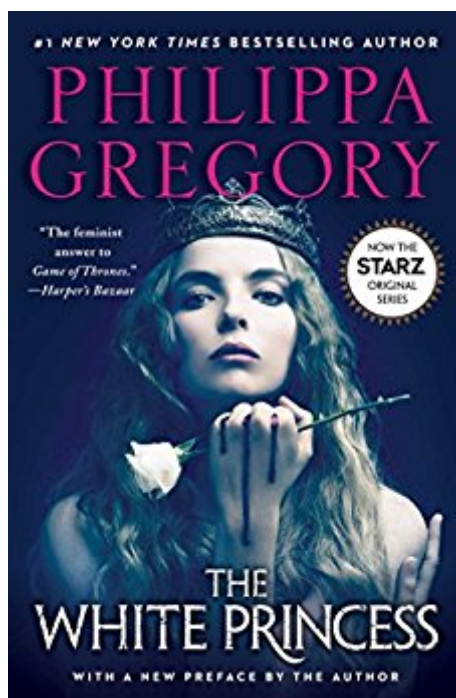


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The White Princess (The Plantagenet And Tudor Novels)



Synopsis

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

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'm a huge fan of Philippa Gregory, BUT was totally disappointed in this book. It was beyond repetitive! Henry the 7th was a monster and we were told this over, and over, and over again! Elizabeth was like the 'walking dead' throughout the book. How many times was she going to say, she hated Henry, he was a rapist and then on the next page Loved him huh??? I think I've had enough of the Yorks and Tudors for awhile!

At first I was not sure how to rate this book. On the one hand I had enjoyed reading it, on the other I was put off while reading it by what I thought were gross deviations from the actual historical events. But after finishing the book, and doing a bit of fact checking, I realized that although most historians bought into Henry Tudor's story that Perkin Warbeck was a pretender, there are many that believe that he could in fact be Prince Richard. I now tend to agree with the latter. Here are just a few of my reasons based on historical facts that I found:

1. Henry VII himself behaved as if he believed Perkin Warbeck was the true prince. He executed Perkin for treason. But only an Englishman (Prince Richard) could be executed for treason not Perkin Warbeck who was not born an Englishman.
2. Many royals believed that he was the prince. (Scotland, Austria, France and Spain.) Could he have really fooled so many Kings and royals. Could he have gotten them to support him in war if he was not a prince?
3. The King and Queen of Spain wrote a letter that still survives today saying that all possible heirs ("the boy" and the Earl of Warwick) must be killed before they would allow Arthur to marry their daughter. They must have thought that "the boy" was in fact a true heir or there would have been no reason to require his execution.
4. The King of Scotland let him marry his daughter and even backed him up to fight for the crown. His daughter also believed that he was the prince

even after he was put to death.⁵ Margaret of Burgundy (Prince Richard's aunt) supported him. Would she have actually supported a "pretender"? Would she have really wanted non-royal blood on the throne?⁶ How did he become a gifted musician and learn to speak Latin (the real Richard was a talented musician and knew Latin as well). Is it probably that a pretender who not only looked like Richard and was born of a drunk would also be a talented musician and know Latin, just like the prince?⁷ Elizabeth's own mother supported "the boy". Would a mother actually support an imposter who would overthrow her daughter's husband and her own grandchild? Or would she only do this for her son?

I am not a historian and cannot argue about the facts described in this book. Probably, there are uncertainties and in some moments the behavior of the characters seems illogical. One can question the behavior of Elisabeth - the Queen of England - many times, especially since their marriage is referred to as rather happy and successful in alternative sources. But then again, the interpretation of happiness and success back then is very different from now...The book is well-written, it is really hard to put it away! The main historical facts are also confirmed by other sources. This is really a fascinating way to dive into history and I will definitely continue reading other books by this wonderful author. Without doubt, I do recommend this one!

The White Princess is yet another Phillipa Gregory novel about the War of the Roses full of love, passion, jealousy, deceit and murder. I especially liked the detail about Henry and Elizabeth's loveless marriage that survived because of their mutual admiration for the circumstances that their lives had dealt them. My only complaint was that it seemed to drag on a bit too long, without much action...but I guess this was like their lives, just a constant replay of the same old problems over and over again.

Repetitive dialog throughout the whole story. Like playing the same record over and over. No ending and we all know there was one.

If you're a history fan, this may not be the show for you. I enjoy Phillipa Gregory's books, but this show departs even from her dramatized storylines. With that said, the acting is good and if you can get past the historical inaccuracies (the series also states that it takes some liberties-which I appreciated), they you should watch it.

This is one of Gregory's best novels. I loved the series on Starz, but the book is so much better. Unlike the show, Elizabeth is not certain that the boy is her brother, nor does she try to be, knowing she has no real power. Lady Margaret is not the evil and murderous hag portrayed in the show. The series was enjoyable, but this book is very well written. I enjoyed Elizabeth's narrative.

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