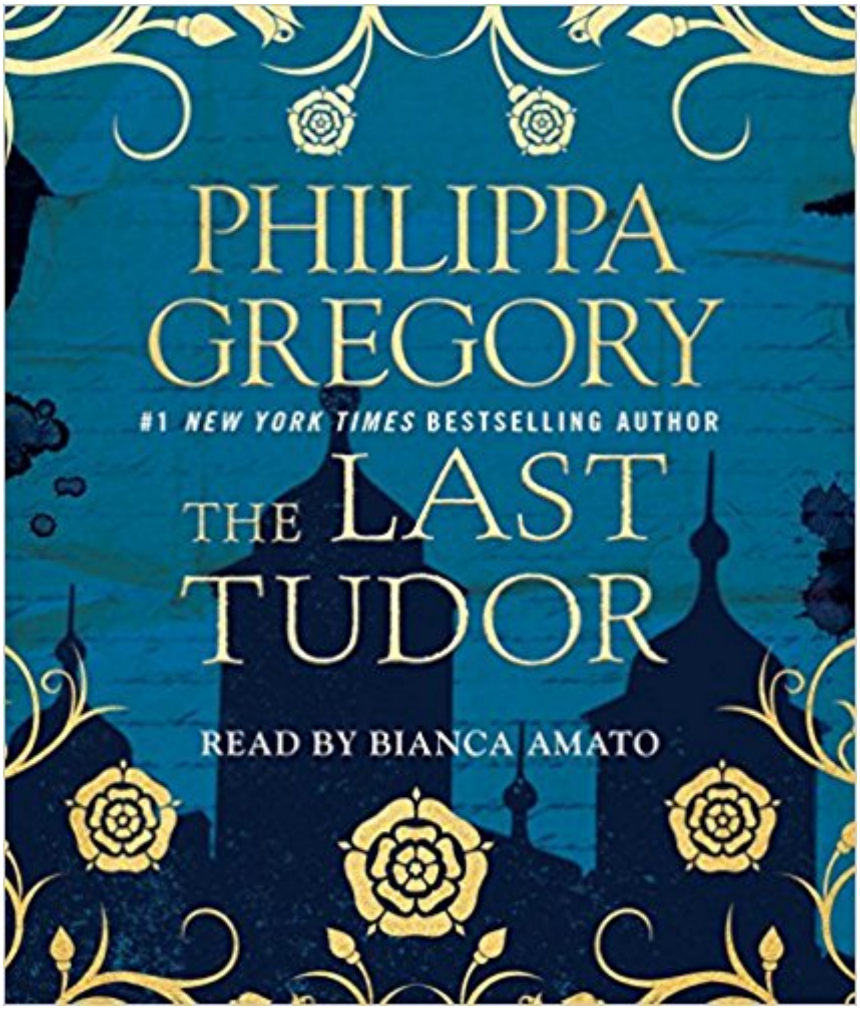
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The Last Tudor (The Plantagenet And Tudor Novels)



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Synopsis

The latest novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Philippa Gregory features one of the most famous girls in history, Lady Jane Grey, and her two sisters, each of whom dared to defy her queen.Jane Grey was queen of England for nine days. Her father and his allies crowned her instead of the dead kingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s half sister Mary Tudor, who quickly mustered an army, claimed her throne, and locked Jane in the Tower of London. When Jane refused to betray her Protestant faith, Mary sent her to the executionerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s block, where Jane transformed her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greedy power grab into tragic martyrdom. Ã¢â ¬Å“Learn you to die,Ã¢â ¬Â• was the advice Jane wrote to her younger sister Katherine, who has no intention of dying. She intends to enjoy her beauty and her youth and fall in love. But she is heir to the insecure and infertile Queen Mary and then to her half sister, Queen Elizabeth, who will never allow Katherine to marry and produce a Tudor son. When KatherineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pregnancy betrays her secret marriage, she faces imprisonment in the Tower, only yards from her sisterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s scaffold. Ã¢â ¬Å“Farewell, my sister,Ã¢â ¬Â• writes Katherine to the youngest Grey sister, Mary. A beautiful dwarf, disregarded by the court, Mary keeps family secrets, especially her own, while avoiding ElizabethÃ¢â ¬â„¢s suspicious glare. After seeing her sisters defy their queens, Mary is acutely aware of her own danger but determined to command her own life. What will happen when the last Tudor defies her ruthless and unforgiving Queen Elizabeth?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"All bow down before the queen of historical fiction." (The Times)"Expect high demand for another outstanding entry in GregoryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ongoing and best-selling Tudor saga." (Booklist)"GregoryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first-person perspective on late Tudor EnglandÃ¢â ¬â„¢s turbulent history will delight existing and future fans." (Library Journal, starred review)

Philippa Gregory is the author of many bestselling novels, includingÃ Â The Other Boleyn Girl, and is a recognized authority on womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s history. Her work has been adapted for the screen in The Other Boleyn Girl movie and the critically acclaimed STARZ miniseriesÃ Â The White Queen and The White Princess. Her most recent novel isÃ Â The Last Tudor. She graduated from the University of Sussex and received a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where she is a Regent. She holds two honorary degrees from Teesside University and the University of Sussex. She is a fellow of the Universities of Sussex and Cardiff and was awarded the 2016 Harrogate Festival Award for Contribution to Historical Fiction. She welcomes visitors to her website, PhilippaGregory.com.

