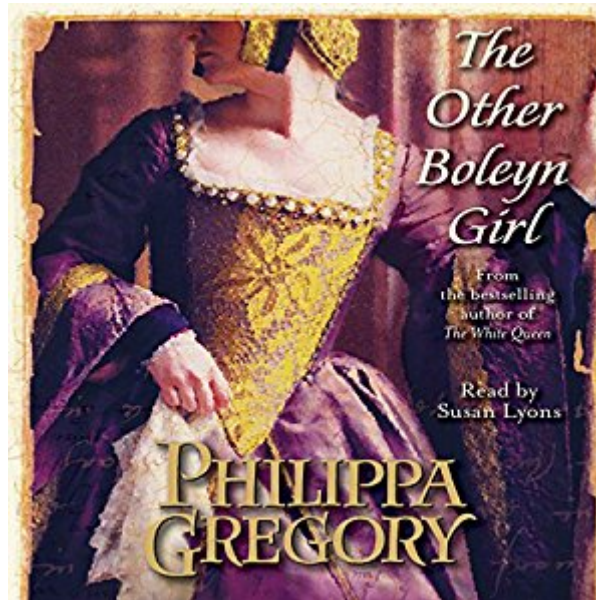




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# The Other Boleyn Girl



## Synopsis

When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of 14, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. Dazzled by the king, Mary falls in love with both the golden prince and her growing role as an unofficial queen. However, she soon realizes just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots when the king's interest begins to wane and she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her powerfully ambitious sister, Anne Boleyn. As Mary watches Anne manipulate her rise to the throne, Mary knows that she must defy her family and her king and take her fate into her own hands. A rich and compelling tale of love, ambition, lust, and intrigue, *The Other Boleyn Girl* introduces a woman of extraordinary determination and desire who lived at the very center of the most exciting and glamorous court in Europe and survived by following her heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am going to do this review as I would for anyone that knows about The Tudor history. There will only be spoilers if you do not know about the history of the Tudors at all. SO!! This one is one that had me by my heart strings. I was pulled in so many different directions! I even sat and contemplated how to do a review because there was just so much in this. Firstly, the only negative that I have. This is quite a long book. For someone that has learned a great deal about The Tudors some of the passages seemed a bit tedious. For someone new to the story and to their grand way of life however, I think every word is probably needed! For me though, it was just a tad on the long side. Now to the positives! First, Philippa Gregory's writing. Once again she dazzles with words in a way that few other authors can do. She has brought

this court life alive and I can easily see and feel what she is talking about. I also really enjoyed that this wasn't about all of the Tudors but mainly about Mary. As the narrator of the story we only know what Mary knows and what she feels. This leaves a lot open for interpretation when it comes to Anne and the rest of her family but we know exactly how Mary feels and I just loved that. I was surprised at just how conniving Anne really was. I mean at every point in her life she is working to better herself and her family but it was herself first and foremost. She is greedy and dishonest and it really showed. But still I feel for her even as I judge her. She went too high and could not see what she was doing to herself before it was way too late. In short: I think Philippa Gregory yet again wrote a masterpiece filled with charms and poison. It's a fabulous yet such a sad read. 4.5/5

I love anything by Philippa Gregory! I love the way she makes History breathe. I know it is Historical fiction and she did phenomenal amounts of research before she "fleshed it out", though she makes the characters so life like. It is very easy to disappear into this book and feel as if you are watching all of the excitement at English court. Gotta get 'em all! I have 5 in this series.

The only reason I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5 is because of the length. It is a very long novel and I truly believe the same effect could have been achieved with less writing. It got boring in places where I felt like just skimming through a few pages and then picking it up later on in the next chapter. We read this as part of a local book club "assignment" and several of our members did not even make it through the entire book. I will say that it is pretty true to the historical time period and that makes it interesting to anyone who has a passion for historical fiction/fact.

I really enjoyed the story of Mary Boleyn, "other Boleyn girl," The author presents the Boleyns' story with a wealth of detail and it seems to be well researched. I learned a great deal about the reign of King Henry VIII and his court and was sad to learn how women (and men) were used as political pawns. The elite of that era had many privileges and were fortunate to live extremely well compared to the "common folk", but it came with the price of their personal liberty and ability to forge their own destinies. The story of how the Boleyn family, especially Mary and her more famous sister, Ann, both prospered and suffered is well worth reading. .

I have read the Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory once before, but this time I read it with new eyes. First off, I love anything by Philippa Gregory because she is a true historian (from costumes to

the weather and geography) and marvel at her work. As an author of historical novels, I can see she has done her homework and in-depth characterization, Henry VIII would have his own page in the DSM-V today. It's hard to imagine that any woman (now or then) would want to be associated with him, but of course, then, women did what they were told to do. Too bad that he destroyed both Boleyn sisters and rewrote history. I do believe that the Inquisition took off because of him.

This is truly one of my favorite books. It is the one that got me so interested in the Tudor history and I can't tell you how many times I have read it. Originally I had a paperback copy and I read that until it fell apart which is when I got the Ebook. I love the words that she uses to describe all of the scenery and makes you feel like you are there. You can almost personally feel the jealousy, hatred, love and horror that Mary feels towards Anne sometimes. From her stealing her son to the sadness she feels when her sister and brother are beheaded. It is the ultimate story of what people will do to succeed and to survive. Give this books a try. I don't think you will be disappointed.

I've read "Other Boleyn Girl" before, but after seeing "The Tudors" and other shows, this is the one that sets the standard! Unforgettable character studies wrapped in intrigue and passion and a story you can't put down!

I had previously read this book several years ago and recently decided that I would like to own a copy in my library. I have always been fascinated by the history of the English throne, the story of the kings, queens, etc. A few years ago, the movie came out with Eric Bana and the book received a lot of attention, however and as always, the book is exponentially better than any movie could ever be. This is a wonderful tale of a king and his quest to have an heir to the throne and is consistently met with disappointment when he is unable to have sons, but daughters instead. This book is full of mystery, betrayal, love and passion. It is a wonderful read and highly recommended.

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