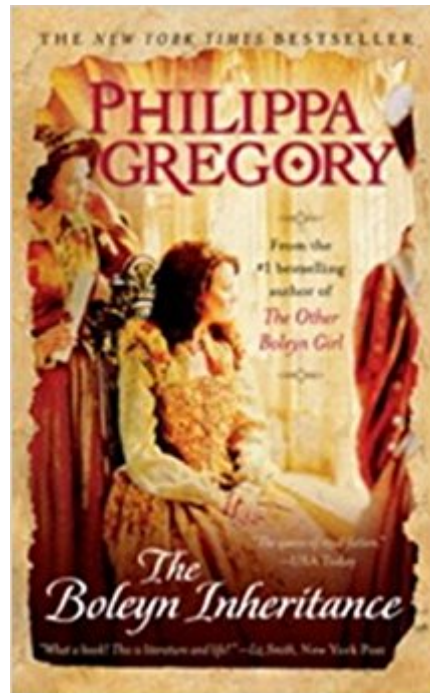




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# The Boleyn Inheritance



## Synopsis

From the queen of royal fiction comes this > bestseller featuring three very different women whose fates are each bound by a bloody curse: the legacy of the Boleyn family. After the death of his third wife, Jane Seymour, King Henry VIII of England decides to take a new wife, but this time, not for love. > follows three women whose lives are forever changed because of the king's decision, as they must balance precariously in an already shaky Tudor Court. Anne of Cleves is to be married to Henry to form a political alliance, though the rocky relationship she has to the king does not bode well for her or for England. Katherine Howard is the young, beautiful woman who captures Henry's eye, even though he is set to marry Anne. Her spirit runs free and her passions run hot though her affections may not be returned upon the King. Jane Rochford was married to George Boleyn, and it was her testimony that sent her husband and infamous sister-in-law Anne to their deaths. Throughout the country, her name is known for malice, jealousy, and twisted lust. > is a novel drawn tight as a lute string about three women whose positions brought them wealth, admirations, and power, as well as deceit, betrayal, and terror.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Returning to the scene of *The Other Boleyn Girl*, historical powerhouse Gregory again brings the women of Henry VIII's court vividly to life. Among the cast, who alternately narrate: Henry's fourth wife, Bavarian-born Anne of Cleves; his fifth wife, English teenager Katherine Howard; and Lady Rochford (Jane Boleyn), the jealous spouse whose testimony helped send her husband... and sister-in-law Anne Boleyn to their execution. Attended by Lady Rochford,

24-year-old Anne of Cleves endures a disastrous first encounter with the twice-her-age king "an occasion where Henry takes notice of Katherine Howard. Gregory beautifully explains Anne of Cleves's decision to stay in England after her divorce, and offers contemporary descriptions of Lady Rochford's madness. While Gregory renders Lady Rochford with great emotion, and Anne of Cleves with sympathy, her most captivating portrayal is Katherine, the clever yet naïve 16th-century adolescent counting her gowns and trinkets. Male characters are not nearly as endearing. Gregory's accounts of events are accurate enough to be persuasive, her characterizations modern enough to be convincing. Rich in intrigue and irony, this is a tale where readers will already know who was divorced, beheaded or survived, but will savor Gregory's sharp staging of how and why. (Dec. 5) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Just when we think we have heard the last of the Boleyns, after *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2002), Gregory resurrects the ill-fated family in the persona of Jane Boleyn, Lady Rochford. After her damning testimony results in the execution of both her husband and her sister-in-law, Anne Boleyn, Jane continues her ruthless scheming as she serves as lady-in-waiting to Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's reviled Bavarian-born fourth wife, and naïve, doomed [fifth] wife, Catherine Howard. Narrated in turn by this trio of intriguing women, this tale of court politics and treachery unfolds from three equally compelling points of view. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

This book makes a good follow-up to the movie "The Other Boleyn Girl," which I saw just before I read this book. The book is told from the perspectives of three women: Jane Boleyn (she refers to Anne as her "sister," which is confusing because she was her sister-in-law), Anne of Cleves and young Katherine Howard. The book's biggest flaw is that it was somewhat tedious to read Katherine's entries, with so much greedy focus on her possessions. It was interesting to read about an era vastly different from our own. Back then, a 50 year old was considered of "great age" (elderly) and impotence was often blamed on a curse, witch's spell or "ill-wishing." Court life was of course very interesting. Everyone around Henry was in danger - "The fire of the king's displeasure can burn up anyone". - "kinship with the king gives no immunity from fear, friendship with the king gives no safety." There was also no shortage of enemies within the court - "Everyone is always our enemy, but right now we are winning." Women were just pawns in the game. Philippa Gregory writes well and describes things in an interesting way, for example "Katherine holds his attention like a

dancing mayfly holds the attention of the fat, gaping carp." The book's title is clever and explained towards the end of the book.

