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The White Princess



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Synopsis

The newest novel from #1 New York Times best-selling author and "queen of royal fiction" (USA Today) Philippa Gregory tells the passionate story of Elizabeth of York, daughter of the White Queen, who gets caught in the middle of a battle for the crown of England. The White Princess opens as the news of the battle of Bosworth is brought to Princess Elizabeth of York, who will learn not only which rival royal house has triumphed, Tudor or York, but also which suitor she must marry: Richard III her lover, or Henry Tudor her enemy. A princess from birth, Elizabeth fell in love with Richard III, though her mother made an arranged betrothal for her with the pretender to the throne: Henry Tudor. When Henry defeats Richard against all odds, Elizabeth has to marry the man who murdered her lover in battle, and create a new royal family with him and his ambitious mother: Margaret Beaufort, The Red Queen. But, while the new monarchy can win, it cannot, it seems, hold power in an England which remembers the House of York with love. The new king’s greatest fear is that somewhere, outside England, a prince from the House of York is waiting to invade and re-claim the throne for the house of York. Fearing that none of his new allies can be trusted, Henry turns to his wife to advise him, all the time knowing that her loyalties must be divided. When the young man who would be king finally leads his army and invades England, it is for Elizabeth to decide whether she recognizes him as her brother and a claimant to the throne, or denies him in favor of the husband she is coming to love....

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 19 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 5 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio
Audible.com Release Date: July 23, 2013
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B00CP81XPG
Best Sellers Rank: #37 inÃ Â Books > Romance > Historical > Tudor #58 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Historical #174 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical

Customer Reviews

Let me start by saying that I enjoy Phillippa Gregory's books. I do think her Cousins series is weaker than her Tudor series but it's still enjoyable. It's nice to read how women have influenced history with their limited powers. But this book was drivel. It was like reading a National Enquirer version of Henry VII's life. The book debunks any idea that Henry deserved to be King. He is portrayed as weak. unlikable, clueless as a leader, a mother's boy and a rapist. That's just the beginning. Apparently the only thing he does in his reign is to execute people horribly, tax the people to excess and lock people in the Tower. He is driven mad by seeing everyone as an enemy and continually looking for the Lost Princes. Don't think Elizabeth comes out nicely in this version. She is supposedly madly in love with her uncle, King Richard. Uck uck. Still devastated by his death, she is hurriedly made ready to marry the man who dethroned and killed her lover. He rapes her repeatedly and yet she falls in love with him. Please strain my creditability a little farther. OK, here is goes. She and her mother put a curse on the killer of her brothers last seen in the Tower. Here's the curse- the person who killed them will have their oldest son die and then the oldest grandson. Their line will end with a female. Really? I cannot recommend this book at all. There's plenty of good things to read but this isn't one of them.

I'm a huge fan of PHilippa Gregory,BUT was totally disappointed in this book.It was beyond repetitive! Henry the 7th was a monster and we were told this over,and over,and over again! Elizabeth was like the 'walking dead" throughout the book How many times was she going to say,she hated Henry ,he was a rapist and then on the next page Loved him huh???I think I;ve had enough of the Yorks and Tudors for awhile!

At first I was not sure how to rate this book. On the one hand I had enjoyed reading it, on the other I was put off while reading it by what I thought were gross deviations from the actual historical events. But after finishing the book, and doing a bit of fact checking, I realized that although most historians bought into Henry Tudor's story that Perkin Warbeck was a pretender, there are many that believe that he could in fact be Prince Richard. I now tend to agree with the later. Here are just few of my reasons based on historical facts that I found:1. Henry VII himself behaved as if he believed Perkin Warbeck was the true prince. He executed Perkin for treason. But only an Englishman (Prince Richard) could be executed for treason not Perkin Warbeck who was not born an Englishman.2. Many royals believed that he was the prince. (Scotland, Austria, France and Spain.) Could he have really fooled so many KIngs and royals. Could he have gotten them to support him in war if he was not a prince?3. The King and Queen of Spain wrote a letter that still survives today saying that all

possible heirs ("the boy" and the Earl of Warwick) must be killed before they would allow Arthur to marry their daughter. They must have thought that "the boy" was in fact a true heir or there would have been no reason to require his execution.4.The King of Scottland let him marry his daughter and even backed him up to fight for the crown. His daughter also believed that he was the prince even after he was put to death.5. Margaret of Burgundy (Prince Richard's aunt) supported him. Would she have actually supported a "pretender"? Would she have really wanted non-royal blood on the throne?6. How did he become a gifted musician and learn to speak Latin (the real Richard was a talented musician and knew Latin as well). Is it probably that a pretender who not only looked like Richard and was born of a drunk would also be a talented musician and know Latin, just like the prince?7. Elizabeth's own mother supported "the boy". Would a mother actually support an imposter who would overthrow her daughter's husband and her own grandchild? Or would she only do this for her son?

I am not a historian and cannot argue about the facts described in this book. Probably, there are uncertainties and in some moments the behavior of the characters seems illogical. One can question the behavior of Elisabeth - the Queen of England - many times, especially since their marriage is referred to as rather happy and successful in alternative sources. But then again, the interpretation of happiness and success back then is very different from now...The book is well-written, it is really hard to put it away! The main historical facts are also confirmed by other sources. This is really a fascinating way to dive into history and I will definitely continue reading other books by this wonderful author. Without doubt, I do recommend this one!

The White Princess is yet another Phillipa Gregory novel about the War of the Roses full of love, passion, jealousy, deceit and murder. I especially liked the detail about Henry and Elizabeth's loveless marriage that survived because of their mutual admiration for the circumstances that their lives had dealt them. My only complaint was that it seemed to drag on a bit too long, without much action...but I guess this was like their lives, just a constant replay of the same old problems over and over again.

Repetitive dialog throughout the whole story. Like playing the same record over and over. No ending and we all know there was one.

If you're a history fan, this may not be the show for you. I enjoy Phillipa Gregory's books, but this

show departs even from her dramatized storylines. With that said, the acting is good and if you can get past the historical inaccuracies (the series also states that it takes some liberties-which I appreciated), they you should watch it.

This is one of Gregory's best novels. I loved the series on Starz, but the book is so much better. Unlike the show, Elizabeth is not certain that the boy is her brother, nor does she try to be, knowing she has no real power. Lady Margaret is not the evil and murderous hag portrayed in the show. The series was enjoyable, but this book is very well written. I enjoyed Elizabeth's narrative.

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