This book divides up the sisters into their own sections told entirely from their POV. Unfortunately I found this tedious and longed for a new vantage point. This book is very dry and lacking the fun political intrigue and interesting characters that usually characterize Gregory's books. With her previous works I've been fascinated even when I'm very familiar with what will happen to the characters involved because she has found a way to shed new light and paint a different account. This version, however, is very boring and lackluster. I'd recommend reading a different book if you want to read about the interesting life of the Grey sisters.This book was hard to begin because I found Jane so insufferable. She is so full of herself and her belief that her piety makes her so much greater than anyone that she is very hard to take. Unfortunately the beginning is an overly long monologue before the book finally starts to pick up with the events that will lead to her coronation and of course her execution. There is very little backstory about her parents but there are subtle hints at her childhood and her parents actions at the tower make very clear where their priorities are. This account is very different from from the ones I've read in the books by Alison Weir and Ella March Chase. I can understand the authors taking divergent views of her personality but it is interesting that there is such different accounts of things I would have thought were well known, for example in this book Guilford is not a mean savage.If you aren't familiar with this complicated family or need a reminder you may want to look up what happened with the final wife of King Henry, as Katherine Parr and her husband Thomas are mentioned, as well as the rumors regarding him and

the future Queen Elizabeth, but there are few details or backstory in this account. I always found it strange from the other books that Jane and Elizabeth weren't closer given their common faith but perhaps this version of Jane with her competitive piety explains that. I was surprised that this version differs so much in her last days with her confessor. I enjoyed the accounts in the other books of his esteem for her.Moving on to Katherine was a relief from Jane, at least at first. This version of Katherine sees her shortcomings and has her own ambitions but more than anything wants to marry her beloved. Unfortunately I've had a hard time with this book. I carried on with Jane to get to the end and I'd like to get to Mary to see how she is portrayed in this version, I'm already intrigued that she and the Queen's dwarf are not on good terms, but I find Katherine's section too tedious to read for long. I keep putting it down and I do not look forward to plunging through it. For that reason I haven't been able to finish it and cannot recommend it. I received ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Thank you, Philippa Gregory, for writing the last book in the whole Tudor dynasty series. This is a great book and made me want to research more on the Grey sisters and who they each came into their own in the British Royal history, especially Jane Grey who became a young Queen of England and then was beheaded for treason, along with her father and husband...such a tragic story in itself, but a very historical one nonetheless. Also, how her sisters Mary and Katherine played a role in their royal historical roles. It brought out what my British Royal history is all about, since I am a descendant of the Red Queen (which started the Tudor line that leads to the current British Royal line).

We all read of the greatness of Elizabeth I. Now, we learn of the greatness of her evil and her hand in squeezing the life out of her young, pretty cousins. Lady Jane , a short-lived queen and martyr, Lady Katherine, a beautiful romantic, Lady Mary, a tiny doll , sisters three shared a family bond and a family curse..their cousin Elizabeth. Three imprisoned. Three isolated. They are interesting historical voices now heard. Their story is infrequently told. Its newness is compelling , and the perspective is unique. The book finishes the Tutor Series of which I was a fan. It is a good read even as the tale of imprisonment was a bit tedious.

Wow! I have always been a fan of Philippa Gregory and have read most, if not all, of her books. However, this one is very powerful in describing a very different side of Queen Elizabeth (I) than I have read before. I also have become more aware of Jane Grey's sisters and the role they played in

that court. True, it may be historical fiction, but Philippa's accounts make it come alive in describing what very well may have been a very troubled time. It seems that people have been plagued with conspiracy theories for a very long time. When they act on them with no factual information as did Elizabeth, it makes for dangerous times. So sad.

Let's be clear, I am a bit saddened that this is her last book (and she's definitely not going out with a bang here). She really inspired me to do the research into the true history of the Tudors & Plantagenet families, so I know more of what really went on, and I read her work for the drama, not the historical accuracy. I do feel she could go on with these characters and we'd all still buy!That aside, I trudged through this book. Jane Seymour was pious and boring, she seemed a mixture of Margaret Beaufort and Mary Tudor all rolled into one. Philippa seemed to try and make her a strong "feminist" (and I say this lightly) character, but she never truly steps up to her male keepers, and in the end, submits to death in a seemingly mentally unfit state. I suppose I expected a little more substance.Katherine, poor flighty darling. She does seem to grow in character, but again withers at the end, and dies, like her sister, with no will to fight any longer.Mary marries for love but is kept from her husband, however, she is the only one to overcome, despite all disability, and makes a life for herself.And the enemy throughout is Elizabeth herself. Whether or not she was truly the wicked, selfish, vile, jealous, and angry person that kept anyone from true love because she never had the freedom to choose for herself is something I would have to look into..but this book just dragged. I would skip if I had trusted the reviews.

I found that I couldn't put this book down. I was captivated by the stories of the little-known Grey sisters and thought it was quite well written. A few parts did lag a bit here and there, but overall it kept my interest. I particularly enjoyed the portrayal of Elizabeth I (never a favorite of mine). Overall, I found that I gained a fresh perspective on this time period.

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