



The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels)

By Philippa Gregory



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Adapted for the STARZ original series, The White Princess.

Love to the Death.

When Henry Tudor picks up the crown of England from the mud of Bosworth field, he knows he must marry the princess of the enemy house—Elizabeth of York—to unify a country divided by war for more than three decades. But his bride is still in love with his dead enemy, and her mother and half of England remain loyal to her brother, the missing York heir.

Henry's greatest fear is that somewhere a prince is waiting to reclaim the throne. When a young man who would be king invades England, Elizabeth has to choose between the new husband she is coming to love and the boy who claims to be her lost brother: the rose of York come home at last.

"A bloody irresistible read." —People

"Bring on the blood, sex, and tears!...You name it, it's all here." —USA TODAY

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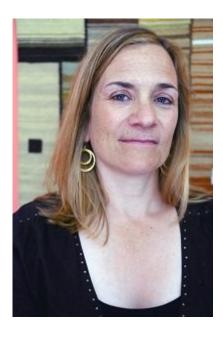
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Guest Review of The White Princess

By Tracy Chevalier



Tracy Chevalier is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. She was born in Washington, DC but has lived in England all her adult life, and now has dual citizenship. A graduate of the English program at Oberlin College, Ohio, with an MA in creative writing from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, she was a reference book editor before turning to writing full-time. She lives in London with her husband and son.

How do you solve a problem like the Princes in the Tower? What does a historical novelist do with Edward and Richard, heirs to the British throne who were purportedly locked in the Tower by their uncle and then disappeared so that he could become Richard III? Conspiracy theories have flourished for centuries, but no strong evidence has emerged to solve the mystery. A novelist has any number of possibilities to pursue.

In *The White Queen*, the novel that chronologically precedes *The White Princess*, Philippa Gregory makes her choice and places their fate in the hands of their feisty mother, Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV and a key player in the War of the Roses, the dynastic feud among the Plantagenets between the Houses of York and Lancaster. She substitutes a pauper for young Richard, ensuring that the Duke of York gets away. The follow-up to such a dramatic decision inevitably needs to continue this story line. Richard has disappeared. Does he come back?

At first, *The White Princess* seems to tell another story – that of Elizabeth of York, the White Queen's daughter, and one-time mistress of Richard III, who on his death becomes the wife of his slayer, the Tudor

Henry VII. (Confused yet? I am still reeling at the thought that she was mistress to her uncle!) Elizabeth is the embodiment of the painful transition between York and Tudor monarchies, her strategic marriage to Henry VII the outward expression of York loyalty as demanded by the Tudors.

Gregory is known for her retakes on British royal history, viewing the scheming, the power struggles, the battles exclusively from women's points of view, exploring how the Queen or Princess finds her own source of power and influence in the interstices left open by the men. Elizabeth of York is no different, using her beauty, her popularity with the people, her instinctive wiliness and political acumen to bear on Henry VII, with varying results. She may pragmatically have to accept that the Tudors are in the ascendance, but she can see that her distant and paranoid husband is not a natural as a king; she must teach him how to win the love and respect of his subjects, who still view the family of York with affection and nostalgia.

Eventually Elizabeth and Henry achieve a kind of marital truce, and grow to love each other, if only for a time. There are plenty of beddings, of ladies-in-waiting with knowing looks, of confinements and wet nurses and babies – including, of course, the future Henry VIII, characterized by Gregory even in his boyhood as a sensualist.

Inevitably, however, *The White Princess* is still the story of men, and specifically of the spectre of the lost princes. Does lost Prince Richard return in the form of pretender to the throne Perkin Warbeck (referred to in the novel most often simply as "the boy")? Gregory places his identity in Elizabeth's hands, demonstrating the impossible position she is in: acknowledge the boy as her true brother and bring down her husband and any possibility that her sons might become King, or deny him and see her possible brother executed for treason. In this impossible situation, Elizabeth must tread carefully, and Gregory does an expert job of maintaining this tricky balancing act to the very end. Relishing the personality clashes and political machinations of an insecure Tudor court, she makes the current British royal family, with its crystal-clear line of succession, seem very dull indeed.

