

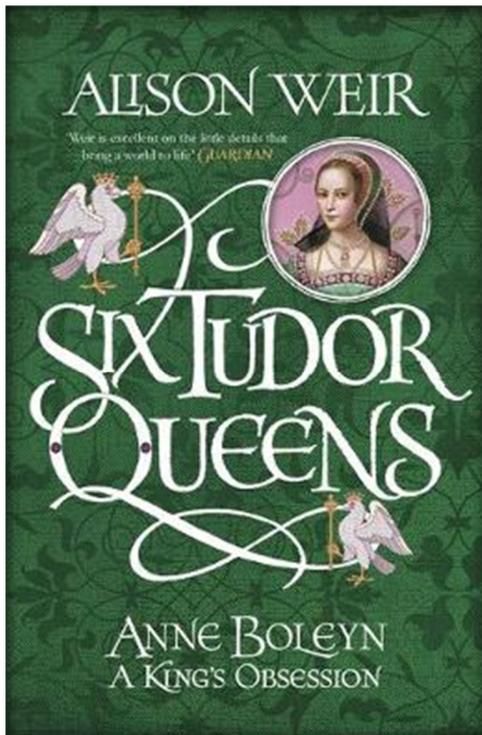


Helping you choose  
your next book

headline

LoveReading Reader reviews of  
**Six Tudor Queens:**  
**Anne Boleyn: A King's Obsession**  
by Alison Weir

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



**Jan Kirkcaldy**

*I looked at this book and immediately remembered history exams about the Tudor period from many years ago. With a teenager's limited interest, I read what I had to and never thought about the characters beyond the dates and basic facts we were given. When I started this tome (it is over 500 pages long!) there was no way of knowing how fascinating it would be particularly detailing so much about the time in which it was set. Far from being just a short term Queen who was beheaded I soon discovered there was so much more to her life. As a young teenager she was sent to Europe and became a maid of honour in various*

*European courts for many years before encountering Henry VIII who, it is said, she resisted for many years. Hard to believe, but everything that went on with the Boleyn's and their extended family was carefully contrived, mostly by her father, to orchestrate the family's aspirations to grandeur. What better way to the King's court and high ranking positions, than an attractive woman so Anne became an instrument towards this.*

*At first she seemed reluctant but developed a determination and ambition to become Queen with disastrous results. With Henry's flawed character and the intrigue surrounding his daily life their story is a fascinating one and the obsession at the time for a male heir did not help Anne's cause, nor did Cardinal Wolsey and Sir Thomas More who were key advisers to the King. Obviously even with detailed research and documents available to modern day historians,*

*truths and untruths can remain hidden so there is always speculation as the author admits. Nevertheless I finished the story with a greater understanding of the time and all those involved becoming real people rather than just characters from the past. One thing that remains in my mind is that despite Henry's yearning for a son, it was Anne who gave him Elizabeth, one of our most famous and long serving monarchs of all time. **A great read for anyone interested in the period and who doesn't want a superficially glamourized version. I couldn't put it down and it's the first historical novel I've found so enjoyable for a long time.***

### **Elisabeth Thomas**

#### ***A must read for all historical fiction lovers!***

*'Six Tudor Queens: Anne Boleyn: A Kings Obsession' is the second book in the epic and amazing Six Tudor Queens series – a series of 6 novels for each of the infamous wives of Henry VIII.*

*After really enjoying the first novel about Katherine of Aragon, I was eagerly awaiting the second in the series. We all know the story of what happened to the second wife of Henry VIII this book provides a very different perspective to the history book – the story from the point of Anne Boleyn.*

*As with all of Alison Weir's novels this one has been meticulously research and you can tell that this book has been a true labour of love. For fans of historical fiction this is a **MUST** read. Even though it is part of a series you don't need to have read the first book.*

***I loved every page and cannot wait to read the third book in the series!***

<https://www.facebook.com/ListtheBookworm/>

### **Joy Bosworth**

This book tries to go into the mind of Anne, beyond just the vain attempt at glory.

Henry and Anne would have loved Instagram and other social media, he with his power dressing and posturing, she without good looks but enough cunning to create new styles which disguised her misformed finger.

**This book showed a new angle which was completely fresh for me -** that Anne served at court not only in France but in The Netherlands and absorbed new ideas from women of power.

This is the only mitigation for her struggle to retain Henry's interest. She had seen him use and then discard her sister, Mary, and was not at all in love with the king, just the power he could give her. Whilst it was not possible for his many victims to evade the sexual predator, she sensed his interest wane as he went his fickle way but was determined to retain him. To do this she goaded him to be even more brutal treatment of his long suffering wife than he would have thought to mete out himself. She encourages him to kill those who crossed him and spurs him to use ever more vile methods of these deaths. Yet is horrified to think someone has committed murder on her behalf.

When she too is no longer young and unlikely to bear an heir she can see her future will repeat that of the last queen that she had usurped. Her nasty end was probably not justified for the reason it was pronounced but for anyone at court at that time, was just a hazard of being so grasping and being willing to sup with the devil in order to benefit from his titles etc

### **Kathy Howell**

I have read lots of books by Alison Weir, both fiction and non-fiction, and have always enjoyed them. This was no exception. **The quality of the writing reflects the amount of research that has gone into the book.**

The book begins with Anne as a girl and follow her as she takes up her position in the Court of the Netherlands and then moves to the French Court. While she is abroad she is influenced by the new religious movement away from the Catholic Church which will have such a bearing on her future on her return.

