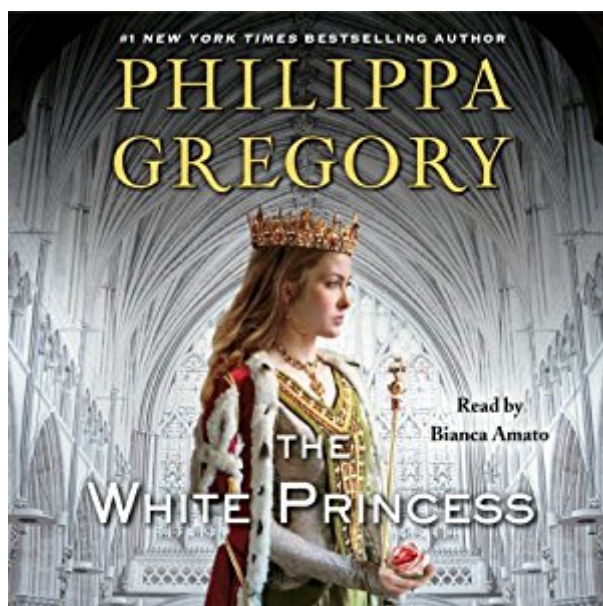


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The White Princess: Cousins' War, Book 5



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

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Customer Reviews

Let me start by saying that I enjoy Philippa 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 it 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 wanted to like this book more than I actually do, really. But Philippa Gregory disappointed me a little with her extremist interpretation of the start of the Tudor dynasty. Every other (fictional) account of Henry VII shows him as mild-mannered and detached husband who even though he doesn't marry for love, he is NOT a rapist. To me this along with the author's portrayal of how Elizabeth and Henry came to love each other is most disturbing. I'm usually a fan of Gregory with her dramatic take on historical events but this time I think she pushed it too far with the rapist angle. I did enjoy the story of Perkin Warbeck...but along with young Henry VII, I wish I saw more of each respective character! One thing I saw too much of was Elizabeth's complaints and despairs though. Elizabeth; You are the QUEEN, not Margaret. Find your power and USE it for once. Please.

Usually, I cannot put down Gregory's books. I really wanted to like this book, but I find myself struggling to finish reading this book with such a sad main character. The author relies too much on her previous character developments in her other books on the White Queen (Queen Elizabeth) and the Red Queen (Margaret of Beaufort), and spends no effort in having you relate to the plot/character of Elizabeth of York and Henry of Landcaster. The whole book is just a rather naggy, tedious description of how miserable Elizabeth of York's life is (really, I get it, Henry VII doesn't trust her, don't need to recount that every single page. Yes, he is also a Mommy's boy, and the mother is

a religious freak, I got that 100 pages ago, no need for yet another paragraph). If you are expecting this to be a lovely conclusion to the War of the Roses series from her, you will be disappointed. I think, with this book, I will end my following with the author.

For someone with a degree in history, this author writes the most historically inaccurate books I have ever had the displeasure to read. To be able to honestly critique her work, I have had to suffer through her abominations of the lives of the principles in The War of the Roses, the Tudors and the Stewarts. Why, when the actual history is so full of drama and complexities, do she feel the need to re-write history? Yes, I know these are fictional novels but they are presented as being historically accurate. Nothing could be further from the truth regarding this novel and indeed, all of Gregory's novels. It is distressing to see those other reviewers stating in their review "I didn't know that" - you still don't know it because it isn't true! These are just a few of the major historical distortions in this book: Henry VII raped Elizabeth before they married: There is no indication anywhere that this is even remotely true. In fact, all contemporary sources state that although the marriage was made for politically expedient reasons, Henry and Elizabeth grew to care for each other a great deal and had a happy marriage. Perkin Warbeck: The majority of historians agree that he was NOT Richard, Duke of York and was a pretender. Katherine Huntly: While she was known to be extremely beautiful, there is no indication that Henry VII fell in love with her. In fact, until her husband was executed she, too, was held prisoner. She went on to marry two more times. Elizabeth and Richard III: There is no evidence whatsoever that Elizabeth and Richard were lovers or that they planned to marry. As for the book itself, it seemed as though 90% of the book was either about Henry VII not trusting her or her keeping the secret that Perkin was indeed her brother. *yawn* Some of Gregory's novels are at least entertaining to read despite the historical inaccuracies. Not so with this one. This book is one big, lying snooze fest.

Love Philippa's books and had greatly anticipated this one after reading the Kingmaker's Daughter but was so let down. Hate the way it ended or rather just chopped off the story. Seemed like Philippa couldn't think of an original way to write Elizabeth of York as a strong female character after already writing so many other strong females of the period so she settled for making her so passive and ineffective that this reader had a hard time sympathizing with her, much less rooting for her. Could have been so much better.

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