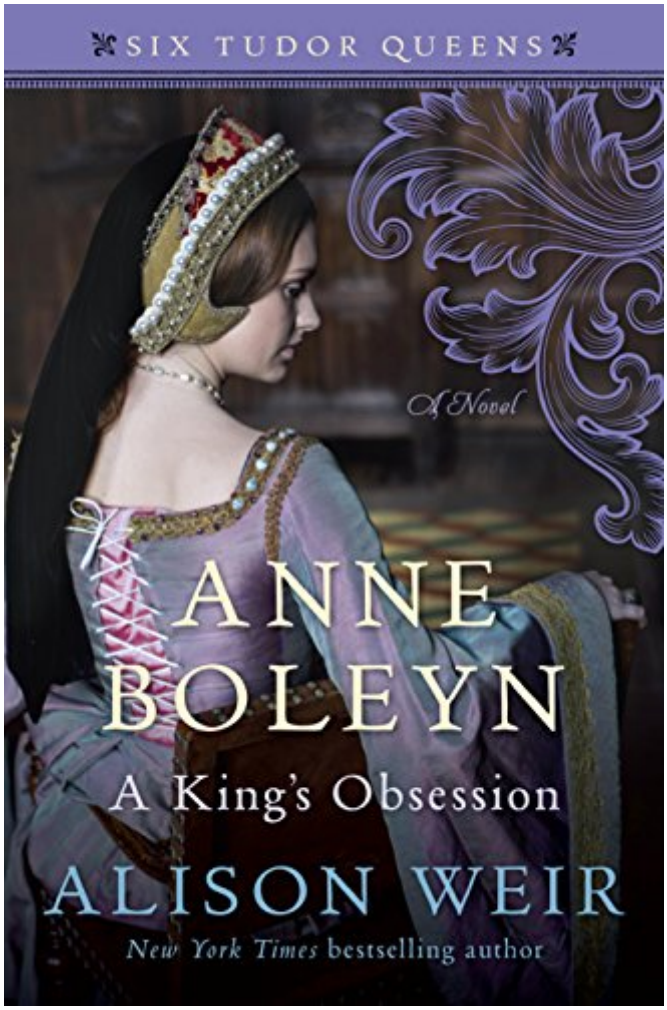
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Anne Boleyn, A King's Obsession: A Novel (Six Tudor Queens)



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Synopsis

In this second novel of Alison WeirÃ¢â ¬â„¢s epic Six Tudor Queens series, the acclaimed author and historian weaves exciting new research into the story of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIIIÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most infamous wife, a woman ahead of her time whose very lifeÃ¢â ¬â •and deathÃ¢â ¬â •forever changed a nation. Born into a noble English family, Anne is barely a teenager when she is sent from her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Hever Castle to serve at the royal court of the Netherlands. This strategic move on the part of her opportunistic father also becomes a chance for the girl to grow and discover herself. There, and later in France, Anne thrives, preferring to absorb the works of progressive writers rather than participate in courtly flirtations. She also begins to understand the inequalities and indignities suffered by her gender. Anne isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t completely inured to the longings of the heart, but her powerful family has ambitious plans for her future that override any wishes of her own. When the King of England himself, Henry VIII, asks Anne to be his mistress, she spurns his advancesÃ¢â ¬â •reminding him that he is a married man who has already conducted an affair with her sister, Mary. AnneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rejection only intensifies HenryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pursuit, but in the absence of a male heirÃ¢â ¬â •and given an aging Queen KatherineÃ¢â ¬â •the opportunity to elevate and protect the Boleyn family, and to exact vengeance on her envious detractors, is too tempting for Anne to resist, even as it proves to be her undoing. While history tells of how Anne Boleyn died, this compelling new novel reveals how fully she lived.Praise for Anne Boleyn, A KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ObessionÃ¢â ¬Å“A persuasive attempt to restore the humanity of a tragic, misrepresented figure, one of historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s original nasty women . . . WeirÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fictional Anne is ferociously smart and guilty of nothing but craving the power thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rightfully hers to claim.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •NPRÃ¢â ¬Å“This Anne is clever and clear-sighted. . . . Those sympathetic to Boleyn tend to stumble at her documented spite towards Katherine of Aragon and Mary Tudor, but Weir roots this bad behaviour in understandable insecurity as the KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ardour for her wanes and the longed-for son does not arrive.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Times (UK)Ã¢â ¬Å“This is a stunning, engaging, comprehensive and convincing novel. . . . [Alison] WeirÃ¢â ¬â„¢s characterisation is superb, and this complex novel will be, without doubt, one of the most admired works of historical fiction of 2017.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Historical Novels ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Anne Boleyn, A KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Obsession is beautifully written, exquisitely detailed, and gives readers a more down-to-earth picture of the often maligned Anne. . . . DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t miss this series.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Romance Reviews Today Ã¢â ¬Å“[Weir] explores AnneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s influences and motivations, creating a multifaceted portrait of an ambitious woman who reluctantly accedes to HenryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s courtship and later acts out of desperation to protect

