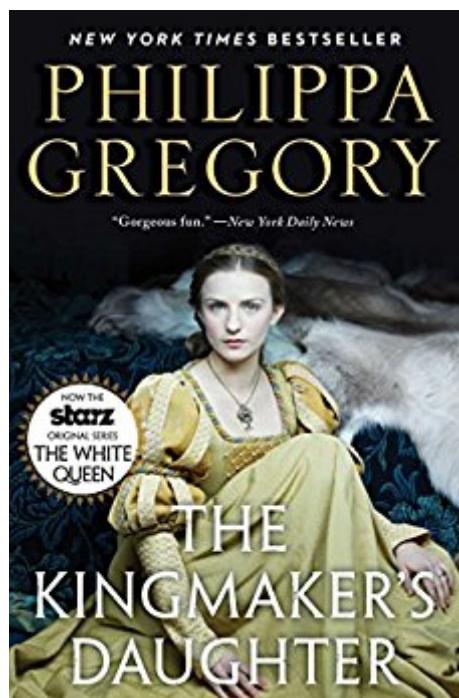


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# The Kingmaker's Daughter (The Plantagenet And Tudor Novels)



## Synopsis

In this New York Times bestseller that inspired the critically acclaimed Starz miniseries *The White Queen*, Philippa Gregory tells the tale of Anne Neville, a beautiful young woman who must navigate the treachery of the English court as her father, known as the Kingmaker, uses her and her sister as pawns in his political game. Philippa Gregory's first sister story since *The White Queen* is the gripping tale of the daughters of the man known as the Kingmaker, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick: the most powerful magnate in fifteenth-century England. Without a son and heir, he uses his daughters, Anne and Isabel, as pawns in his political games, and they grow up to be influential players in their own right. At the court of Edward IV and his beautiful queen, Elizabeth Woodville, Anne grows from a delightful child to become ever more fearful and desperate when her father makes war on his former friends. Married at age fourteen, she is soon left widowed and fatherless, her mother in sanctuary and her sister married to the enemy. Anne manages her own escape by marrying Richard, Duke of Gloucester, but her choice will set her on a collision course with the overwhelming power of the royal family.

## Book Information

File Size: 15105 KB

Print Length: 434 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; Media Tie-In edition (August 14, 2012)

Publication Date: August 14, 2012

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B006BAEQB2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #21,728 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26 in Books > Romance > Historical > Tudor #47 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Biographical #56 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Movie Tie-Ins

## Customer Reviews

The first thing I want to start off with is that Philippa Gregory writes historical fiction, not history books. While 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 recommend 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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