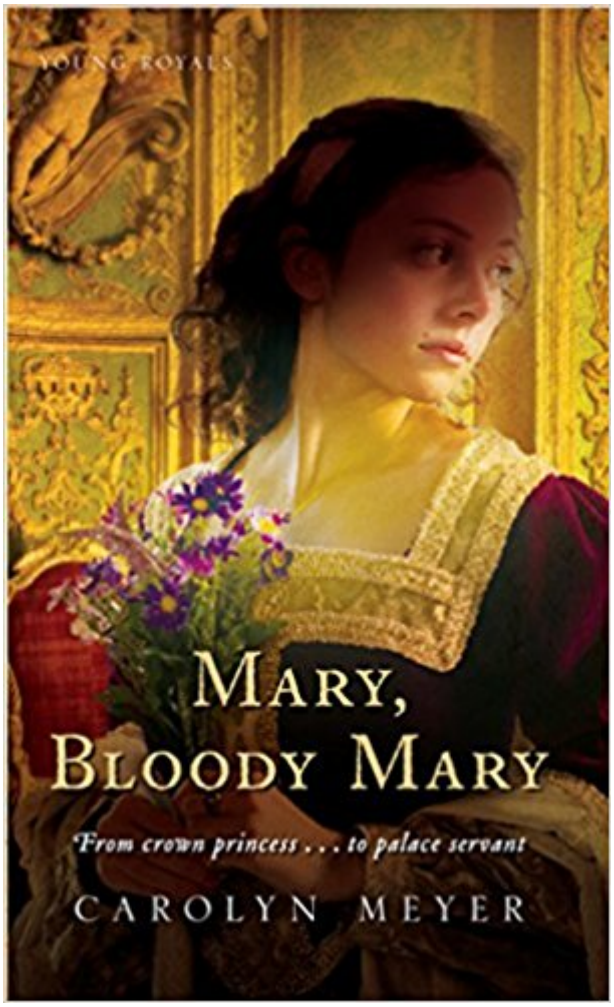
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Mary, Bloody Mary



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Synopsis

The story of Mary Tudor’s childhood is a classic fairy tale: A princess who is toinherit the throne of England is separated from her mother; abused by an evilstepmother who has enchanted her father; stripped of her title; and forced tocare for her baby stepsister, who inherits Mary’s rights to the throne. Believe itor not, it’s all true. Told in the voice of the young Mary, this novel explores the history and intrigueof the dramatic rule of Henry VIII, his outrageous affair with and marriage to thebewitching Anne Boleyn, and the consequences of that relationship for hisfirstborn daughter. Carolyn Meyer has written a compassionate historical novel about love and loss, jealousy and fear--and a girl’s struggle with forces farbeyond her control.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What’s this?)
Mass Market Paperback: 227 pages
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (April 1, 2001)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0152164561
ISBN-13: 978-0152164560
Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 6.9 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 142 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #341,068 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Biographical > European #22 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > European #233 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe
Age Range: 12 and up
Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Teen fans of the movie Elizabeth will be fascinated with the pomp and sinister intrigue of Mary, Bloody Mary, an engrossing story about the teen years of Mary Tudor, half sister to Queen Elizabeth and daughter to Henry VIII. As a baby, Mary was adored by her father, who carried her around on his shoulder and displayed her for the court to admire. But as his marriage with her mother, Catherine of Aragon, waned for lack of a male heir, Henry began an affair with the beautiful Anne Boleyn. Mary was convinced that Anne was a witch. Didn’t everyone know she had a sixth

finger? And wasn't it Anne who persuaded Henry to declare his first marriage invalid (rendering Mary a bastard)? As the king grows ever colder, Mary is banished to a distant house, forbidden from seeing her mother, left to wear rags, and finally--at Anne's bidding--summoned back to court to be a servant to her baby half sister Elizabeth. Once there, Mary lives in constant dread that she will be poisoned or sent to the executioner's block in one of her father's rages. By the time Anne Boleyn herself is beheaded, Henry's first daughter has become the bitter and angry woman who was to be known as Bloody Queen Mary for her savage religious genocide. Carolyn Meyer, long acclaimed for her teen fiction (Drummers of Jericho), accurately captures the glitter and grandeur as well as the brutality of this fascinating period in history. (Ages 10 to 16) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

This riveting slice of fictional royal history paints a sympathetic portrait of Henry VIII's oldest daughter, before she earns the title Bloody Mary. Trained not to weep in public, the young princess puts on a steely front but lives in constant fear of her father's tyranny. The novel begins in 1527 when 11-year-old Mary learns that she has been betrothed to the middle-aged king of France. The accessible first-person narrative chronicles Mary's dramatic change in status from riches to rags when her father attempts to annul his marriage to Catherine, Mary's mother, and conveys how Mary's (and the nation's) fate is affected by her father's obsession with "bewitching" Anne Boleyn, his excessive spending and his execution sprees. The novel ends in 1536, just after Henry VIII takes his third wife, Jane Seymour, and things begin to look a bit more optimistic for Mary. While the pacing is at times uneven, Meyer's (Gideon's People) account convincingly sets the stage for Mary's own sprees of persecution (mentioned in a thorough afterword) and provides an excellent introduction to pre-Renaissance customs, fashions and morals. The author's characterization of the Catholic queen demonstrates there was much more to Mary than the deeds that earned her a sanguinary nickname. Ages 11-up. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

