



The Tudor Wife

Emily Purdy

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Shy, plain Lady Jane Parker feels out of place in Henry VIII's courtly world of glamour and intrigue-until she meets the handsome George Boleyn. Overjoyed when her father arranges their marriage her elation is abruptly cut short when she meets Anne...

The Tudor Wife Details

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Elysium says

One day Jane get lost in court and gallant young man comes to rescue and escorts her to her rooms. She finds out his name is George Boleyn and she just can't get him out of her mind. Jane convinces her father to start marriage negotiations but her father has doubts about the whole thing. But Jane is sure after she and George are married he will fall in love with her and be attentive and caring husband. After the marriage Jane realizes George wants absolutely nothing to do with her. But Jane refuses to accept the situation and soon finds the reason why her husband doesn't love her, George's sister Anne.

Wow, that was an interesting book. And not in a good way. When Jane meets George for the first time she instantly falls in love.

"My eyes were so dazzled by the sight of him I almost raised my hand to shield them, but to be deprived of the radiant sight of him would have been unbearable. A god in yellow satin, he was indeed the sun that lit up my life." pg.16

That pretty much sums up the whole book. I just wanted to strangle the woman! Of course it's because of his fiends, sister or whatever that he can't love her, because there can't possible be anything wrong with her can there? She seemed always to be there when something happened and those keyholes must have been huge and walls paper thin.

The sex scenes wasn't as graphic as I feared but not good either. The whole masque thing with Anne as Salome and Henry Norris in a loin cloth was one thing but I really didn't need that Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard scene with pot of honey, even if it was behind curtains. And Derham's and Kat's first meeting after Derham came to court with Derham licking juices of his fingers was just bad... And then this:

"To watch you, my darling wife, and to know that you want me, deny it though you will, as much as I want you; and that between your thighs your Little Kitten is hot and dripping wet with lust for me." pg. 386

Aww how romantic. NOT. Just eeww!

The only characters I liked were George and Francis Weston. Have I mentioned I have soft spot for George? Well I do.

I was curious about Purdy's book on Piers Gaveston but after this I'm so not going there!

Aoife says

The ill-fated tale of Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard told by a woman who served them both -Jane Parker, Anne Boleyn's sister in law and a woman who turned her over to her killers.

This was an interesting take on the tale of Anne Boleyn. Once you're read one story about the Boleyn's, they all start to blend in to each other and it probably takes a lot for one to stand out. This didn't stand out and it took me a while to get into (maybe just the bitterness of each word being told by Parker. The hate and

disgust was very evident throughout, which I guess meant it was written well). I enjoyed this book for what it was though and I would recommend anyone who likes some Tudor novels to pick it up.

Veena says

ANNE BOLEYN is a historical character that has astonished me, and I am sure many others. After watching different series and documentaries I was very much obsessed with the Tudor queens, Anne Boleyn especially. When I came across this book in a recent sale I instantly knew learning about the queens from a lady-in-waiting's perspective is going to be something else! I started reading this book as soon as I bought it. This is definitely a piece of art that anyone interested in the English royalty must read!

for complete review, visit:

<http://acupofcoffeeandafairytales.blog...>

Joyceling says

How did I get conned into reading this? Poorly written Rubbish. No way am I going to sample her subsequent books. Be warned.

Dandy says

Well, first of all I must say that I have a special interest in Lady Rochford. so any book that talks about her, I'll like. so I do not know if I'm very objective or not. but well, I'm going to give my opinion about this book. I read different opinions before buying it, so it was interesting to read them, but logically, I had to read it myself to make my own opinion. so I bought it through amazon and Well, I must say that I liked the book a lot. It has been very entertaining ;)

Since I do not like to reveal anything, I will not tell anything else. I will simply say that the book has exceeded all my expectations. I liked it a lot in general. the writer's way of writing, I like it a lot. I have enjoyed reading it a lot. each page has been interesting, I have even read some pages twice, because I liked it a lot. There was a lot of information ;)) and I did not want to miss anything. in short, I am very happy, and I will read it again in the future, that's for sure. Again I have to say that Lady Rochford is a character that I like a lot, so it is normal that I enjoyed reading this book, so entertaining and exciting ;)) I congratulate the author. happy 2018 to all readers

Elizabeth Ann Cyrus says

The last book i read by Emily Purdy, i did not enjoy. However this book was much better. I have never looked at Jane before or considered her view.

