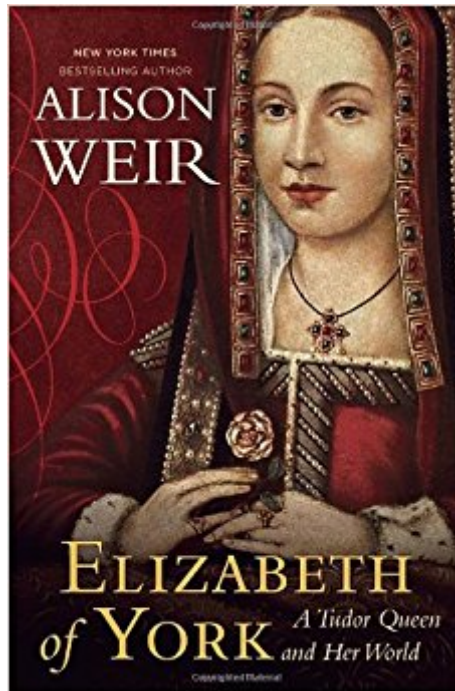




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Elizabeth Of York: A Tudor Queen And Her World



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Many are familiar with the story of the much-married King Henry VIII of England and the celebrated reign of his daughter, Elizabeth I. But it is often forgotten that the life of the first Tudor queen, Elizabeth of York, Henry's mother and Elizabeth's grandmother, spanned one of England's most dramatic and perilous periods. Now New York Times bestselling author and acclaimed historian Alison Weir presents the first modern biography of this extraordinary woman, whose very existence united the realm and ensured the survival of the Plantagenet bloodline. Her birth was greeted with as much pomp and ceremony as that of a male heir. The first child of King Edward IV, Elizabeth enjoyed all the glittering trappings of royalty. But after the death of her father; the disappearance and probable murder of her brothers—the Princes in the Tower; and the usurpation of the throne by her calculating uncle Richard III, Elizabeth found her world turned upside-down: She and her siblings were declared bastards. As Richard's wife, Anne Neville, was dying, there were murmurs that the king sought to marry his niece Elizabeth, knowing that most people believed her to be England's rightful queen. Weir addresses Elizabeth's possible role in this and her covert support for Henry Tudor, the exiled pretender who defeated Richard at the Battle of Bosworth and was crowned Henry VII, first sovereign of the House of Tudor. Elizabeth's subsequent marriage to Henry united the houses of York and Lancaster and signaled the end of the Wars of the Roses. For centuries historians have asserted that, as queen, she was kept under Henry's firm grasp, but Weir shows that Elizabeth proved to be a model consort—pious and generous—who enjoyed the confidence of her husband, exerted a tangible and beneficial influence, and was revered by her son, the future King Henry VIII. Drawing from a rich trove of historical records, Weir gives a long overdue and much-deserved look at this unforgettable princess whose line descends to today's British monarch—a woman who overcame tragedy and danger to become one of England's most beloved consorts. Praise for Elizabeth of York

“Weir tells Elizabeth's story well. . . . She is a meticulous scholar. . . . Most important, Weir sincerely admires her subject, doing honor to an almost forgotten queen.”

—The New York Times Book Review

“In [Alison] Weir's skillful hands, Elizabeth of York returns to us, full-bodied and three-dimensional. This is a must-read for Tudor fans!”

—Historical Novels Review

“This bracing biography reveals a woman of integrity, who . . . helped [her husband] lay strong groundwork for the success of the new Tudor dynasty. As always in a Weir book, the tenor of the times is drawn with great color and authenticity.”

—Booklist

“Weir once again demonstrates that she is

an outstanding portrayal of the Tudor era, giving us a fully realized biography of a remarkable woman.

•Huntington News

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Customer Reviews

The subject of the popular British historian's latest plunge into the fertile Tudor ground she has so successfully tilled in many previous books is the wife of the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII, who dethroned the last Yorkist king, Richard III, in a pitched battle and assumed the crown himself. The marriage of Elizabeth of York, the last surviving Yorkist heir, to the new Tudor king had the intended effect of settling any controversy as to who rightfully sat on the throne. Despite some bothersome initial bumps in the narrative road—namely, Weir's tendency early on, in the face of scant documentary evidence specifically about Elizabeth, to say, "She would have done this, she would have seen that"—this bracing biography reveals a woman of integrity, who, while honoring her Yorkist heritage, grew to love her husband, became a kind and generous queen consort, and helped him lay strong groundwork for the success of the new Tudor dynasty. As always in a Weir book, the tenor of the times is drawn with great color and authenticity. High-Demand Backstory: Given Weir's universal appeal as a popular historian, especially of the very popular Tudor era, her publisher has an extensive ad campaign planned for the release of her new book. --Brad Hooper

