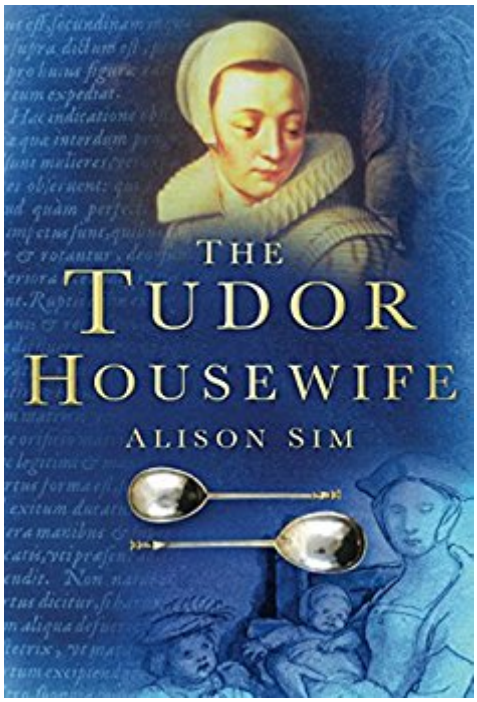
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Tudor Housewife



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Synopsis

The political and military history of the sixteenth century is well known, and much written about, but what of the thousands of women who have, for the most part, eluded the historian's pen? 'The Tudor Housewife' aims to answer this question, providing a unique and accessible introduction to the everyday life and responsibilities of women from all levels of society in the age of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. With chapters on marriage, childbirth, the upbringing of children, washing and cleaning, food and drink, the housewife as doctor, women and business, and women and religion, Alison Sim reveals how women were expected to manage businesses as well as the household accounts, take extensive personal interest in the moral welfare of their children, administer medicine to their households and act as a helpmeet to their husbands in every aspect of life. She challenges widely held assuptions that all households were self-sufficient in the sixteenth century and shows that even wealthy ladies were not brought up to be idle. Written in a lively and readable style, The Tudor Housewife provides an attractive and captivating insight into past women's lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As an historical romance novelist, Alison Sim’s book "The Tudor Housewife" has finally given me the details I need for my fiction writing. The book covers so many aspects of life during the Renaissance period, from relationships and marriage to housekeeping to raising children to the role a woman has in the household and to her family. Additionally, this insight has a smattering of information that lets the reader/researcher know about these roles and duties in the various levels of class. Most history books give a 50,000 foot view of life in general as it pertains to the time-period under study. Sim lets us through the front door and gives us a ground-level tour of daily life; and though it doesn’t go into a minute-by-minute account of these happenings, it DOES provide a wonderful springboard for direction on further research. I have been able to uncover more information in my further research based on what Sim provided in her text. Highly recommended!!

This was a really good read. It explains in detail the life of a housewife in Tudor times. It has information that I have not read anywhere else. Glad I live in present times!

The information in this book was absolutely awesome. I wish she could have extended the book for another 1,000 pages. Stunning book.

Overall I enjoyed the book, but there were several places where the author became repetitive or the material simply dragged. In particular, though the final chapter is labeled "Conclusion", it is actually of a summary of everything you just read with no new insights. I also found it frustrating to read constant references to illustrations which are completely absent from the Kindle edition. Still, the book was informative and accessible even with it’s flaws.

I’m not sure where the fault lies with this book- either with the author or the publisher- but this was one of the most poorly-written books I’ve ever read. I enjoyed it somewhat despite its deficiencies because the subject-matter was exceedingly interesting and the author’s research seemed sound enough.Nonetheless I could barely stand her writing style which is elementary at best. She uses the passive voice in almost every single sentence- I’m not exaggerating! She almost exclusively uses the conditional, i.e. "Tudors would do this or that.." She also refers to early modern English women as "Tudors" which is confusing because one would think that this refers to the royal Tudor family but she uses it to refer to all people that lived under the reign of the Tudors. One more example of the author’s less-than-stellar writing skills is that she uses "you" instead of "one"- in almost every single sentence.I suppose part of my displeasure is my own fault because I expected this book to be a

little more academic but the author is actually a tour guide at the Tower of London. This explains her writing style somewhat. It is, at times, too conversational but unlike most other non-academic writers, there is not one snippet of personality in her writing whatsoever. I got the impression that she painstakingly wrote and re-wrote every sentence at the behest of her publisher but it didn't help much, I assure you.The information is organized well-enough but the chapter groupings didn't do anything for me. I want to stress again that the author does indeed seem to be an expert on the subject- I'll give her that. One last complaint: some of the illustrations were useless and when they illustrations WERE interesting, the captions accompanying them were even more poorly written than the rest of the book.Despite my immense displeasure with how this book it written, the information itself is interesting and I'd recommend it for turdorphiles or amateurs interested in material culture. As for other historians used to well-written, peer-reviewed pieces- tackle this book at your own risk because it's maddening

I'm very glad to be a modern woman. Can't imagine having to obey my husband in all things, hahaha. Enjoyed this book very much.

The Tudor Housewife accomplishes the often difficult task of making a book both informative and readable. Primary Source Material and sources are well cited, and topics are addressed well. Highly recommended for Tudor & Womens History buffs.

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