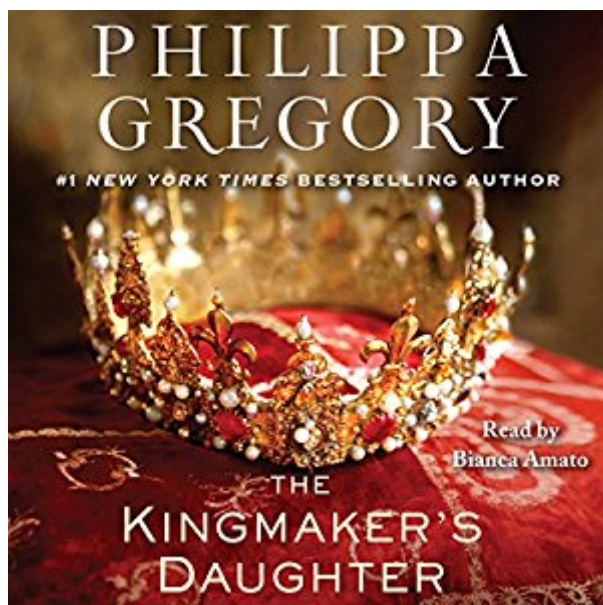


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The Kingmaker's Daughter



Synopsis

In *The Kingmaker's Daughter*, number-one New York Times best-selling author Philippa Gregory presents the riveting story of Anne Neville, her sister Isabel, and their ever-changing fortunes. *The Kingmaker's Daughter* is the gripping and ultimately tragic story of the daughters of the man known as the "Kingmaker", the most powerful magnate in England through the Cousins' Wars. In the absence of a son and heir, he uses the two girls as pawns in his political games, but they grow up to be influential players in their own right. In this novel, her first sister story since *The Other Boleyn Girl*, Gregory explores the lives of two fascinating young women. At the court of Edward IV and his beautiful queen, Elizabeth Woodville, Anne grows from a delightful child brought up in intimacy and friendship with the family of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to become ever more fearful and desperate when her father makes war on his former friends. Her will is tested when she is left widowed and fatherless, with her mother in sanctuary and her sister married to the enemy. Fortune's wheel turns again when Richard rescues Anne from her sister's house, with danger still following Anne, even as she eventually ascends to the throne as queen. Having lost those closest to her, she must protect herself and her precious only child, Prince Edward, from a court full of royal rivals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first thing I want to start off with is that Philippa Gregory writes historical fiction, not history books. Where as I have found most of her books very accurate, I feel that a person should

remember that before any discussion actually ensues. I am a big fan of her works, I think they are interesting and usually keep to the facts while telling a good story. I found this to be a very enjoyable read, a vacation from the heavier history books written about this time. Also, this was my favorite of Gregory's Cousin's War series so far. I adore this time period, and the following Tudor reigns as well. The stories of the princes in the tower, and Richard the Third himself have always held a fascination to me- I am also a member of the American branch of the Richard the Third Society! I found that I really enjoyed the perspective of the story being told from Anne's eyes. It was interesting to see how she, the younger of Warwick's daughters, was handled through her life. I felt this was a very believable character. And the author did a very good job of handling the princes in the tower. It has to be a very challenging story to tell without any proof of who actually did kill the princes. I liked the way she handled it, including the self-doubt and confusion at the whole situation. A very good read. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys history. This could even be considered a decent way to whet an appetite to a very complex but interesting time period.

WHAT I LIKED:What I liked the most was the really believable POV depicted throughout Anne Neville. The build up of her life and the experiences she had that lead her to be a Queen of England- it was well written, it was entertaining, and Anne Neville's view of history, especially around Richard her husband, is really refreshing.**WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE:**Anne Neville and Isabelle Neville. I loved seeing the world through Anne's eyes, but I could not bring myself to like her or her sister Isabelle. With every page, I found myself more annoyed or frustrated with their characters.Maybe that was Philippa Gregory's goal- to make them more frustrating and unlikable next to the White Queen & Princess. I don't really know, but I do think this is worth the read at the end of the day. I give it 3/5 stars instead of 4/5 because even though it was well done, I found the overall read of this book more exhausting than energizing.

The Kingmaker's Daughter provides another viewpoint into the War of the Roses, this time via Richard Neville, Duke of Warwick's family. His two daughters, Isabel and Anne, were like many children of their time, used as political pawns to grasp power. The story follows the Duke's early fall from power when his puppet King Edward throws off his influence by jilting his arranged political marriage and instead marries Elizabeth Woodville for love. Duke Richard then begins decades of espionage in an effort to obtain the throne via one of his daughters, with King Edward's brothers displaying varying levels of loyalty.After reading The White Queen, the story told from Elizabeth Woodville's perspective, it was interesting to read the same circumstances told again from Anne

Neville's perspective. History requires a bit more filling in of blanks on Ms. Gregory's part for a meaty tale of the latter, but I did enjoy how her able storytelling made it possible to engender sympathy for both parties, though they were certainly competitors in the most vital sense. The novel keeps a good pace, and though it should not be used as a historical reference, as many details are changed or omitted to help with an engaging storyline, it was a riveting read. I highly recommending reading both novels, as one of the great pleasures I found was the sympathy I had for each character and their story.

I have a very hard time leaving a book unfinished once I have started to read it, but this one tested that resolve. I was looking forward to reading a book devoted to Anne Neville, as she has been overlooked so often. But I just did not care for Ms. Gregory's treatment of her as a woman, a wife, a daughter or even a character in general. And I particularly did not care for the insinuation that Richard married her simply for her lands, when every other source I've ever encountered implies that theirs was truly a love match. And when the story devolved into Anne, Isabel and George fearing conspiracy and poisoning at every turn, it was all I could do to finish the book.

I have liked a number of Gregory's books, but this one was a bit of a let-down. I did finish the 400 pages, but I did not get involved in the characters. So much of the story is "tell," albeit through Anne's viewpoint, and not "show." Had I been involved in Anne's character, the quick unfolding of new information at the end would have disappointed me. As it was, it was mainly my interest in Richard and the two boys in the tower and how that would be handled that carried me through to the end.

Philippa Gregory is my favorite author for historical novels. She certainly brings the past to life from the woman's perspective and has done her research.

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