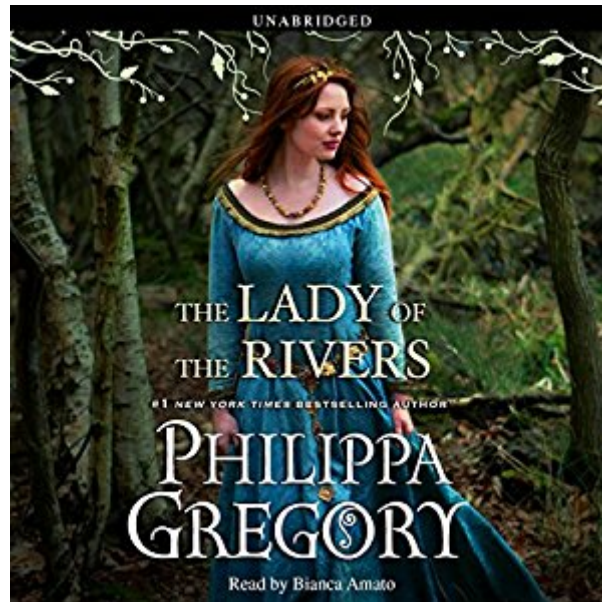




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The Lady Of The Rivers



Synopsis

Passion. Danger. Witchcraft.... The Lady of the Rivers is number-one New York Times best-selling author Philippa Gregory's remarkable story of Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, a woman who navigated a treacherous path through the battle lines in the Wars of the Roses. Descended from Melusina, the river goddess, Jacquetta always has had the gift of second sight. As a child visiting her uncle, she met his prisoner, Joan of Arc, and saw her own power reflected in the young woman accused of witchcraft. They share the mystery of the tarot card of the wheel of fortune before Joan is taken to a horrific death at the hands of the English rulers of France. Jacquetta understands the danger for a woman who dares to dream. Jacquetta is married to the Duke of Bedford, English regent of France, and he introduces her to a mysterious world of learning and alchemy. Her only friend in the great household is the duke's squire, Richard Woodville, who is at her side when the duke's death leaves her a wealthy young widow. The two become lovers and marry in secret, returning to England to serve at the court of the young King Henry VI, where Jacquetta becomes a close and loyal friend to his new queen. The Woodvilles soon achieve a place at the very heart of the Lancaster court, though Jacquetta can sense the growing threat from the people of England and the danger of royal rivals. Not even their courage and loyalty can keep the House of Lancaster on the throne. Henry the king slides into a mysterious sleep; Margaret the queen turns to untrustworthy favorites for help; and Richard, Duke of York, threatens to overturn the whole kingdom for his rival dynasty. Jacquetta fights for her king, her queen, and for her daughter, Elizabeth, for whom Jacquetta can sense an extraordinary and unexpected future: a change of fortune, the throne of England, and the white rose of York. A sweeping, powerful story rich in passion and legend and drawing on years of research, The Lady of the Rivers tells the story of the real-life mother of the white queen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed Gregory's "The Other Boleyn Girl" so I thought I would try the Kindle edition of this book while I was visiting in England. It starts in France with the heroine meeting Joan of Arc. It is interesting to see how women of this time period manipulated power, generally in a subtle way. Some of the only ways they could do this were through how they raised their children, and other people's children who were sent to their home, negotiating prestigious marriages, and gaining wealth through marriages or dowries. Jacquetta has some inherited "powers" to glimpse the future, read Tarot, and has knowledge of medicinal herbs. People with these skills and knowledge of alchemy are in demand in some periods and regarded as witches in others. It was a strategic decision whether to reveal these inclinations or not. I enjoyed the book more than I thought I might. It is very well researched. It was interesting to see foreshadowings of future events, such as the murder of the little princes in the Tower, and to see how the strands of the monarchies in England and France are shaped and reshaped. If you like history and powerful women characters, you will enjoy this book.

I read the books out of sequence, because I read the "The White Queen" first. Then read "The Kingmaker's Daughter", "The Red Queen", "The White Princess", "The King's Curse" and this book last. I enjoyed all of the books and the experience of reading alternate views of shared or learned of experiences from the viewpoint of the protagonist in each story. The experience of seeing the protagonist from their vantage point and that of the other protagonists who may have interacted with them or been told of them was a very entertaining aspect of reading all the books. I don't know enough about the history to assess historical accuracy, but understood this was fiction and a telling of the events with some fictionalization of facts and events by the author. I would recommend the book to others. I did not start to read all five of the books, but once I learned the other books had been written-I read them and enjoyed them.

Very well researched facts. I have watched the tv serial The White Queen and then The White Princess. Was curious to find out more about their lineage which led me to The Lady of the Rivers,

which is the story of the mother of the White Queen. All these people actually existed and are linked to the Tudor Dynasty and hence the The infamous King Henry VIII. If you are interested in English history, you will enjoy this series of books. I did!

I did not know much about the mother of Elizabeth Woodville. I enjoyed the story, but I could have done without the back story of them being descendants of Melusina, the water goddess.

The Lady of the Rivers is part of Philippa Gregory's The Cousins' War series. Set in France and England during the reign of King Henry VI, it follows the life of Jacquetta of Luxembourg who is part of a family endowed with the ability to foresee the future, and descendants of the river goddess, Melusina. As with The Red Queen, The Lady of the Rivers tells the story of the War of the Roses, but from the perspective of Jacquetta who, at the tender age of 17, finds herself married to the Duke of Bedford, a man twice her age. The Duke encourages Jacquetta in her occult abilities to foresee his military fate. With a mixture of historical facts and fiction, Philippa Gregory has woven a fascinating tale using both real and imaginary characters, providing a window in to their lives in a time of treachery, betrayal and war. For me, The Lady of the Rivers was a page turner as I became captivated by Jacquetta's life. Some interesting points it has sparked for me are, the illness suffered by King Henry VI, the history of the castle of Calais, the Queen, Margaret of Anjou, and a wish to read about Jacquetta's daughter, Elizabeth. The Cousins' War series encompasses the following books:-The White QueenThe Red QueenThe Lady of the RiversThe Kingmaker's DaughterThe White PrincessThe Last Rose

Interesting interpretation of historical personages. Background seems to be well researched. Always the easiest way to get a grasp of historical periods.

I am not much of a reader... I get bored easily if not kept entertained or intrigued. Of late I have had a small amount of interest in English history though, due to an increasing fascination with Genealogy. I had seen the movie The Other Boleyn Girl and not thought much else of it until I was told of a new novel out The White Princess. Whilst looking into this novel, I came across other books by Philippa Gregory which had become a series, for lack of a better word, including the movie I had seen, The Other Boleyn Girl. I was told that these novels were based on fact. I decided to read the first few chapters, then research a little of my own into the written history of this era. I was

pleased to find that so much was true to fact. I continued reading this novel as I found that it had the rare ability to keep me intrigued and wanting to read more. Now that I have finished the book, I am happy to say that I have spent many enjoyable hours doing so, whilst at the same time learning a little of English history. I look forward to reading more of Philippa's books. Philippa, thank you for the history lesson whilst keeping me so entertained.

Loved it - new nothing of Elizabeth Woodville's mother and the story is compelling and just a page turner. I would highly recommend this book.

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