As a person familiar with the Tudor era rather than a young person less involved I found it rather difficult to keep turning the pages. But Mary is quite well portrayed as the stubborn and spunky Princess who was often ill and a victim of her father's obsession with Anne Boleyn. King Henry and Queen Catherine are recognizable from what we know of history as are other characters such as Charles V's ambassador Eustache Chapuys.There are a few minor errors. Mary was not blue-eyed, her eyes were dark, but near-sighted as the story points out. Anne Boleyn was not executed on the

same day as her convicted "lovers" or in the same place, the men meeting their end on Tower Hill outside of the Tower precincts. Mark Smeaton had not been tortured to gain a confession and he did not stagger climbing up the scaffold steps. Anne met her end on a different scaffold , Tower Green, inside the Tower walls where only royalty were dispatched. Although she was killed with a sword, she knelt upright rather than laying her head upon the block.The story has her dramatically shaking her long black hair away from her face just before the headsman struck but that is poetic license, the long black hair being symbolic of a witch or demon.I would have liked to see more of Anne Boleyn in the story, especially face to face with Mary but all in all, this biographical novel is well done.I am not the proper audience for it, however, and judging from the other reviews, "Mary, Bloody Mary" was well-received by most of the reviewers.

Most people consider Mary the bloodiest queen in English history, and many people have dubbed her awful names like "the killer queen," but I've never bought those lies. Meyer doesn't either, and she paints a gorgeous portrait of what this girl might have been like. We dive into Mary Tudor's early years, her engagements to men older than her and men so closely related to her that the proposals border on incestuous. She is a girl loved by her father, adored by her mother, and treated as the "pearl of England." Her life is an easy one, until her father's obsession for a son drives him into a relationship with the mysterious Anne Boleyn. Suddenly Mary is reduced to a servant, separated from her mother, stripped of her title, and declared a bastard. She is forced to serve her little half-sister Elizabeth, daughter of Anne, and endure Anne's jealousy. Once a princess, Mary is a servant in her own home. She does pull out in the end, but it is truly a wonder that she did. This gives readers a better picture of why Mary became whom she did, though her reign truly was no bloodier than her father's. It is a great introspective look on "what could've happened" built around the facts we know, and that makes this a truly enjoyable and riveting book. :)

Very happy with my purchase!!I adore Carolyn Meyer as an author and recommend her entire Young Royals series. However, I didn't like how the book ended. It was far too abrupt and ambiguous. I have vast knowledge of the Tudors and Mary Tudor herself, so I already possed all the necessary information to fill in the gaps. However, I think some of the book's ambiguity could be a little confusing to someone who did not have any previous knowledge. Still, I would recommend the book. Carolyn Meyer never disappoints! Very happy the book and seller. :-)

History belongs to writers. Mankind has always seen history through the eyes and the imagination of

those with the pen. Limited facts are expanded and massaged by those who write, thence somehow become truth. Books, movies, television, develop the belief of reality for those who read. Societies without a written work can, and does, relate their history as they "want" it to be. The american indian lore, and that of most of Africa, grows real through the telling and imagination of the story teller. Reality is probably another matter, so history does belong to the writer.Carolyn Meyer has taken the skeletal facts and woven wonderful story from much of her own imagination, telling the story through the eyes of a very young girl, born a princess, in sixteenth century England. This young princess sweeps through the magnificent highs of the utmost luxury of the time to the lowest station of a threatened servant. The social standards of the time placed the ultimate power in the hands of the highest royalty. Mary Tudor was caught within that system. Her mother was pushed aside through a selfish and unlawful divorce (unlawful according to the church) leaving Mary Tudor officially a "bastard" and stripped of all royal privilege. Her subsequent roller-coaster life, from the imprisonment of the tower to the throne of England, Is the story that Carolyn Meyer has told so well and beautifully.Certain personalities, or masks, are assigned to the major players in this story. This establishes the time and place, the voice, by which the author relates her version of reality. The basis for this story is framed by historical fact and decorated by the history of "writers" as is always the case of historical fiction. Believe what you will, but realize much of what you read here is a product of a series of writers' imagination and belief.This book is among the best and most enjoyable, superbly written, accounts of the reign of Henry VIII, and the immediate years following. Well worth reading and enjoying, but don't lose sight of the genre-historical FICTION.

I really loved the history and the easy read this series was.

I loved this book. It is one of my favorite books. The book is written from the viewpoint of Mary, herself, and it gives you a feel for what she went through. I enjoyed this book so much that I continued on with the Young Royals Series. I want to read every book by Carolyn Meyer because she is now one of my favorite authors. Mary, Bloody Mary is easy to understand and read. I got sucked into the book's world and was sad to see the end of this book come. I would receommend this book to everyone. It actually made history fun to learn about!

Product arrived timely and as described. A biography filled with suspense. A good read. Thank you. Gerald

Fantastic!!ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Å ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Å ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Å ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Å

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