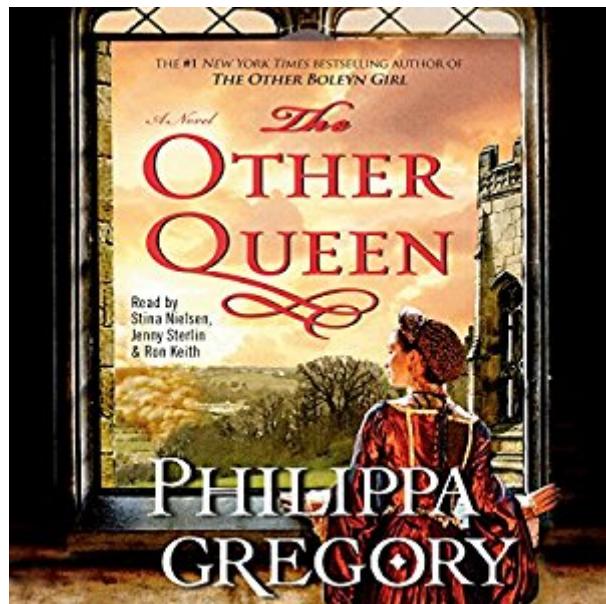


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# The Other Queen



## Synopsis

Two women competing for a man's heart.... Two queens fighting to the death for dominance... Here is the untold story of Mary Queen of Scots, in which New York Times best-selling author Philippa Gregory presents a new and unique view of one of history's most intriguing, romantic, and maddening heroines. Biographers often neglect the captive years of Mary Queen of Scots, who trusted Queen Elizabeth's promise of sanctuary when she fled from rebels in Scotland and then found herself imprisoned as the "guest" of George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and his indomitable wife, Bess of Hardwick. The newly married couple welcome the doomed queen into their home, certain that serving as her hosts and jailors will bring them an advantage in the cutthroat world of the Elizabethan court. To their horror, they find that the task will bankrupt them, and as their home becomes the epicenter of intrigue and rebellion against Elizabeth, their loyalty to each other and to their sovereign comes into question. If Mary succeeded in seducing the Earl, or if the great spy master William Cecil linked them to the growing conspiracy to free Mary from her illegal imprisonment, they will all face the headsman. Heralded as "the queen of royal fiction" by USA Today, Philippa Gregory uses new research and her passion for historical accuracy to place a well-known heroine in a completely new story full of suspense, passion, and political intrigue. The Other Queen is the result of her determination to present a story worthy of this extraordinary heroine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Elizabeth and Mary, Queen of Scots vie for greatness and claim the sanctity of royalty. Yet, one is a prisoner ; the other is a warden. One is young and beautiful ; the other old and haggard. One is Catholic ; the other Protestant. The book follows the times and collision is the only course for these cousins. The book revealed the selfishness and determination of both these women who caused bloodshed and turmoil in a small country. It was well-written, and the story was not well known. Yet, I do believe I would have enjoyed the reading more if Mary got to Scotland or to her death a little sooner.

You can't always have a happy ending, so with that being said I loved it! Philippa Gregory astounds me!!! The storyline is amazingly thorough, she always uses many references. People don't realize how much work she puts into her books because the words flow effortlessly:) England was a cruel world of strong women and yes flighty at times unable to rule. Bess(Elizabeth) is an example as is Mary Queen of Scotland. The torture of the times is cruel and inhumane but so were other times in history! Elizabeth should have stood her ground in the beginning of her reign and kicked Cecil to the curb,lol. Excellent book I would recommend it! A little pricey but worth the money...

This book was extremely hard to get through. I've read many other Philippa Gregory books and normally I can't put them down. This one I couldn't pick up. The characters were underdeveloped, the plot was lacking in depth. It felt more like a check in the box novel than a story written with excitement.

This book was written from the point of view of 3 people, Queen Mary, Bess of Hardwick and her fourth husband lord George Talbot. I found it hard going from time to time with the story jumping from one story to another, was hard to keep track of the story sometimes. I really enjoyed Bess Hardwick story and want to now learn more about her. Maybe not as easy a read as Philippa Gregory other books but still worth a read if Mary Queen of Scots is your thing.

Philippa Gregory is always a good read. Her ability to keep the reader enthralled in the action and enlightened by the history is amazing. Character development is beautifully done.

The characters presentation of all the events gives the reader a broad view of individual viewpoints regarding the political turmoil. There is a parallel in use of gossip and innuendo for political power in this book and the political situation of the United States of 2016 and 2017. Unfortunately we learn so

little from history.

I really like this series of books. Some history that was researched and authors thoughts of that period of time also.

It may be helpful when evaluating this novel to consider what the author was actually trying to do in writing it. The history is well known. Diametrically opposing religious ideologies, a contest of wills involving a power struggle between two female relatives, all played out between Mary Stuart and Elizabeth Tudor, present an amazing conflict of epic proportions. Yet we all know the outcome. Elizabeth wins, and Mary is beheaded. So how does an author present this story in a fresh setting? I would suggest that what Gregory has done here is cast all these conflicts, and more, in what might be viewed as a construct reminiscent of baroque drama. This may be a rather subtle interpretation, but it helped make the novel more understandable and enjoyable for me. Initially we find the plot moving along rather slowly as each of three main characters (Queen Mary, and her genteel jailers, husband George Talbot and wife Bess of Hardwick) represents his particular view. Their characters on the surface appear to be rather rigidly delineated as representing a certain position which remains in essence virtually unaltered to the end. They proceed to spar their various opinions and observations off from each other, each interpreting events in his own lights. In a sense the characters may seem somewhat stiff and unchanging, yet there are subtle subthemes that develop throughout the course of the novel. These subthemes actually are what hold the reader's interest. Among these, questions of jealousy and trust take center stage. Having said all that, I found the novel a fascinating study of how all the various opposing positions and persona played out their conflicts to the end. A word on baroque drama, poetry and art. The predominant style of this age - roughly the 17th century, extending back into the 16th - was characterized by juxtaposed conflicting ideas and forces. Extreme views, people, or objects were set in diametric opposition to each other. The contemporaneous background of religious strife certainly contributed to this worldview and its reflection in the art of the time. Hopefully *The Other Queen*, seen in this light, will appear to its readers as a fascinating artistic construct well embodying the spirit of the time of the Reformation. This is actually a very sophisticated literary offering by Gregory, who has a track record of being a very gifted author.

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