Anne's reluctance to become Henry's mistress is well known and this book suggests that she never really loved him, but wanted the position of Queen and the power that brings. Anne's disappointment that Henry still shows affection and respect to Katherine and Mary causes her to be very cruel and to argue with Henry. Anne shows herself to be selfish and manipulative and follows this line, disposing of people she does not like or thinks are working against her, until it is too late to turn back and she has lost Henry's affection. It is clear from this book that Anne is falsely accused of treason but demonstrates her courage in the face of her death.

### **Paul Garland**

The author takes us on a young girls adventures through the royal courts of the

Tudor dynasty but shows that you have to watch your back as there is always someone ready to 'do the dirty' on you.

This is the second book of a series by Alison Weir about the six wives of Henry VIII. This particular book chronicles the life of Anne Boleyn from the age of 11 years until her execution as if all told by Anne herself.

Not only are we treated to an insight of Anne's thoughts and actions but also of others such as family, politicians and of course the King and their impact on Anne's life.

We know how the story ends and much of what led up to Anne's demise but Weir weaves the facts with romance in an inspired way that allows us to feel as if we are living the Tudor lifestyle. Taken through the life of a young, naive girl who loves the life of the royal court, wooed by a man she dislikes until she realises the power that she has as queen.

I particularly like that there was no flowery, prolonged descriptions of rooms, costumes or politics, the author gives us the framework and leaves us to use imagination to complete the picture.

Much has been written about the Tudors, especially Anne Boleyn, but **Alison Weir blends history and fiction in an extremely readable and enjoyable way. I was so impressed with this book that I had to buy the previous volume about Katherine of Aragon.**

I would recommend both books and look forward to more in the series.

### **Mollie Mayson-Simpson**

***This is a brilliant book, but huge, intelligent, and needing time to allow the layers to settle.*** *The author is a 'proper' historian, so what we get is a true story based on meticulous research. This is the second book in Alison Weir's 'Six Tudor Queens' series, this one following close on the heels of Katherine of Aragon: the True Queen. The first book allowed us access to Katherine's experience of life with a much younger Henry, including, in the later years, what she perceived as the mischief-making of a determined rival, Anne Boleyn. The second book acquaints us with Anne's own struggle to be accepted as queen, including what she perceives as Katherine's animosity and refusal to move out of her way.*

*We meet Anne as a young girl, born into a family accustomed to life at Court, in direct service to the King and his family. A case is made for the business of the*

*English Court scene to be 'the play of courtly love'. Anne served her apprenticeship in the palaces of Burgundy and France, and knows well the skills required, although she has many rivals, including her own sister, Mary. We see Anne become totally fixated on wearing the crown of the Queen of England, and know that she is doomed. We have known throughout twenty-eight chapters that the ending will be sad, but still the last pages come across as shocking.*

### **Angie Rhodes**

Having read 'Katherine of Aragon, The True Queen', I was looking forward to reading the second book, in the new series by Alison Weir.

Anne, was under no illusions that she was beautiful, compared to her sister Mary, she was plain, but what she lacked in looks, Anne made up for in spirit and determination. Having lived in the Palaces of Burgundy and France she now finds herself in the Court of Queen Katherine and King Henry. Enjoying her time, with the ladies of the Court and becoming a favourite of the Queen's she soon becomes, under the watchful gaze of Henry, but Anne is determined to become more than a King's mistress she wants Katherine's crown. Anne never really loves the King, what she craved was power, and this power can be dangerous, if not kept under control. As Anne finds out, when a new face enters her world, that of Jane Seymour...

Once again Alison has allowed her readers to walk in her character's shoes, to feel their happiness, and their grief, and in this book, Anne's death.

***You will be swept away, and find that time stands still as you lose yourself in the Courts of King Henry VIII.***

### **Marjorie Lacy**

***Wow! What a book and what a woman!! Alison Weir has completed a marathon of superb and informative writing.***

I don't think I can like Anne, she seems self-obsessed and regards herself as the only woman to have problems. Her place and influence on Henry cannot be denied as it changed the course of English history.

Anne and Henry seemed to bring out the worst of each other, a real dangerous alliance. With our hindsight, it was amazing how Henry could manufacture reasons and ways to relieve himself of unwanted wives. Without him, and his destruction of Churches, we would not have the legacy of ruins to consider at, to

wonder about the people who caused it.

### **Lisa Redmond**

***Just when you think that there is nothing new to be said about the Tudors, along comes Alison Weir with her outstanding Six Tudor Queens series.*** *The second of which is published in hardback this May, focusing on Anne Boleyn whom Alison has already examined in the biography Lady in the Tower. With this novel the reader not only gets Weir's impeccable research but her insight as a novelist. So much of the bare facts of Anne Boleyn's life are well known but Alison Weir offers us an emotional truth and a tantalising glimpse into Anne's mind. Instead of the usual caricature of a cold and calculating schemer this portrait shows us a young woman powerless to resist the advances of a king. Forced to accept a situation not of her own making Anne determines to make the best of it and push for her own interests but unfortunately she makes powerful enemies on her path of power and the spirit that makes her so fascinating to read about also makes her a target for those with ambition in the Tudor court. Essential reading for fans of Anne O'Brien, Philippa Gregory and Elizabeth Fremantle.*

### **Edel Waugh**

*If you love reading about King Henry and his notorious love life then this awesome fictional retelling of King Henry and Anne Boleyn will make a very enjoyable read. The story is fascinating and the woman herself even more so. I felt sorry for Queen Katherine as Anne had a plan and was going to stop at nothing to get what she wanted, to be married to the King. **If you love history then this makes a terrific read, the behind the scenes details of what went on in King Henry's court and the insatiable desires of a powerful man make this impossible to put down.***