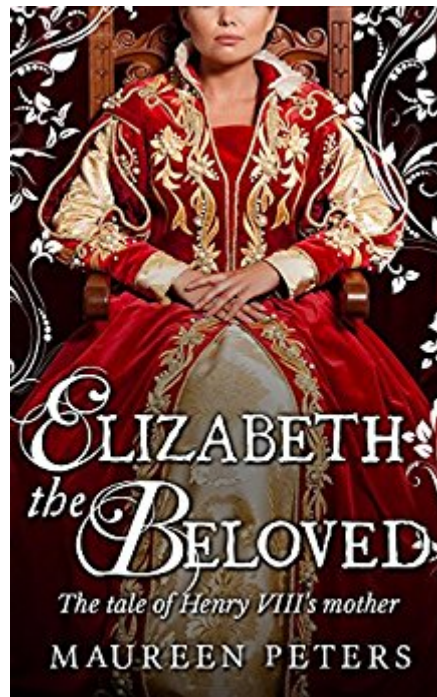


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Elizabeth The Beloved



Synopsis

Born into a family apparently destined to rule, Elizabeth Plantagenet's life is shaped by three kings. Edward IV, her father, whose lechery leaves his family destitute. Richard III, her uncle, whose kindness turns into something more as Elizabeth grows up. Henry VII, her husband, whose motives for marriage are perhaps more political than passionate. As the houses of Lancaster and York continue to vie for power, and with loyalties crumbling as quickly as new alliances are forged, Elizabeth finds herself a valuable pawn in a political game that she simply cannot control. As the machinations of those around her cause havoc, Elizabeth finds herself thrown from royal luxury to utter penury, and can only watch as those she loves most are destroyed. What can she, a penniless and vulnerable girl, do to save them and herself? For despite her royal background, her quick mind and good looks, Elizabeth seems to wield no power over her own or her family's destiny. The answer seems to lie in a dynastic marriage to the new Tudor King, Henry VII. But even though she goes into marriage with her eyes wide open, can Elizabeth ever hope to build the calm and stable life she craves? As Henry's place is threatened by plotters and pretenders, Elizabeth must watch as battles rage, prisoners are taken and enemies executed. In a life blessed with love but tainted by tragedy, can she protect her husband, her children and her wider family from the dangers that besiege them? Elizabeth the Beloved is a heart-wrenching historical novel filled with the intrigue of the court and perils of kingship.

Maureen Peters was born in Caernarvon, North Wales. She was educated at grammar school and attended the University College of North Wales, Bangor, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and a diploma of Education. She taught disabled children before taking up writing under her own name and many pseudonyms. Peters has produced many books and contributed short stories to many magazines and her writing normally focuses on royalty, the War of the Roses and the Tudor period. Apart from biographical fiction on royalty she also wrote Gothic romances, family sagas, Mills & Boon series titles, contemporary mysteries.

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Customer Reviews

One of the books from the set of books by Maureen Peters I bought and the second one I read after her book about Elizabeth Woodville. This one is about Elizabeth of York, daughter of Elizabeth Woodville and Edward IV, Queen of Henry VII and mother of Henry VIII. The book traces her life since her childhood when her uncle George, Duke of Clarence was executed for treason, through the death of her father, King Edward IV, reign of her uncle Richard III, her marriage life with Henry VII, ending with her death. It is not the first fictional book that I've read on Elizabeth of York, but maybe the first one where Elizabeth was interested in politics and at least tried to play some political role. As a child she dreamed of becoming Queen of France, then after the death of Richard III she even entertained an idea of becoming Queen Regent in her own right, but decided to drop it for the sake of peace for England. As Queen consort of England, she really attempted to have a say in ruling of the country. With not much luck as her husband, Henry VII, didn't want her to have any influence in politics and his mother was the main driving force at court and in internal affairs. I liked it that Elizabeth here decided to play nice, sweet and coy, wearing it often as a mask in order to lull her husband's and mother-in-law's vigilance to have at least some voice in raising her children or in dealing with her many relatives. Something which evokes a lot of sympathy for her. In the novel she comes as attentive and kind, provides for her sisters, cares for her poor cousin Edward, Earl of Warwick, loves her children and is a great mother-in-law to young Catherine of Aragorn.

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