

The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn

By Robin Maxwell

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In this "energetic" (Kirkus Reviews) re-creation of Anne Boleyn's tragic life -- and death -- Robin Maxwell offers a pitch-perfect version of a bawdy and exuberant time filled with lust, betrayal, love, and murder.When the young Queen Elizabeth I is entrusted with Anne Boleyn's secret diary, she discovers a great deal about the much-maligned mother she never knew. And on learning the truth about her lascivious and despotic father, Henry VIII, she vows never to relinquish control to any man. But this avowal doesn't prevent Elizabeth from pursuing a torrid love affair with her horsemaster, Robin Dudley -- described with near-shocking candor -- as too are Anne's graphic trysts with a very persistent and lustful Henry. Blending a historian's attention to accuracy with a novelist's artful rendering, Maxwell weaves compelling descriptions of court life and devastating portraits of actual people into her naughty, page-turning tale. The result is a masterpiece of historical fiction -- so prophetic of our time that one would think it were ripped from today's headlines.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
This first novel supposes that Anne Boleyn, second wife to King Henry VIII of England, kept a secret diary that was delivered to her daughter, Elizabeth, upon her succession to the throne. Elizabeth was only three when Anne was renounced by Henry, tried for treason, and sentenced to death. Now, despite her queenly schedule, juggling affairs of state and heart, Elizabeth finds time to read her mother's story avidly and learns lessons that will secure her reign. It is an intriguing premise that knowledge of Anne's sad fate leads Elizabeth resolutely to defy the customs of her time and ignore her advisers' counsel and her suitors' pleas to marry. Remaining single and healthy, Elizabeth rules long and well. Filled with fascinating descriptions of court life and references to historical figures and events, this novel is highly recommended for fiction collections.?Sheila M. Riley, Smithsonian Inst. Libs., Washington, D.C.
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From Kirkus Reviews
An energetic, full-dress period novel, Maxwell's first, constructed from the adventures of Henry VIII's doomed second queen, mother of Elizabeth I of England. Here, a recently crowned Elizabeth finds her dead mother's diary, discovering not only a legacy of maternal love but the idea that Virgin Queens should stay that way. The story blasts off with a Tudorian ``God's death!" roared by Elizabeth, but Maxwell doesn't generally weigh the narrative down with archaisms. The dutifully noted battles and political skirmishes of the great powers don't interfere with the upward strides (and missteps) of that peppery commoner, Anne Boleyn. Educated in a French court, and later in England, serving Henry's royal-born Queen Katherine, Anne, to her amazement (and greedy father's delight), is pursued by the King (``He loomed so large, those blue and laughing eyes so bright"). Having been separated from the man she really loved, Anne daringly keeps Henry in courtly pursuit--but out of bed--for six years. Meantime, Henry, determined to change queenly partners, uproots his allegiance to the Pope and creates an English church. The King and Anne marry, but now that the Unattainable has become a marital captive--and a queen unable to produce a son--Henry's frustrations (and desires) prod him to turn elsewhere. Death by execution in the Tower will cut short a life in which the stakes and odds were sky-high. Years later, Elizabeth finds in her mother's diary a pointed message: ``Never relinquish control to any man." Those fascinated by the Tudors--those magnificent, truly terrifying political animals--may find the characterizations and the language occasionally too modern. But Anne's straight-from-the- stomacher confessions, and Elizabeth's thundering about, should appeal to all fanciers of imagined portraits of Tudor-era heroines, like the late Eleanor Hibbert's (a.k.a. Victoria Holt, Philippa Carr, Jean Plaidy) gallery of royal queens. (Author tour) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review
“A wonderfully juicy historical novel so convincing that it’s difficult to believe it is the author’s first…Maxwell brings all of bloody Tudor England vividly to life.”--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"In this dramatic retelling of Anne Boleyn's life, Maxwell creates an historical fiction classic. But beware: this is truly addictive reading.”—Michelle Moran, author of *Madame Tussaud*

“Dazzling. Historical fiction at its finest." - C.W. Gortner, author of *The Confessions of Catherine de Medici*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Ochoa:

This The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn without we comprehend teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cell phone. This The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Scott Halpin:

Typically the book The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Dominick Tran:

The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

Alexander Taylor:

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