very little.

However, a conflict is brewing right from the start. Christina abhors violence. Only when she advises Heinrich to fight with his mind instead of his sword, which is a completely new experience for him, does their relationship begin to ease. Gradually, a close intimacy develops, intensifying from suppressed passion to insatiable desire and finally to a confessed, but forbidden, love.

Christina and Heinrich's adversaries are ruthless and dangerous knights of a secret brotherhood within the Teutonic Order called Sangraal, led by the powerful Cistercian abbess, Anna-Carina de Troyes.

Christina prevails against all odds. She must solve puzzles, recognize traps and deceptions, thwart intrigues, and fear assassination attempts.

Finally, Christina finds the Holy Grail, which is not what Christians had imagined. She makes a far-reaching decision to save Western Christendom from imminent destruction.

Intention: The story centers on a relic and the question: could the Holy Grail (also San Graal, Sang Raal, Sang Réal and Sangraal) be the Shroud of Turin? What initially seems far-fetched has been meticulously researched historically and crafted into a gripping story – for a visually stunning film.

The story's dramaturgy is embedded in the historically reliable context of the three major crusading orders (Templars, Knights Hospitaller, and Teutonic Knights). Much of what is described corresponds to historical facts.

CHARACTERS OF THE PROTAGONISTS

CHRISTINA MARIA VON EIBINGEN (Main role)

A Benedictine nun of the branch of Saint Hildegard of Bingen. Born on May 5, 1282, in Burgundy, Christina spent her childhood until the age of nine in the House of Luxembourg with her uncle, the future Emperor Heinrich VII.

It soon became apparent that Christina possessed a keen mind and an exceptionally sharp intellect. The further development of her intellect continued in 1291 at Rupertsberg Abbey. In 1300 – Christina had just turned 18 – she was sent by the abbess to Bologna, where she became the first nun ever to complete the Studium Universalis, encompassing the disciplines of theology, philosophy, medicine, alchemy, rhetoric, and dialectics.

At the age of 21, Christina returned and in 1303 was appointed abbess of the Benedictine monastery of Eibingen. There she taught the writings of Hildegard of Bingen, especially the *Physica* (medicine) and *Causae et Curae* (causes and cures).

However, after a few years, great misfortune befell her convent. Cholera claimed the lives of almost all the nuns. As the sole survivor, she has since worn a penitential necklace, plagued by guilt.

At 23, she sought her salvation as a legate, proclaiming the true faith even though she herself did not find it. She discovered truths that contradicted the Church. Her credo: "Scientia fiduciam super est." (Knowledge is above faith.)

From 1310 onwards, Christina acted as an indispensable diplomat in the service of both the Church and the House of Luxembourg, which gave her an untouchable status quo and allowed her to defy the Inquisition.

HEINRICH VON SALEM (Supporting role)

Little is known about Heinrich von Salem. What is certain is that he was a crusader of the Order Hospitaller and commander of the fortress of Acre in the Holy Land. Under his command, the Order Hospitaller, together with the Teutonic Knights, defended the last stronghold of the Christians against the Mamluks. Although Acre had to be abandoned in 1291, Heinrich von Salem achieved great fame far beyond the Orient as a ruthless and indomitable crusader.

Probably born in the year of our Lord 1272, Heinrich was the 13th child of a minor noble family from Salem near Constance. From the age of 12, he experienced the harsh training of the Crusaders. Up to 10 hours of exhausting combat training daily forged him into a fearless warrior of God.

According to legend, he was of monolithic form, with a craggy face, seemingly carved from stone. His light blue eyes conveyed the merciless fierceness of a fearless holy warrior. Sword, morning star, battle-axe, Bible – in that order – these were his weapons. After the fall of Acre and the loss of the Holy Land, the knightly orders were doomed to a gradual decline. The Knights Templar were banned in 1311, the Knights Hospitaller retreated to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, and the Teutonic Knights moved their headquarters from Venice to Marienburg Castle on the Nogat River.

Heinrich of Salem disappears without a trace after 1291. According to rumors, he is said to have plundered and pillaged his way through the eastern West until he was enlisted by Cardinal Legate Damian de Saint-Cyr in 1311. At his command, Christina of Eibingen was assigned to Heinrich as his bodyguard in 1312.