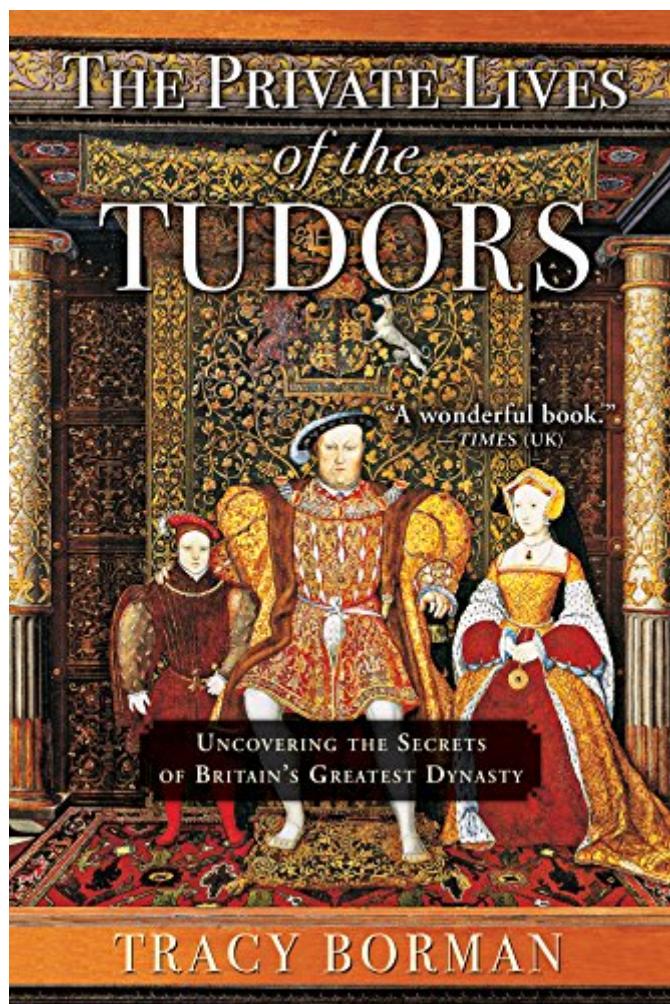


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The Private Lives Of The Tudors: Uncovering The Secrets Of Britain's Greatest Dynasty



Synopsis

England's Tudor monarchs—Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I—are perhaps the most celebrated and fascinating of all royal families in history. Their love affairs, their political triumphs, and their overturning of the religious order are the subject of countless works of popular scholarship. But for all we know about Henry's quest for male heirs, or Elizabeth's purported virginity, the lives of the Tudor monarchs away from the public eye remain largely beyond our grasp, mostly not chronicled by previous historians. In *The Private Lives of the Tudors*, acclaimed historian Tracy Borman delves deep behind the public face of the monarchs, showing us what their lives were like beyond the stage of the court. Drawing on original material from those closest to them—courtiers like the "groom of the stool," a much-coveted position, surprisingly—Borman examines Tudor life in fine detail. What did the monarchs eat? What clothes did they wear, and how were they designed, bought, and cared for? How did they wield power? When sick, how were they treated? What games did they play? How did they practice their faith? And whom did they love, and how did they give birth to the all-important heirs? Exploring their education, upbringing, sexual lives, and taking us into the kitchens, bathrooms, schoolrooms, and bedrooms at court, *The Private Lives of the Tudors* charts the course of the entire dynasty, surfacing new and fascinating insights into these celebrated figures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had the great pleasure to be seated next to Ms. Borman at a dinner at Hever Castle last Spring and can say that she is equally as engaging and enthusiastic in person as she is in her writing. We discussed her recent discovery of an alter cloth which appears to be the repurposed gown Elizabeth wore for the Rainbow Portrait which can be seen at Hatfield House. Her excitement was genuine and contagious! It is being conserved by the Royal Needlework Guild and will hopefully be on display soon, possibly at Hampton Court where the Guild is housed. That said, even though I have read a great deal about the Tudor Dynasty, I still learned new things from this book. For instance, did you know that Dr. Dees, Elizabeth's astrologer, was employed by Cecil as a spy and signed his correspondence "007"!!! The viewpoint on how the Tudors lived in private is unique and engrossing. If you are a fan of the Tudors-don't miss this one!

Tracy Borman's The Private Lives of the Tudors is a rich history that slips behind the privacy of the throne and describes the Tudor monarchy in luscious detail. Colorful and filled with interesting facts, each member of the dynasty is highlighted from the choice of clothing to personalities, behaviors, eating habits, finances, even down to the people serving them. No stone is left unturned in this well-researched book and every aspect of Tudor lives is examined and explained. Religious practices, both the marriage and the birthing bed, education, each facet of their existence down to the extravagant cost of the fabric for the clothes they wore. Fascinating, opulent, and eloquently written, this is a wonderful window into the world of a turbulent and impressive dynasty that shaped an era.

This is a perfect look behind the mysteries of everyday life in the Tudor times. It is very easy to read and lots of fun.

Not as eye opening as I expected from the reviews. Perhaps a little more historical details, but honestly, no new info.

Excellent, detailed book. Tracy Borman outlined the most minute details of private Tudor life, both behind closed doors, out and about, and at Court. Not only informative, but highly entertaining.

Very interesting and well-researched book on the habits and lifestyles of the Tudors. Lots of "fun facts" and an insight into a period of history in England that changed the country and the world.

Wow! I may not be Henry VIII and have six wives but I have one theme in this review! The theme is the excellence of The Private Lives of the Tudors by Dr. Tracy Borman. Borman is also the author of the best book on Thomas Cromwell which was a recent bestseller on both sides of the wide pond. Borman in this great book (thankfully free of footnotes at the bottom of the page!) is able to skillfully weave the history of the Tudor monarchs with how the royals lived during this time period from the reign of Henry VII in 1485 to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 ending the dynastical years of the Tudors. We learn all about such subjects as:
a. How royal children were born
b. What the royals and the courtiers around them wore each day
c. Religious rituals of the day
d. Barbering and medical practice during this time
And many more fascinating facts about daily life... We also learn about Henry VII the dour and parsimonious founder of the dynasty; Henry VIII the most famous British king; the sickly son of Henry and Jane Seymour the ill fated Edward VI Bloody Mary the daughter of Henry and Catherine of Aragon; and of course Elizabeth I in all her finery and human frailty. An excellent read and one which will keep you entertained and educated. Written in a style which is easy to comprehend for the layperson. The book is being published to coincide with a BBC program on the Tudors.

Details that normally are not in history book from an author with rare access to original sources.

Good information and sad facts.

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