A wonderful book

Olga Hughes says

I wouldn't even waste a paragraph, let alone a whole review. Steaming hot garbage. Minus twelve.

chucklesthescot says

Jane Parker is being married to rising star George Boleyn, brother of Henry's next Queen, Anne. Jane is immediately jealous of the close bond between George and Anne, especially as her new husband shows no interest at all in her. Jealous Jane then gets an opportunity for revenge by testifying against Anne, sending her and many men including George to the block. Her return to court ends in her assisting young Catherine Howard to have an affair behind the King's back.

This was one of my favourite Tudor books as I have always been interested in the infamous Lady Rochford. I have a biography about her waiting on my tbr pile! I first read about her in Philippa Gregory's excellent novels *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The Boleyn Inheritance* and she was such a great character, full of spite and bitterness and evil intentions. This book goes into more depth about Jane and her obsessive jealousy and the lengths she will go to in order to make George love her, and get revenge on Anne. It's a pity that her planning skills did not see that she was condemning George to death along with Anne!

I can relate to the Jane in this book, happily planning her wedding to a top man at court who she loves, as it is unusual for a woman to get a love match in Tudor times, only to find him cold and uncaring and more interested in spending time with his sister and bawdy friends than her. You can imagine her hurt and misery as she watches him have affairs with other people. And I have a mean streak that likes to imagine getting my own back on people who have done me wrong, so watching Jane in action does give me a sense of satisfaction! I do find myself wondering why she was stupid enough to help Catherine have an affair, knowing the consequences if you get caught.

An excellent book for Tudor fans especially those interested in the Boleyn family. If you like *The Boleyn Inheritance*, you might want to give this one a try.

Maureen says

Enjoyed reading about all the characters in this book, loved the intrigue and scandals

Rinske says

This is a romanticized novel based on real history about 4 of Henry VIII's six wives through the eyes of a lady-in-waiting. The lady in question is Jane Boleyn, sister in law to Anne Boleyn and instrumental in her downfall. The whole book centers around her jealousy of Anne and the love between Anne and her brother (Jane's husband).

In the end, this jealousy also causes Jane's downfall.

The book is nicely written, good pace, with eye for historical detail. All in all a nice read.

Laura says

I was so pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this book! I raced through it extremely quickly because I just couldn't put it down! I'm not sure why, but I initially fully expected to hate this book - it has some fairly negative reviews, and after reading them I just expected it to be dreadful. I suppose that it just goes to show that if you're intrigued or interested in a book - give it a go, just because other people don't like it, doesn't mean that your opinion will be the same!

Anyway, onto my thoughts on the book ...

"The Tudor Wife" is basically a story about the goings on at Henry VIII's court from the 1520's to the 1540's (from Queen Catherine of Aragon to Katherine Howard), told from the point of view of Lady Jane Parker. (I know that it could be argued that tales of the Tudor court have been seriously overdone of late, but even so I still really enjoyed the book!) The harsh truth is that Jane's a bit of a nobody really; dull, plain, needy and quite boring. She's also hopelessly in love with George Boleyn, brother of the ill-fated 2nd wife of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn. Unfortunately for Jane though, George has no feelings for her whatsoever, and that fact becomes even harder for her to bear when the two are forced by their parents to marry one another. I can't imagine anything more horrible than being completely in love with and married to someone who doesn't care for you in the slightest, who just has no time for you at all. And to make matters worse, George's (some might say 'unnatural') love for his sister Anne is constantly rubbed in Jane's face causing her to become increasingly jealous and full of loathing for anyone who George loves or cares for. It's this jealousy and hatred that builds up and builds up, leading Jane to become the bitter, twisted, unstable woman that she is.

