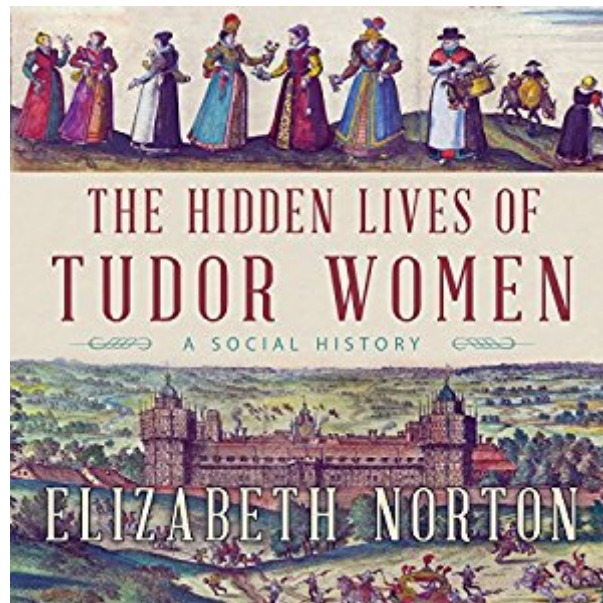




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# The Hidden Lives Of Tudor Women: A Social History



## Synopsis

The Tudor period conjures up images of queens and noblewomen in elaborate court dress, of palace intrigue and dramatic politics. But if you were a woman, it was also a time when death during childbirth was rife, when marriage was usually a legal contract, not a matter for love, and the education you could hope to receive was minimal at best. Yet the Tudor century was also dominated by powerful and dynamic women in a way that no era had been before. Historian Elizabeth Norton explores the life cycle of the Tudor woman, from childhood to old age, through the diverging examples of women such as Elizabeth Tudor, Henry VIII's sister; Cecily Burbage, Elizabeth's wet nurse; Mary Howard, widowed but influential at court; Elizabeth Boleyn, mother of a controversial queen; and Elizabeth Barton, a peasant girl who would be lauded as a prophetess. Their stories are interwoven with studies of topics ranging from Tudor toys to contraception to witchcraft, painting a portrait of the lives of queens and serving maids, nuns and harlots, widows and chaperones. Norton brings this vibrant period to colorful life in an evocative and insightful social history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very good account of history and the footnotes are informative.

Elizabeth Norton's new book is exceptional; she based this on *The Seven Ages of (W/o)man*. Each chapter-age has smaller sections-on capital punishment, or Guilds, Her opening concerns the first Elizabeth Tudor-a short-lived daughter of Henry the Seventh. She studies every aspect of Tudor life;

if you are a fan of the Tudors, this book is important. Highly recommended.

This book is a real keeper! The author presents a wonderful balance between what was happening to the "rich and royalty" and what was happening to the common women during the same time frame. For example, most people are aware of the religious turmoil in England after Henry VIII took over as head of the church. Ms. Norton provides a real sense of how difficult that was for the commoner who constantly had to revamp their religious beliefs and practices to avoid falling foul of whatever monarch was in power! As I got closer and closer to the end, I found myself reading only a few pages at a time. I didn't want it to end.

Dull but had some interesting information in it. I like my non fiction to flow like fiction novel and some authors make that happen, this one not so much....

For anyone with an interest in women's studies or curious about the life of women in 16th century England, this book is a must. Well researched, well written with anecdotes of the great and the humble. This book will not disappoint

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