herself and her daughter, Elizabeth. Even readers who know AnneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story well should gain insights from this revealing novel.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist Ã¢â ¬Å“A richly detailed rendering of the familiar Tudor drama . . . Weir brings considerable expertise to her portrait of Anne as Ã¢â ¬Ëœa flawed but very human heroine, a woman of great ambition, idealism and courageÃ¢â ¬â„¢ . . . [and] vividly depicts court life.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews Ã¢â ¬Å“A well-written and fast-paced novel that should appeal to fans of Tudor-era fiction looking for a fresh look at one of the periodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most popular protagonists.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal

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Customer Reviews

I have read many of Allison Weir’s historical novels, and I must say I was somewhat disappointed with this book. It seemed to attempt to show Ann Boleyn in a more positive light, but vacillated between "likable" Ann and "spiteful" Ann. Also some of the dialogued did not appear to be relevant to that time period. Not one of Ms. Weir’s best books.

I loved this book. The only reason I said it was predictable is because I know what happens to Anne

at the end. However, Alison Weir, who is an excellent historian, gives us a good indication of how Anne's mind may have worked, how she may have felt, and why she may have reacted the way she did. She is right: we will never know the real Anne Boleyn. However, I got a pretty good idea of her nature, how she started out very relatable, but then got caught up in the king's "Great Matter." I get the sense that Anne was flawed, like all of us, says some unkind things, but was not a truly evil person. Henry was going to get rid of Katherine with or without Anne. Whoever he picked was going to be queen. Therefore, she supposed that it may as well be her. I love that Alison Weir is going to write a book on each of the queens. I think the books about Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard are going to amazing. Jane Seymour, on the other hand, is pretty boring, but it will be interesting to see how her book plays out.

I started to read this book on my flight to London. My 4rd day in London I toured the Tower and had tears in my eyes, because this book made the events that happened in Anne's time so real. I was transported to the 16th Century by the words in this story. If you like historical fiction this is a must read. If you don't like historical fiction... well, you will now.

I REALLY enjoy historical novels especially when the author includes detailed historical events that make the reader feel confident about the accuracy of the book. This author must either have an excellent research staff or she herself must take a huge amount of time making sure the historical facts are indeed true, which I appreciate very much. I've read the first book in the series about Queen Katherine. The great care in which the author took to include so many factual events that I am compelled to read all the books in this series.

I have always enjoyed Alison Weir's books, both histories and novels. With everything she does, sh puts so much research into her characters and the time period, she takes her readers to that time, introduces them to these characters. I feel I got to see another side of Anne Boleyn, not quite the whore some stories might lead us to believe. There's enough historical facts to support the story, but it's still an interesting novel, even with knowing the ending. I look forward to Weir's next book in the series.

I am a huge fan of Alison Weir, and especially love her nonfiction work, such as "Princes in the Tower," (which reads like a police investigation using historical sources and evidence), or many other nonfiction books -- and I thoroughly enjoyed the first novel in this new series. However, I don't

find this novel quite as well rounded or enjoyable. I can see the strong craftsmanship and well developed character work by Alison Weir, but as she explained in her note afterward, Anne was a difficult woman to know and understand due to the lack of sources. But overall this novel made a valiant effort. I hope that novels 3 through 6 will provide a little more engrossing storytelling than this one. But Alison Weir is an exceptional writer, hugely talented and all of her work well worth reading.

For anyone more than casually interested in Anne Boleyn, Alison Weir's novel is real find. Extraordinarily well-researched, as all her histories and historical fiction are, this novel presents Anne Boleyn as a fatally-flawed woman who is as much a victim of fate as she is a victim of her own weaknessess and shortcomings.

As Weir is absolutely one of my favorite authors, I hate to have to bump off a star on this one, so I'll get the negative out of the way first. As another reviewer mentioned, Anne comes off as a bit too modern, the mentality expressed by her and at times by some of the other characters is anachronistic. That said, a very easy and enjoyable read, and the way she sets up Anne like that does make for an interesting alternative read of events and a great novel. Portrayal of many aspects of life at the time and events is quite accurate, and does a good job with balancing positive and negatives in many characters to make them believable. This would be a great book to give a younger reader who is starting to get interested in history, the writing keeps your attention and would be easy enough to follow along with for a teen.

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