



Gay Lord Robert

Jean Plaidy

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There was only one thing which Robert Dudley could not do, and that was to make any woman cease to love him. Now that Elizabeth was Queen of England, the romance which began with their shared captivity in the grim Tower of London blossomed into a mutual longing.. With the crown so nearly in his grasp, how could Robert let Amy Robsart, his sweet young wife, stand between him and the sons the Queen must bear?

Gay Lord Robert Details

Date : Published 1970 by Pan Books Ltd (first published 1955)

ISBN : 9780330025805

Author : Jean Plaidy

Format : Paperback 317 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, English History, Tudor Period

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Helene Harrison says

Review - I really enjoyed this take on the life of Robert Dudley, and his relationship with Elizabeth I. You can tell that Jean Plaidy really did her research, reading available sources, including the Tilbury speech which is quoted in full. It is also interesting to see Plaidy's take on the death of Amy Robsart and the secret marriage of Robert Dudley and Lettice Knollys, as well as Robert's relationship with Elizabeth I over her other suitors. Definitely worth a read.

Genre? - Historical

Characters? - Robert Dudley / Elizabeth I / Amy Robsart / Lettice Knollys / William Cecil / Douglass Sheffield / Christopher Hatton / Francis Walsingham

Setting? - London & Kenilworth (England)

Series? - Tudor #10

Recommend? – Yes

Rating - 17/20

Maggie says

Sort of along the lines of Alison Weir's Marriage Game, (which I really didn't enjoy) but from the Dudley point.

This was way way better, none of the wishy washy nonsense about them not doing the deed, but nothing about them doing it either. This account is the one i would like to believe, Robert Dudley fell in love with Elizabeth during their time in the Tower, the fact that he (and she) believed that one day she would be Queen added to the attraction, their love for each other endured her many suitors and his roaming eye, he married late in life, and only after he knew there was no chance of the Queen ever marrying. It gives little doubt that Elizabeth & Robert were a couple in all but marriage, how different things would have been had they married!

Jean Plaidy writes beautifully and you wouldn't think that these books were not new releases, first published around 1955 with the title Gay Lord Robert and re-printed in the 1970's.

Dar B says

This enjoyable work is about Robert Dudley and the love shared between him and Queen Elizabeth I. Dudley descended from a family of ambitious men, and their ambition had been their undoing. However, Robert

found himself attracted to the Queen of England, for ambition's sake but also for the passion she felt towards him.

This story is Jean Plaidy's look at the life of Dudley, through the scandal of the death of his wife Amy Robsart, which has left historians puzzling over the cause. Her detailed and tedious research brought her to the conclusions that she has set forth in this novel. She covers all bases including Robert's involvement with Douglass Sheffield and his secret marriage to Lettice Knolleys, all the while trying to maintain his place in the heart of the Queen, as well as his position at court.

Plaidy is a master historical novelist and tells this story by switching between the views of many; Robert, Elizabeth, her handmaid Kat, a young boy who evoked their mutual love in the Tower, even Amy and her maid Pinto! I believe that this is one of Jean's better written novels.

Anne Harvey says

Another telling of the love story between Queen Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley, this one by mistress of historical romance, Jean Plaidy. Originally written in 1964, the version I read was reissued in 2006. I think the original book must have been scanned using OCR (Optical character recognition) as I noticed several glaring errors (Casde for castle, and test for rest being two examples.) Because it was originally written in 1964 in a more elaborate style than used by today's writers of historical fiction, for example Elizabeth Chadwick and Anne O'Brien, I found this heavy going. This, and the three star review, may well upset some Jean Plaidy fans for which I can only apologise. As with everything else, opinion is very subjective.

Rose Pavlicek says

Jean Plaidy is famous for her thorough research and fascinating writing. What she is not famous for is getting me hooked on the life of Elizabeth Tudor over forty years ago. I've read fiction and nonfiction on the subject. This book is one of my favorite fictional accounts. Thank you Ms. Plaidy!

Melinda says

I love Jean Plaidy books. I had this sitting on my shelf for a couple years, thinking that I had already read it...turns out I hadn't read it at all! So I eagerly picked it up and started reading.

The beginning is interesting, where it starts off with John Dudley witnessing the beheading of his father Edmund Dudley, at the start of Henry VIII's reign. So you get some back story about the Dudley family and what prompted the ambitions of the family for several generations.

