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THE WILD RED DAWN

PART ONE OF 'JACK TUCKER OF EXMOOR'
A FAMILY SAGA 1815–1875

Paddy King-Fretts

1815. Two events occur that year which, although entirely unconnected, dramatically affect the life of Jack Tucker. His father, Lionel, is killed at Waterloo while in England Mr John Knight, a ruthless and dynamic Midlands ironmaster, sets out to purchase the Royal Forest of Exmoor – at whatever cost.

Still an only child, Jack is sent across the moors to work as one of Knight's stable boys. It is here that he meets and befriends Frederic, Knight's eldest son. As their lifelong friendship deepens so does the jealousy of Kenton, Frederic's bitter and scheming stepbrother, the resentment reaching new heights with the arrival of Lady Katherine Darcy.

In this new novel – the first of a trilogy – Paddy King-Fretts (author of the best-selling *Larkbarrow*) weaves a gripping tale. From the grandest of Westcountry houses to humble moorland farmsteads, the story of Jack Tucker sweeps across the great panorama of Exmoor. And it is for the heart of Jack Tucker that Lady Katherine Darcy is prepared to risk everything.

"There are few authors who know Exmoor as well as Paddy King-Fretts. He evokes the mystery as well as the beauty of the place. This is a gripping read from cover to cover." Stanley Johnson.



Born in 1941, **Paddy King-Fretts** grew up high on Exmoor where, as a boy he roamed the wild countryside alone on his pony, falling in love with the mystery and romance of the moors. It was here, also, that he first heard countless tales about the Knights, the men who worked for them and what their Herculean efforts achieved. After more than forty years as a soldier and traveller, he has come home to North Devon where he writes.



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