It was so much fun reading a story from the point of view of an unstable, unreliable and pretty unlikeable character like Jane Parker! She starts off as a pretty shy, inoffensive but rather bland woman - but her unsatisfying and unhappy marriage to George and her involvement in court politics and intrigues soon turn her into a cruel, destructive person and taint her to the point where you actually lose all sympathy for her! She is a schemer and a plotter who tries to destroy those she is jealous of - and in many instances she succeeds! It was a unique and interesting experience from the point of a view of a reader - to find yourself rooting for every other single character in the book but the main protagonist!

Emily Purdy's attention to detail was fantastic and very gripping - I particularly liked the sumptuous and luxurious way she described the clothes the characters were wearing! I suppose my only quibble that I thought the ending was slightly rushed - lots of time seemed to be spent on the parts of the story where Anne Boleyn was Queen, and the parts where Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard reigned felt very quickly done - but that is a very minor thing!

I'll definitely be reading more by Emily Purdy :)

Kirsten says

This one has gained some notoriety on the historical fiction blogs, mostly for its infamous sex scenes, and I'm a sucker for anything that promises to be so bad it's good.

I am disappoint.

There are a few unintentionally hilarious scenes - Lady Rochford, the Duke of Norfolk, and Francis Weston all rolling around on the floor brawling while Anne Boleyn has a miscarriage sprung to mind, or the Dance of Salome scene - and some pretty wtf-inducing pairings that seem like they were churned out by some Tudors Crack Pairing generator, but on the whole... meh. The sex is bad, don't get me wrong. No one needs to imagine Henry VIII having sex in that kind of detail, and there's just enough slurping and pink petals and meaty fingers to make you go "ew", but I've read more hilariously bad stuff in my time. I dunno, maybe I'm just jaded. My one reservation re: the sexual content is that I did feel the portrayal of Katherine Howard was needlessly exploitative.

Really, the book is pretty tedious. I was kinda left with the impression that Purdy had intended, at the start, to go for a nuanced portrayal of the figures involved, but then decided to fall back on the usual old stereotypes and long-discredited myths (six fingers, anyone?). After that, it's a lot of slogging through a lot of purple prose and endless, repetitive, minutely-detailed descriptions of fancy Tudor dresses.

Meh.

Redfox5 says

Why I ever get tire of books about the Tudors? I don't think so! I can't get enough of this period in history. It's the most exciting and scandalous time in British history!

The story of Anne and Katherine Howard is told through the eyes of Jane Parker. I tried really really hard to see things through Jane's eyes, I tried to sympathise with her. I mean we have all been prone to the green eyed monster from time to time and have suffered with unrequited love but I just couldn't. My love for Anne is too strong. And I still hated that biatch!

The author put a couple of new racy twists in the story. Katherine and Anne of Cleves becoming lovers. Jane and Cromwell having a child. Shocking. I'm sure people who love historical accuracy will be throwing down this book and calling it trash but I don't mind history being altered for entertainment value. There is also a particularly grim moment where Henry wipes his willy on Anne's hair after he's finished with her. What a charming man he must have been!

Overall this book was very entertaining and I didn't want to put it down. Makes me want to re watch the Tudors all over again, not that I haven't watched it more times than I can count.

The only thing that annoyed me, and this has nothing to do with the story. It must have been the publishers idea is that this book is actually called 'Vengeance is Mine' and the authors name is actually Brandy. So the title and the authors name has been changed just for a British audience. Do they really think the Brits are such snobs that we wouldn't read a book by someone called Brandy?

Charlotte Bird says

SOME SPOILER ALERTS!

..Although, it's historical fiction, we know what happens anyway, right?

So, this wasn't a bad book. It wasn't great either though. It took me a while to read it as I have it in e-book form on my phone for when I have time to read but don't have my book, which sometimes happens at work. As a result it was sporadic read interspersed with all the paperbacks I was reading properly.