Eventually the story moves on to Robert and his story revolving Elizabeth and the other ladies in his life. For the most part, the story moves between Robert, Elizabeth and Amy. There were a few things that I did not like. First, Elizabeth has BROWN eyes! Second, is it necessary to portray Amy like a child/puppy with no ideas of her own? Third, it just barely skims the surface of Robert's other relationships later on in his life. Fourth, the story was so slow in moving that it bordered line was boring. Definitely not filled with passions and thrills unlike other books written about Robert and Elizabeth. You have two very passionate real life

people, it doesn't take much to write them together (after all it was reality, parts of it at least).

I did appreciate parts of the story told through Pinto's view, as she would hold a much different view of Robert and Amy due to her status in the household.

But this is definitely not one of the better stories about Robert and Elizabeth that is out there. Even Phillippa Gregory's story was much more interesting and less whiny.

Amanda says

Loved getting to read Jean Plaidy's book about Queen Elizabeth I and her love Robert Dudley. I really enjoyed Jean's books about Queen Victoria and really loved this one as I was always fascinated by England's queens. Great how this told both Elizabeth's and Robert's histories and switching with their point of views and telling their love story.

Ashley Dean says

The book seemed to fly by historically and didn't really delve into the actual romance as deeply I believe it could have. It was nice to get a general overview and learn a side of the characters' story, but some actions also didn't make sense. It was hard to understand WHY Elizabeth never married Robert, and I wish this book had created some form of clarification. Even one just for the fictional side of this historical fiction since in real life we will never know. There was just something unsettling as I read, and I found myself more so wanting to read the book to end it rather than read for enjoyment. Nonetheless, I am happy I took the time to do so. This time period fascinates me and I never really looked into this relationship before.

mary says

While starting off a bit better than it finished, this book was rather dry and boring throughout. Good read but not as intense as Phillapa Gregory's similar book which was a real page turner. The book does provide better context for the evolution of the Dudley family and their power than does Gregory. You will enjoy this book if you are interested in the Tudors and the rise of Elizabeth I, and if you are interested in good historical fiction.

Louise Fry says

Simply amazing writing - perfectly written and switched through different points of life and covered from infant to death and it was fascinatingly beautiful !

Christine Cazeneuve says

I enjoyed the book but I will admit I am not a huge fan of Queen Elizabeth I in regards to her love life. As all Jean Plaidy books it is well written and keeps you engrossed from start to finish.

Marilyn Burgin says

While this book is listed as number 11 in the Tudor series by Jean Plaidy, it can stand alone easily without the need to read the previous volumes. Plaidy tells the story of the romance and friendship between Queen Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley with all the complications of their relationship from childhood to Dudley's death immediately after the battle with the Spanish Armada. The author tells the story of these 2 complicated, strong-willed, ruthless, and passionate characters in such a way that the reader cannot put the book down. If you like history and romance, this book is for you.

Amanda says

Robert Dudley came from a family of ambitious men, and their ambition had been their undoing. This Dudley however found himself attracted to the Queen of England, both by his ambition and personally.[return]This is a comprehensive look at the life of Dudley, through the scandal of the death of his wife Amy Robsart, his dalliance with Douglass Sheffield, and his secret marriage to Lettice Knolleys. All the while trying to maintain his position at Court, and his place in the heart of the Queen.

Victoria Frow says

Very good. The characters were well developed and were brought back to life through this story. Jean Plaidy is always a favourite of mine as you can tell she has researched the era well as you feel like you are within the settings and with the characters as they are so rich in detail but that it doesn't overwhelm you.

Stephanie Tracy says

This was an excellent story of Queen Elizabeth's friendship (and possibly more) with Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester. The book spans from the time that Robert is born, all the way to his death upon the English defeat of the Spanish Armada. It is a touching story of the Queen's love, and the difficult decisions she had to make regarding marriage versus ruling her country as a single monarch. Jean Plaidy gives us a glimpse into her innermost thoughts and pains, and it's a very clear-cut version of one of the most controversial 'friendships' of those times. One thing I wasn't crazy about was that, at times, Robert was portrayed as a sort of villain - being made responsible for the death of his first wife Amy Robsart, in addition to a few other murders in the story. Although we do not know for sure if he was innocent of these deaths, being a Robert Dudley fan myself, I like to think he was! I recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Robert or Queen Elizabeth!
