The Black Rose by Thomas B. Costain

A Long Forgotten Masterpiece.

Walter of Gurnie, bastard son of an English peer, is forced to flee from Oxford for his part in the university riots of 1273. Inspired by Friar Bacon, he determines to travel to China. With his friend Tristam, he fights his way to the heart of the fabulous Mongol Empire, and returns famous, to find that he must choose between the first love he thought lost and the exotic flower that he found in the East. Solid in its facts, colorful and romantic...a rich and remarkable historical tapestry. (Christian Science Monitor)

My Personal Review:
I almost put this book down around page 100, it was 'ok' but really not captivating me...but it slowly builds momentum and suspense to the point where I had to read the last 100 pages in a sitting....
Costain creates a sweeping canvas of two oxford students who leave school and make an unprecedented journey to China, while unrest boils over back home.

I know it sounds like a cliche to say it but....I felt like I was in the room and felt the feelings of the characters as they went through their triumphs and tragedies. It's not an escape, rather, it felt more real than life itself.

Side note:It's the sort of historical novel that just can't be written anymore not because anything's outrageous in it, but because we have become so outrageous

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Black Rose by Thomas B. Costain - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!