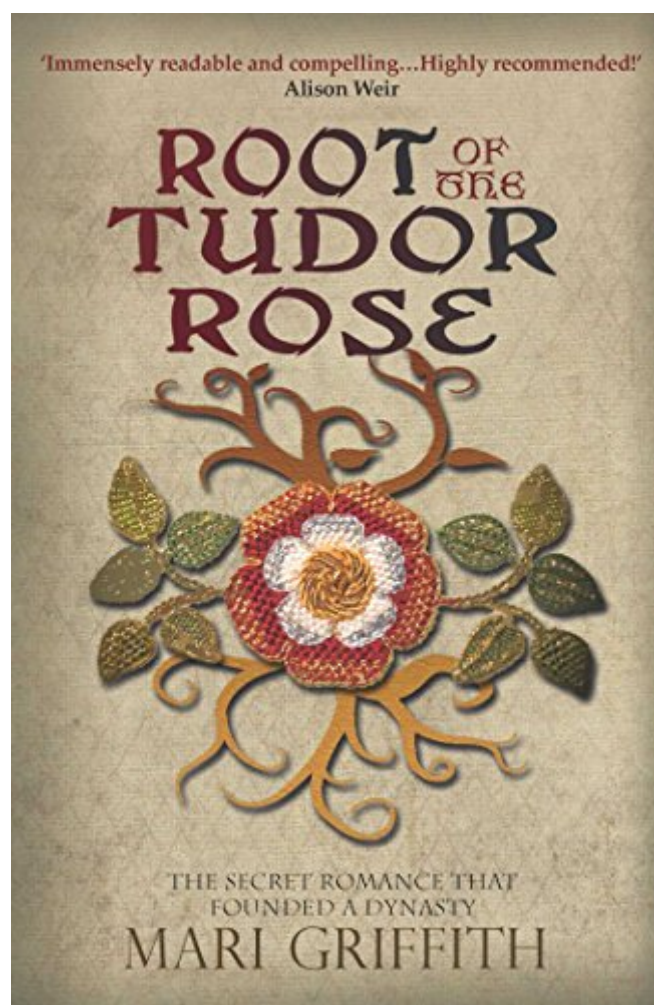


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Root Of The Tudor Rose



Synopsis

"Immensely readable and compelling...Highly recommended!" Alison Weir, bestselling author of *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* "A stunning first novel...this new treatment of Catherine de Valois' story will be a delight to lovers of historical fiction." Bernard Knight CBE author of the 'Crown John' historical mysteries For fans of Philippa Gregory and Hilary Mantel comes Mari Griffith's debut novel *Root of the Tudor Rose*. This is the story of a passionate romance and a secret marriage which gave its name to the most famous royal dynasty in the history of Great Britain: the Tudors. When King Henry V and his bride, Catherine de Valois, are blessed with the birth of a son, their happiness is short-lived. Henry's unexpected death leaves Catherine a widow at the age of twenty-one. Then her father, King Charles of France, also dies, and her son inherits both crowns. Henry VI, King of England and France, is just ten months old and needs all his mother's watchful care to protect him from political intrigue. The queen, an attractive young widow, is a foreigner at the English court and now finds herself regarded with suspicion, particularly by the Duke of Gloucester, who will seemingly stop at nothing to protect his own claim to the throne. But lonely, vulnerable Catherine has found true friendship with another foreigner at court, a young Welshman named Owen. Their friendship deepens, but their liaisons must be kept secret at all costs, because Catherine, Queen of England and forbidden to remarry, is in love with a servant ...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not terrible, but I struggled. I put it down numerous times & didn't pick it back up for days, which is unlike me. I love the story of Catherine of Valois, but not this one. The author (in her notes at the back) admits to putting Catherine in places where she wasn't, which detracted from the story for me-I knew Catherine was never at Baynards! And the author invented the birth of a child. And sped thru other births, I thought! I questioned several other events as well that I don't remember matching the historical record. I just didn't enjoy this historical novel like I normally enjoy novels, even if I've read the story 5 times before. I recommend Joanna Hickson's novels of Catherine's life: *The Agincourt Bride* & *The Tudor Bride*. They are very in depth & you really get to know Catherine from the time she was a child. These novels follow the LONG process of her betrothal to Henry V, her difficult & short time as queen then dowager Queen of England, and then her relationship & family years with Owen Tudor. Jean Plaidy also wrote a good historical novel about Catherine, *The Queen's Secret*.