Praise for Elizabeth of York "Weir tells Elizabeth's story well. . . . She is a meticulous scholar. . . . Most important, Weir sincerely admires her subject, doing honor to an

almost forgotten queen. [The New York Times Book Review](#) "In [Alison Weir's skillful hands, Elizabeth of York returns to us, full-bodied and three-dimensional. This is a must-read for Tudor fans! [Historical Novels Review](#) "This bracing biography reveals a woman of integrity, who . . . helped [her husband] lay strong groundwork for the success of the new Tudor dynasty. As always in a Weir book, the tenor of the times is drawn with great color and authenticity. [Booklist](#) "Weir once again demonstrates that she is an outstanding portrayer of the Tudor era, giving us a fully realized biography of a remarkable woman. [Huntington News](#) Praise for Alison Weir's Mary Boleyn, named one of the Best Books of the Year by the [Chicago Tribune](#) "This nuanced, smart, and assertive biography reclaims the life of a Tudor matriarch. [Publishers Weekly](#) "Weir has achieved the enviable skill of blending the necessary forensic and analytical tasks of academia with the passionate engagement that avocational history lovers crave. [Bookreporter](#) "Top-notch . . . This book further proves that [Weir] is a historian of the highest caliber. [Washington Independent Review of Books](#) "A refreshing change from recent books on the subject . . . If you want to learn more about this often-maligned woman of the sixteenth century, this is a must-read. [The Free Lance Star](#) "Weir's research is always first-rate and her narratives accessible. In her latest book, the author has to navigate the historical minefields of gossip, fiction, and conjecture to finally get at the truth. [Tucson Citizen](#) "Engaging . . . Weir matches her usual professional skills in research and interpretation to her customary, felicitous style. [Booklist](#)

I loved this well researched book. Alison Weir scored another hit once again. Sometimes going thru the actual purchase rolls can sometimes be a bit tedious - but she is a marvelous historian and I appreciate that and this minor criticism reflects that (reason why I did not give her 5 stars). Buy this, you will LOVE it.

A remarkable biography of Elizabeth of York. I truly enjoyed it. As will all of Alison Weir's books, it was well-written and plotted. It read in a linear fashion, with no unnecessary asides or factoids. I am slowly reading all of her books I enjoy them so much. Keep up the good work, Ms. Weir!

I like all of Alison Weir's books as they provide a lot of detail around how people lived and not just

their historical actions. She is upfront that she makes a few stretches here and there around the subject's feelings but when she doesn't they are based on historical facts as much as possible.

If you collect Alison Weir's books, you'll want to buy this one, but it really covers no new ground from her previous works. Weir writes with a very engaging style that draws you in, but the book repeats genealogies over and over again and it is difficult to keep track of all of the players as they change names and titles (along with everyone being named either Elizabeth or Mary, Henry or Richard).

Just finished reading this book and have to say I loved it. Alison Weir delivers as usual in clarity, readability, and accuracy. I have read most of her books and this one, in my opinion, is one of the best. It does contain information on many of her family members but does not lose Elizabeth of York as the focus. I didn't read much of the extensive information provided in the appendices. The main work itself was over 400 pages but it did grab and keep my interest. Loved the interview with the author!

Alison Weir is clearly a scholar of the first order, but it does make her book a little dull. I think if I were writing an historical novel of this era, I would use Alison's book as background material. It was interesting to also read Philippa Gregory's historical novel, *The White Princess*, which is about Elizabeth of York and Henry VII. Gregory's characters differ greatly from Weir's, and many of the stories in Gregory's book seem clearly made up after reading Weir. For instance, Weir contends that Elizabeth and Henry VII's mother had a pleasant relationship. Gregory contends that My Lady the Queen (Henry's mother) was a domineering tyrant. Weir does not mention this aspect of her character.

Beautifully written with just the right amount of detail. A revealing portrait of a woman too often overlooked. I'm a big Alison Weir fan because she makes history fascinating and humanizea the people she portrays.

Great history!

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