This is a tough one. I wanted to give it three stars, but it WAS a fun and easy read so will bump it up. Big problem was some of the inaccuracies and a few anachronisms, which was strange because on other things the author gets some very obscure and little-known details correct. One example that is small but will likely annoy anybody familiar with Anne Boleyn's execution: they keep mentioning her putting her head on the block, but in her case there was no block. With a sword execution, the person being executed kneels upright. Also, wasn't too crazy about the wrap-up at the end, but I actually did appreciate the presentation of Jane's character, and Katherine was amusing.

Three stars only because I've enjoyed reading other books by this author. This one seems to fall flat. Maybe it's due to having too many viewpoints presented, or maybe because of the characters themselves, but it's a chore to continue reading. Normally I can't a book down easily, but I find I have trouble making myself read any more. It's disappointing for me.

I love English history and have been fascinated by Henry the VIII since I was a child. I also love Philippa Gregory's work. She truly brings life to the characters from history. I really enjoyed this particular novel because of the Queens it focuses on. Not much is really ever said of Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard. They tend to be glossed over in the history books and the attention goes to Anne Boeyln and Katherine of Aragon. And Philippa does a great job of giving these two queens center stage! She creates the tension that must have tormented these two women very well. The reason I chose to give this story four stars instead of five is because the way the story is told. It is a first person story told by three different women. You have Jane Boeyln, Katherine Howard and Anee of Cleves. It took me by surprise and at first I wasn't sure I would like it. However, I grew to enjoy it. It gave the story a bit more depth. I especially enjoyed Katherine, as she was portrayed as a bit of an vain little fool which was very entertaining. I would recommend this author to anyone who enjoys history. I have read many of her books, and plan on reading more by her. A very good book!

I have read the Boleyn books by Philippa Gregory and found this one to be just as interesting as The Other Boleyn Sister and The Constant Princess (which I love). This one focuses on three different women, two queens and one woman who waited on both of them. The characters are all

different from one another and makes for a great juicy story. I am not familiar with these women during the later years of Henry's life, so I am not reading this to get an accurate sense of the history piece. I read this for entertainment and perhaps get my curiosity piqued, which it did. I think of all the characters in this book, Anne is my favorite. She is the only wife to have survive Henry's wrath (besides Katherine Parr, who just merely survived Henry's death). She was raised in a strict Protestant home by a strict mother and a loving father. Her brother arranged for her to marry Henry, and their marriage really was made for political reasons. In spite of Henry's aversion to her, he treated her well, even though she ended her life alone without children ten years after he had died. She used her head throughout the tumultuous reign of Henry and the reader can sense the fear, hopes and sadness of this woman. The next person is Kitty Howard, a young pawn in the Duke of Norfolk's hands as he greedily schemes for power to put the next Howard/Boleyn child on the throne. Kitty in this book is a vain and not very smart woman, more concerned with getting "presents" and being surrounded by handsome men, beautiful things and laughter. She really is a child and it is hard not to feel sympathy for this character because she is young and silly and a very weak pawn in the game of chess her uncle was playing with the future of England at stake. And Lady Jane. I wish I had the copy of *The Other Boleyn Sister* on hand so I could go back and refer to it again. I have to think that this woman is the most deluded character of this book. She betrayed her husband and her sister-in-law out of jealousy. She watched them die and she managed to escape from death by the graces of her uncle, the same Duke of Norfolk. Sent to court to help Anne of Cleve, she also betrayed her by saying that the queen's marriage was not valid since she was precontracted before. (To Anne's credit, she didn't deny it even though it meant a lonely life for her without a spouse or children. However, in comparison to the other queens, it was worth it.) Lady Jane then tries to lure Kitty down the path of destruction by arranging Kitty to meet with Thomas, her lover in hopes that Kitty will get pregnant and that child will be the future king of England, thus restoring the Boleyn/Howard lineage to royalty. Lady Jane really is a pathetic character who is also repulsive. I am currently watching that popular Showtime series, "The Tudors" and this book is fueling my interest in the Tudor family again. It isn't hard to imagine Henry getting older, fatter and more insane. It is a fascinating look into the royals of that time ... but it is also sad to realize, that things have not really changed all that much since then. This is an excellent read and a wonderful insight to two queens that I know nothing about. It is an excellent insight to human nature as a novelist can provide. This is a wonderful rainy day book. If you like historical fiction, you will like this one. The stories are interwoven and easily followable. It is just a fantastic book!

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