A must read for Tudor fans! I've read lots pertaining to Henry VII & VIII but this was the first novel I've read surrounding the reign of Henry V & VI. Appropriately named "Root of the Tudor Rose" this book provides a wonderful story detailing Catherine DeValois and her short marriage to Henry V and her love affair and marriage to Owen Tudor after the King's death. Those who have read and enjoyed Philipa Gregory's "The White Queen" will be thrilled with this novel by Mari Griffith as it gives an even broader understanding of the familial ties, nobles, treachery and relationships that pre-date the Tudor rise to power. Loved it!

I have read most of the books written about the Queens of England, and this one shines with the best. Truly a love story based on Catherine and Owen, but historically accurate in facts. Anyone interested in the lives of Queens of England will definitely enjoy this book. I knew how Catherine's life would be, but the fresh new voice of Ms. Griffith's writing of it was worth rewriting and retelling. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I really enjoyed this little book. It explores a little-explored alley of the Tudor legacy -- Owen Tudor himself, someone I've heard and wondered about but never really knew much about. I liked Catherine de Valois, another of the multitudinous women of the medieval royals who had a very

difficult life. I also enjoyed reading about the young life of her son the king, as opposed to all the tomes about the latter fifteenth century, where he is portrayed as a crazy old man almost worthy of death. This book puts a different spin on all of it, one might say. I had a bit of difficulty keeping all the historical characters straight (mostly the male ones) but all in all, the book is quite enjoyable and quite reasonably priced. It's nice to purchase a book about the middle ages for under three dollars. Like another reviewer, I would have liked to have found out what happened to Humphrey, Catherine and Owen's chief opponent in the story; perhaps that will come with a revision, or a new book about Catherine and Owen's sons. Hope so.

I could hardly put down Mari Griffith's debut novel *Root of the Tudor Rose*, which offers us a new slant on the relationship between Queen Catherine of Valois and her love affair with her Welsh servant Owen Tudor. Covering Catherine's life from her marriage with King Henry V until her untimely death, I found Mari's writing style very readable and engaging. There are significant gaps in the historical accounts of Owen Tudor's life – and no record that he even married Catherine, so we have to rely such clues as can be gleaned from ballads and letters, often written much later. It was reassuring to see that Mari has declared what she calls her “flights of fancy” in an author's note at the end of the book. Yes, she does have Owen drunkenly falling into the queen's lap – but redeems herself with doing an excellent job of getting all the clergymen right, (not so easy as it may seem). I was particularly interested to see how Cardinal Henry Beaufort is portrayed as caring and compassionate. Although Mari's descriptions are evocative and convincing, I would have liked to see more details of what it must have been like to live in this fascinating period. I would heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in digging a little deeper into the origins of the Tudors - and look forward to seeing what Mari Griffith turns her hand to next.

I liked this book. Great history, strong characters and a storyline I was unfamiliar with. Heartbreaking story, showing the fantasy of becoming royal or being royal is just that: the reality can be and often is tragic. Great read. My only quibble, and it's small, is that I wanted to know what happened to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in the notes after. Probably lived a long life and died without punishment, but I still wanted to know.

I've always wondered about the history of the Tudors. This book delivered. The characters were well developed and it's a very poignant and exciting story. I read this in two sittings. I would put the book down only to hurry back asap to find out what happened to Owen and Catherine. I would

recommend this book to other Tudor enthusiasts.

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