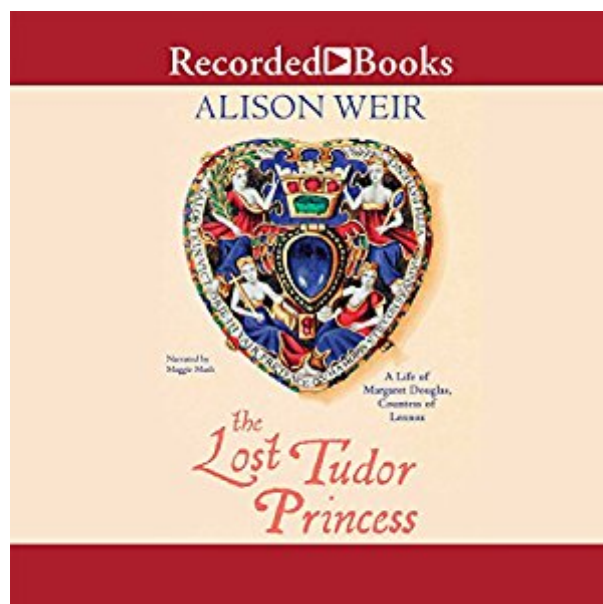


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The Lost Tudor Princess: The Life Of Lady Margaret Douglas



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author and acclaimed historian Alison Weir comes the first biography of Mary Douglas, the beautiful, cunning niece of Henry VIII of England who used her sharp intelligence and covert power to influence the succession after the death of Elizabeth I. Royal Tudor blood ran in her veins. Her mother was a queen, her father an earl, and she herself was the granddaughter, niece, cousin, and grandmother of monarchs. Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, was an important figure in Tudor England, yet today, while her contemporaries - Anne Boleyn; Mary, Queen of Scots; Elizabeth I - have achieved celebrity status, she is largely forgotten. Margaret's life was steeped in intrigue, drama, and tragedy - from her auspicious birth in 1530 to her parents' bitter divorce, from her ill-fated love affairs to her appointment as lady-in-waiting for four of Henry's six wives. In an age when women were expected to stay out of the political arena, alluring and tempestuous Margaret helped orchestrate one of the most notorious marriages of the 16th century: that of her son, Lord Darnley, to Mary, Queen of Scots. Margaret defiantly warred with two queens - Mary, and Elizabeth of England - and was instrumental in securing the Stuart ascension to the throne of England for her grandson, James VI. The life of Margaret Douglas spans five reigns and provides many missing links between the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. Drawing on decades of research and myriad original sources - including many of Margaret's surviving letters - Alison Weir brings this captivating character out of the shadows and presents a strong, capable woman who operated effectively and fearlessly at the very highest levels of power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an outstanding biography of Margaret Douglas. It is probably Alison Weir's best nonfiction book (and, by extension, at least for me, her best book, as I prefer her nonfiction over her fiction). So many so-called biographies of medieval or Renaissance women are more about the people around them rather than the woman herself as we so seldom have their opinions, hopes and dreams expressed in their own words. Not so with Margaret Douglas. We have numerous letters written by and to her, as well as a series of heartbreaking love poetry from a doomed romance. And she certainly was a romantic figure (spoiler alert: a non-doomed romance). People adored the young Margaret when she came to the English court. She was a favorite of her uncle, Henry VIII (although he went ahead and threw her in the tower anyways) and his daughter (Margaret's cousin), the future Queen Mary. Henry VIII's other daughter, Elizabeth I – well, their relationship was very up and down (and yes, she also threw Margaret in prison). Margaret Douglas was very much a contender for the throne, and Elizabeth was not very tolerant of anyone who stood too close to her throne. She and her husband were claimants to the thrones of not one country but two, England and Scotland. Margaret plotted tirelessly to advance herself and her family, and later to marry her son, Lord Darnley, to Mary, Queen of Scots. And yes, Elizabeth was not happy. So, if you are not familiar with Margaret Douglas, let me tell you a very little about her background. Her mother (also named Margaret) was the daughter of Henry VII, and so a sister to Henry VIII, and she was married to the king of Scotland. After that king died, she married a Scottish lord, and their daughter was Margaret Douglas, the subject of this book.

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