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The Virgin's Lover

By Philippa Gregory



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From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and “queen of royal fiction” (*USA TODAY*) comes a riveting and scandalous love triangle between a young woman on the brink of greatness, a young man whose ambition far exceeds his means, and the wife who cannot forgive them.

In the autumn of 1558, church bells across England ring out the joyous news that Elizabeth I is the new queen, yet one woman hears the tidings with utter dread. She is Amy Dudley, wife of Sir Robert, and she knows that Elizabeth’s ambitious leap to the throne will draw her husband back to the center of the glamorous Tudor court, where he was born to be.

Elizabeth’s excited triumph is short-lived. She has inherited a bankrupt country where treason is rampant and foreign war a certainty. Her faithful advisors warns her that she will survive only if she marries a strong prince to govern the rebellious country, but the one man Elizabeth desires is her childhood friend, the ambitious Robert Dudley. As the young couple falls back in love, a question hangs in the air: can he really set aside his wife and marry the queen? When Amy is found dead, Elizabeth and Dudley are suddenly plunged into a struggle for survival.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bestseller Gregory captivates again with this expertly crafted historical about the beautiful young Virgin Queen, portrayed as a narcissistic, neurotic home-wrecker. As in her previous novels about Tudor England (*The Queen's Fool*, etc.), Gregory amasses a wealth of colorful period detail to depict the shaky first days of Elizabeth I's reign. The year is 1558, an especially dangerous time for the nation: no bishop will coronate Henry VIII's Protestant daughter, the treasury is bankrupt, the army is unpaid and demoralized. Meanwhile, the French are occupying Scotland and threatening to install "that woman"—Mary, Queen of Scots—on the throne. Ignoring the matrimonial advice of pragmatic Secretary of State William Cecil, the 25-year-old Elizabeth persists in stringing along Europe's most eligible bachelors, including King Philip of Spain and the Hapsburg archduke Ferdinand. It's no secret why: she's fallen for her "dark, saturnine" master of horse, Sir Robert Dudley, whose traitorous family history and marriage to the privately Catholic Amy make him an unsuitable consort. Gregory deftly depicts this love triangle as both larger than life and all too familiar; all three characters are sympathetic without being likable, particularly the arch-mistress Elizabeth, who pouts, throws tantrums, connives and betrays with queenly impunity. After a while the plot stagnates, as the lovers flaunt their emotions in the face of repetitious arguments from Amy, Cecil and various other scandalized members of the court. But readers addicted to Gregory's intelligent, well-researched tales of intrigue and romance will be enthralled, right down to the teasingly tragic ending.

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From [Booklist](#)

The story of Queen Elizabeth I and her court has been told countless in historical fiction. This third novel in a popular series following the machinations and passions of the Tudor court presents lively characters, political intrigue, and soaring emotions swirling around the early years of Elizabeth's reign. Lifelong friend Robert Dudley and Elizabeth share an ardent love affair, but the married Robert is already tainted with a traitor's brush. In addition, his wife, the devoted Amy, will never relinquish him. In tandem with her illicit liaison, Elizabeth conspires with William Cecil, her most trusted counselor, to secure the wealth of her court and country by building a secret cache of gold. The coin of the realm's new value will financially ruin Dudley. Readers already know how history unfolds but will quickly turn pages to the story's end. Elizabeth's manipulations, Dudley's allegiance, and Cecil's political plotting come together in an engaging story. The first two novels in the series were book-club favorites, and expect this one to follow suit--and expect further entries in this rousing series. *Kaite Mediatore*

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Review

"Jolly good fun."

-- *Entertainment Weekly*

"...expertly crafted...readers addicted to Gregory's intelligent, well-researched tales...will be enthralled..."

-- *Publishers Weekly*

"No lover of Elizabethan history should be without this novel, nor will any fan be disappointed with the meticulous research and marvelous portraits of Elizabeth, Dudley, and the court."

-- *Romantic Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David McMillian:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled The Virgin's Lover. Try to face the book The Virgin's Lover as your close friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Vera Harris:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider while those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take The Virgin's Lover as the daily resource information.

Paul Leavens:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The Virgin's Lover the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The The Virgin's Lover giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Kelly Gomes:

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