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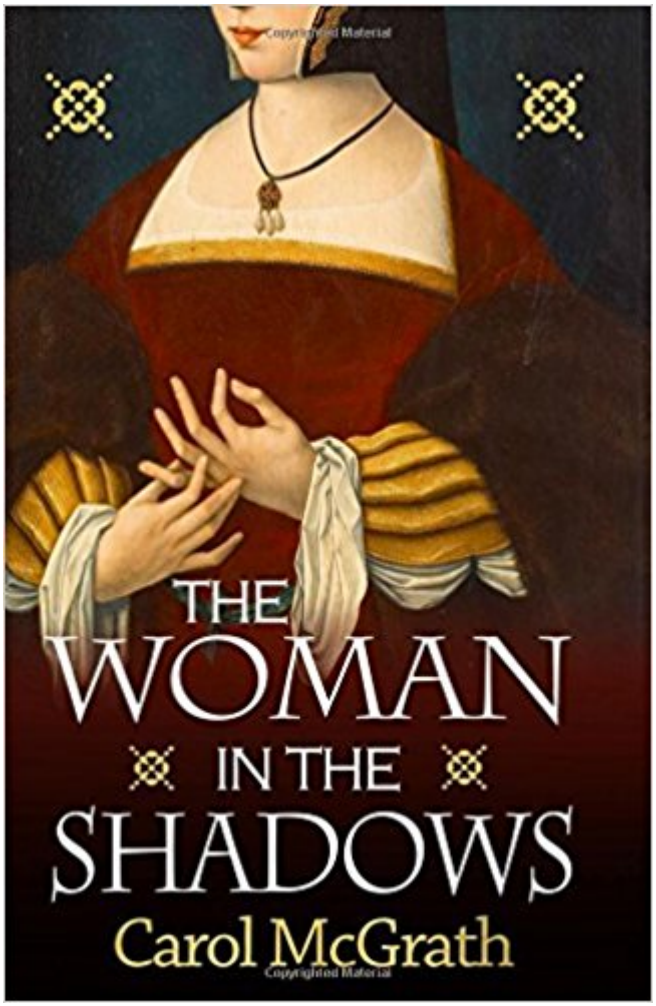
The Woman In The Shadows: Tudor England Through The Eyes Of An Influential Woman



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬ËœA delicate and detailed portrayal, absolutely beautifully done. Captivating.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Suzannah Dunn Ã¢â ¬ËœAn intriguing and compelling portrayal of a woman who lived in the shadow of one of Tudor England's most powerful men. Elizabeth Cromwell's world and that of her enigmatic husband, is brought to life in this engaging narrative.' Tracy Borman, Historian. Ã¢â ¬ËœStep into the intimate world of Thomas Cromwell as seen through the eyes of his wife, Elizabeth.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Anne OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Brien Ã¢â ¬ËœA delicious frisson of dangers slithers through every page of the book. Enthralling.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Karen Maitland. Ã¢â ¬ËœRich, vivid and immersive, an enthralling story of the turbulent Tudor era.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Nicola Cornick. A powerful, evocative new novel by the critically acclaimed author of The Handfasted Wife, The Woman in the Shadows tells the rise of Thomas Cromwell, Tudor England's most powerful statesman, through the eyes of his wife Elizabeth. When beautiful cloth merchantÃ¢â ¬â„¢s daughter Elizabeth Williams is widowed at the age of twenty-two, she is determined to make herself a success in the business she has learned from her father. But there are those who oppose a woman making her own way in the world, and soon Elizabeth realises she may have some powerful enemiesÃ Â Ã¢â ¬â œ enemies who also know the truth about her late husband. Security Ã¢â ¬â œ and happiness Ã¢â ¬â œ comes when Elizabeth is introduced to kindly, ambitious merchant turned lawyer, Thomas Cromwell. Their marriage is one based on mutual love and respectÃ¢â ¬Â¦but it isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t always easy being the wife of an influential, headstrong man in Henry VIIIÃ¢â ¬â„¢s London. The city is filled with ruthless people and strange delights Ã¢â ¬â œ and Elizabeth realises she must adjust to the life she has chosenÃ¢â ¬Â¦or risk losing everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

’Rich, vivid and immersive, an enthralling story of the turbulent Tudor era." * Nicola Cornick *

Carol McGrath taught History and English for many years in both the state and private sectors. She left teaching to work on a MA in Creative Writing from Queens University Belfast, then an MPhil in English at Royal Holloway, London, where she developed her expertise on the Middle Ages. The idea to tell the story about the death of King Harold told from the viewpoint of his common law wife, Edith Swan-Neck, first came to her on a visit to Bayeux with the Launton/Gavray Twinning Society, which she chaired. Carol is married with two children and runs a business with her husband. She also reviews books for the Historical Novels Review.

As a reader of historical fiction, I rarely find a book as wonderful as this one. I love the details of a life not centered on royalty and the fascinating small descriptions that transported me right into the time period. I hope the author continues this genre with other "minor" characters from history. I loved every word.

I have called this novel "powerful", and it was to me..and "groundbreaking" because few facts are available to the public about the wife of Thomas Cromwell, excepting for her name and her death date. Additionally, again for me, this family has not been "overdone" in fiction although the Tudors themselves perhaps have been.I preface this review to say two things: one is that I received this ARC for a review and secondly, that I hope there is a sequel of some sorts (Gregory Cromwell and/or Richard Williams). This author’s prior work that I am most familiar with, was a family series involving three book.This evocative story begins with a preface, that shows how Elizabeth’s life will be in 1526, then jumps to Part One, which is when she is widowed from Tom Williams. On that occasion she is reintroduced, as an adult with Thomas Cromwell (who she may have met in childhood).Carol McGrath,in her fine author note, indicates that any "inventions" are a novelist’s prerogative, but emerge from facts which are in existence, from her historian perspective. She also handles "time jumps" adroitly and in a way that enhances the story.It was very satisfying to me to be able to read about the Cromwells’ life together, and to put flesh on their bones, as the saying goes. It seems to have been a good life lived in very difficult times, poised as they were on a religious reformation with many societal norms being thrown asunder.Many of the associates and staff of

Thomas Cromwell and "Lizzie", as she was called, had their life station rise as their employer's did. We do know that in these perilous times life was precarious. This family dared to challenge some norms and consequences occurred.I recommend this book to all historical novel lovers as well as some

Carol McGrathÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s The Woman in The Shadows is my latest favourite book. I recall being intrigued by the character of Elizabeth Cromwell after reading Wolf Hall, particularly after David StarkeyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s assertion that the notion of Thomas Cromwell as a loving family man is total fiction.Now we have a new book siding with Hilary Mantel ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ from ElizabethÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s point of view. Written in the first person, this touching and evocative account makes impressive use of the few known facts of ElizabethÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life.We are transported to a dangerous and dirty Tudor London, where you need to look over your shoulder and watch for cutpurses. I loved the details of daily life, of the Tudor attitudes to birth, marriage and death - and feel I understand what life was like as a medieval cloth merchant.In an inspired break from the conventional timeline, we dip into the past for entire chapters. It reminded me of watching a skilled portrait artist at work, with increasing detail over broader brushwork until the result is three dimensional.I cared about Elizabeth Cromwell. I worried about the way women were treated. I cheered at ElizabethÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s achievements and groaned at her mistakes. I could not put this book down. Highly recommended.

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