The tale of Henry VIII chasing Anne Boleyn and marrying and executing her has been told so many times from so many angles now that it's getting a bit stale. There isn't really an original way to do it anymore. I understand they desire to write about it; it's my favourite snapshot from history and I'm a huge Anne Boleyn fan (to the point I have her motto tattooed on my ribs!) but all that's happening now is the same story is being rewritten over and over. It was a slightly original take telling it from Jane Boleyn's standpoint (although Philippa Gregory did it first in parts of *The Boleyn Inheritance*) but it was still the same story. I don't think it needs to be told anymore.

The take on Anne Boleyn was the generic modern one; innocent of the crimes she was accused of, but otherwise a terrible flirt and a bit of a harpy. Despite modern acceptance that she wasn't a witch and most likely wasn't an adulteress, the opinion that she was a basically nasty woman prevails. It would be nice to see an author look past that particular bit of Tudor propaganda. A woman can be witty and sarcastic without being a bitch.

The picture of Jane as unhinged out of unrequited love and jealousy was tolerably well written but nothing exciting; it didn't tug the heart strings or anything.

The Boleyn phase of the saga was basically just another viewpoint on the well known tale, and yet it took up most of the book. Kathryn Howard's story took up much less of the book, and yet that is the story the populace is less familiar with and so surely has more scope for writers. Yet it kind of felt like once Anne Boleyn was finished with the writer just plodded through the rest.

So, Kathryn Howard was as ever, and probably accurately, portrayed as the over-sexualised, damaged young plaything of the king ill-equipped for the treachery of court. Lady Rochford was, in this case, her sour faced accomplice.

The only new thing in this book, as far as I know it hasn't been done before anyway, was Kathryn's lesbian romp with Anne of Cleves and a jar of honey. What the hell? Seriously? I didn't know where to put myself reading that. I think suggesting Henry VIII's former and current queens lathered each other in honey then licked it off is stepping firmly out of the realm of historical fiction.

All in all, a bit samey. Nothing new or exciting, and just plain odd in parts.

Vanessa says

With "The Tudor Wife" Ms. Purdy has written a novel that is somewhere between historical fiction and soap opera --- the writing is vivid and detailed, and it felt like a movie was playing right in front of my eyes. However, there were some scenes that I did not like at all, and that did not seem to fit the rest of the story --- I felt that the book could have been much better if a few scenes had been left out.

The book essentially tells the story of Anne Boleyn through the eyes of her sister-in-law Jane Boleyn, wife of

Anne's beloved brother George. Jane is a mean-spirited, hateful, and despicable character, and more often than not while reading this book I would shake my head in disbelief at the things Jane said or did out of pure jealousy.

One one hand I could understand where some of her behaviour was coming from --- she was desperately in love with George, who in turn did not care at all about her and chose to spend all his time with his friends and his sister Anne, leaving Jane an unwelcome outsider. On the other hand, the way she behaved towards Anne (and at times George as well) probably made things much worse than they would have been if she had tried to actually like and befriend Anne and get on George's good side in that way.

The biggest part of the book is devoted to the period of time from the moment Jane first meets Anne to the moment of Anne's execution. I think it might have been better if Ms. Purdy had ended her story with (or shortly after) George and Anne's executions. Instead she tacked on another 100 pages about the years after that, with the first few of those pages being about Jane Seymour and Anna of Cleves, and the remaining pages about Jane's involvement in the fall of Henry VIII's fifth queen, Katherine Howard (ironically, a cousin of Anne Boleyn), and her subsequent death.

But where the first (and biggest) part of the book --- the one that contained the story of Jane, George and Anne --- was really good and kept me turning the pages, the rest of it felt like it had just been tacked on to add some length to the novel.

I think "The Tudor Wife" will appeal to readers who enjoy light historical fiction and are at least a little familiar with the history of Tudor England. Keep in mind, though, that this is a work of historical fiction, and the author did take quite a few liberties (read: it's not exactly historically accurate).

Overall, I liked it, and I think Ms. Purdy's writing has a lot of potential. Would I read another book by this author again? Absolutely.