From **Booklist**

Gregory charts the vicissitudes of a high-stakes political marriage in her latest diverting epic. It's 1485; the Wars of the Roses have ended, but the victorious Henry VII sits insecurely on his throne. Still mourning her lover, Richard III, Princess Elizabeth of York must wed King Henry to unite their warring houses. Unlike his predecessors, Henry has no personal charm, and the novel excels at depicting his paranoia as royal pretenders pop up and threaten England's stability. Kept ignorant of the political scheming around her and caught between her York relations and securing her children's inheritance, Elizabeth can't match the dynamism of her mother, Elizabeth Woodville (The White Queen, 2009), or mother-in-law, Margaret Beaufort (The Red Queen, 2010), and they occasionally steal the spotlight. Nonetheless, the younger Elizabeth is an observant narrator, and her difficult position reflects historical reality, as does her growing closeness to her beleaguered husband. The repetitive language will either drive points home for readers or drive them batty, but the novel is as replete with intrigue and heartrending drama as Gregory's fans expect. -- Sarah Johnson

Review

"Bring on the blood, sex and tears! . . . You name it, it's all here." (USA Today)

"This rich tapestry brings to vivid life the court of Henry and Elizabeth. Meticulously drawn characters with a seamless blending of historical fact and fiction combine in a page-turning epic of a story. Tudor-fiction fans can never get enough, and they will snap this one up." (Library Journal (starred review))

"The White Princess features one of the more intriguing theories about the possible fate of the princes." (The

Washington Post)

"This is the most fascinating and complex of the series--not only in history, but in the psychological makeup of the characters, the politics of the era and the blending of actual and reimagined history. Gregory makes everything come to life. . . . This is why Gregory is a queen of the genre." (Romantic Times)

"As usual, Gregory delivers a spellbinding . . . exposé." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Elizabeth must navigate the treacherous waters of marriage, maternity, and mutiny in an age better at betrayal than childbirth. . . . At this novel's core lies a political marriage seen in all its complexity." (Publishers Weekly)

"Replete with intrigue and heartrending drama." (Booklist)

"Gregory returns with another sister act. The result: her best novel in years." (USA Today)

"Gregory delivers another vivid and satisfying novel of court intrigue, revenge, and superstition. Gregory's many fans as well as readers who enjoy lush, evocative writing, vividly drawn characters, and fascinating history told from a woman's point of view will love her latest work." (Library Journal)

"Gregory is one of historical fiction's superstars, and *The Kingmaker's Daughter* shows why . . . providing intelligent escape, a trip through time to a dangerous past." (Historical Novels Review (Editor's Choice Review))

"Wielding magic again in her latest War of the Roses novel ... Gregory demonstrates the passion and skill that has made her the queen of English historical fiction....Gregory portrays spirited women at odds with powerful men, endowing distant historical events with drama, and figures long dead or invented with real-life flaws and grand emotions. She makes history ... come alive for readers." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"The queen of royal fiction." (USA Today)

"Sexy...Scandalous...Smart." (Redbook)

"There's no question that she is the best at what she does." (Associated Press)

"Philippa Gregory turns real-life historical royalty into royally entertaining novels." (Time)

"If only grade-school history books were written so vividly." (Entertainment Weekly)

"In thoroughly researched, wonderfully realized settings, she can make a period come alive." (The Boston Globe)

"Gregory ... always delivers the goods." (New York Post)

"Gorgeous fun." (New York Daily News)

"Loyalties are torn, paranoia festers and you can almost hear the bray of royal trumpets as the period springs to life. It's a bloody irresistible read." (People Magazine)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melissa Sanders:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information particularly this The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels) book as this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Dana Register:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both day to day life and work. So, once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is definitely The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels).

Leonard Jones:

The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels) can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels) but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

Bernice Smith:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you personally is The White Princess (The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels) this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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