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Elizabeth I: Legendary Queen Of England



Synopsis

When Elizabeth I took the throne of England in 1559, hardly anyone knew what to make of her. Born the heir to the throne, she was declared a bastard when she was three years old, after her mother was executed for treason, witchcraft, and incest. During the reign of her sister, Mary I, she was a prisoner in the Tower of London, where she was expected to die. But when she became Queen, at the age of 25, she swiftly stunned the royal court by stepping into the seat of power with grace, intelligence, and an air of majesty that maddened and enchanted the men around her. For 44 years, Elizabeth I guided England through religious upheavals and plots to overthrow the government. Courted by all the most powerful princes in Europe, she baffled her advisors by refusing to marry any of them. And when England stood under threat of invasion by the most powerful nation in Europe, Elizabeth's navy destroyed the Spanish Armada so decisively that it was seen as an act of God. In this book, you will discover why no English monarch has ever been more famous, more successful, or more deeply loved by her people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Simmons biography on Queen Elizabeth I is a good overview of her life, capturing key events and relationships that illustrate the impact of her reign. Much of his observations are grounded in the work biographer Allison Wier did before him. If you are a student of Tudor history, you won't find anything new here, though it is refreshing for someone to point out that many of the Queen's theatrical tactics that books and movies use against her character were very strategic on her part. For those not as familiar with Elizabeth I, this is an excellent starting point. Simmons' narrative is interesting and easy to read. He includes excerpts of Queen Elizabeth's own writings, then summarizes and interprets her meaning. From her marital prospects and troubling line of succession to her peace keeping efforts and brave battlefield persona, in this book Simmons explores Elizabeth I and her long reign as Queen of England.

Quick Overview For people interested in European History, especially that of England coming of age, so to speak, during the 16th century, Elizabeth I: Legendary Queen of England should prove of invaluable assistance. The book is short enough to be read in just a day or two. Yet, it is comprehensive in detail such that one can gain a good insight into the era that proved to be fundamental in England's rise to power. I do caution readers, however, that the writing is a bit dry and, hence, tends to get bogged down, from time to time. Of course, such can be said of many books of history. For a little more detail as to the merits of this biography, please read on.

Length: Print, 103 pages.

Q - Target Audience/Genre and is it marketed as Nonfiction or Fiction: "Historians, especially readers interested in the early days of England's rise to power as a protestant nation."

Q - How was this book obtained? "Bought on Amazon."

Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? "No."

Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? "Despite its brevity, this is more of a leisure read."

Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? "Plain English. No foul language whatsoever."

Q - What age group is this suitable for? "Young Adult and older. If this were a film it would be rated G."

Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? "Since I am interested in Europe during the period following discovery of the New World, I found this to be a valuable addition to my library. To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below."

Excerpt The Death of Amy Dudley

William Cecil, Elizabeth's closest advisor, was instrumental in

arranging a settlement with the Scottish that protected England's northernmost border, but when he returned home expecting congratulation, he found the queen curiously indifferent to his success. Despondent, Cecil confided in the Spanish ambassador that he was thinking of resigning: he believed that Robert Dudley was responsible for edging him out of the queen's trust. He further believed that Elizabeth was determined to marry Dudley, and that nothing would stop her not even the ruin of her entire country. He explained that there were rumors abroad that Dudley intended to have his wife murdered so that he would be free to marry the queen. Cecil knew that the Spanish ambassador would undoubtedly repeat all that he told him, and that the gossip would spread to every royal court in Europe, but this was a deliberate move on his part: he hoped that the public scandal and outcry would be so severe that Elizabeth would be forced to take note of it and regulate her actions accordingly. Then, on September 8, 1560, a scandalous event of the gravest import rocked Elizabeth's court. Lady Amy Dudley, wife of Lord Robert, was found dead in the house where she was staying on a visit with friends. The circumstances of her death were considered deeply strange at the time, and are still thought to be mysterious to this day. The home in which Lady Dudley was staying was normally very full of visitors and family, but on the day of her death most of its inmates had gone into the nearby village to attend a fair. Lady Dudley had been particularly insistent that her servants should go, and when some protested that they did not think it was appropriate to attend a fair on a Sunday, she became angry and insisted they leave. Around noon, she had lunch with a friend; a few hours later, the servants returned home and found her lifeless body lying at the bottom of a short staircase. The news of her death was delivered to Lord Robert and to Elizabeth at the same time; both were intensely shocked, and both understood that Lord Robert would be suspected of having arranged his wife's murder, unless it could be absolutely proven that he was innocent. Furthermore, any marriage between them would now be impossible regardless of the verdict of the inquest, it would always be whispered that Lord Robert had killed his wife in order to be free to marry the queen. Lord Robert departed from court instantly, on Elizabeth's order, while investigations were made into Lady Dudley's death. The inquest soon ruled the death an accident, though Lady Amy's personal maid believed she might have committed suicide. This was not the news that Lord Robert had hoped for, however. If the inquest had ruled her death a murder, and yielded evidence leading to the arrest of the guilty party, his name would have been cleared in a far more decisive way. A verdict of accidental death left room for whispers that Lord Robert had been responsible for arranging the accident. Though Lord Robert was popularly supposed to have wished his wife dead, and to have the best motive for arranging a fatal accident, he did not ultimately profit from her death in the

slightest. The only person who did benefit by it was ÆçÂ Â|çÂ Â™W. Simmons, Michael. Elizabeth I: Legendary Queen of England (Kindle Locations 551-574). Make Profits Easy LLC. Kindle Edition. Bottom Line: Four stars out of five. A solid work of history for readers unaware of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.

interesting book, easy understanding language, like it

It's good written, based on historical facts and for me full of new information.

Fascinating book. I very much enjoyed reading it. It was hard to put down. I didn't know that Elizabeth was a frugal queen or that she had a bad temper. I thought it was funny how some people were scared of inciting her anger. I liked this book a lot and recommend it.

Loved the book, wished there was more to it. Seemed to go too fast, but I learned new things

Good flow-the book doesn't bog down, and the author obviously knows his subject (Elizabeth) If I could offer some constructive criticism, I'd say that some of the quotes in the book were a bit long. And maybe some more dialogue between the figures in the book would have made it seem more lively. Overall though, a nice effort. I give it a solid "B"...

Elizabeth is my all-time favorite heroine and this book just gives a deeper look into her person. The copies of letters were a great addition allowing one to peek into the soul of a woman seemingly out of time and place

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