



Katherine of Aragon, the True Queen

Alison Weir

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The lives of Henry VIII's queens make for dramatic stories and Alison Weir will write a series of novels that offer insights into the real lives of the six wives based on extensive research and new theories.

In all the romancing, has anyone regarded the evidence that Anne Boleyn did not love Henry VIII? Or that Prince Arthur, Katherine of Aragon's first husband, who is said to have loved her in fact cared so little for her that he willed his personal effects to his sister? Or that Henry VIII, an over-protected child and teenager, was prudish when it came to sex? That Jane Seymour, usually portrayed as Henry's one true love, had the makings of a matriarch? There is much to reveal ...

Alison will write about the wives in the context of their own age and of the court intrigues that surrounded these women and - without exception - wrecked their lives. She will transport readers into a lost and vivid world of splendour and brutality: a world in which love, or the game of it, dominates all.

Katherine of Aragon, the True Queen Details

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From Reader Review Katherine of Aragon, the True Queen for online ebook

Hannah Greendale says

Click here to watch a video review of this book on my channel, *From Beginning to Bookend*.

First betrothed at the age of three to Arthur, Prince of Wales, the young princess of Spain, Catalina, sails to England at sixteen years of age to marry. Because she is the daughter of the esteemed monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, Catalina's marriage to Arthur is designed to ensure an Anglo-Spanish alliance against France. In an unforeseen twist of fate, Catalina – anglicized to Princess Katherine – is betrothed to Henry VIII, heir to the English throne. Though her marriage is at first loving, outside forces soon cause a rift between Katherine and Henry VIII - one that threatens their relationship, Katherine's status as Queen, and the future of the nation.

Katherine of Aragon is the first book of the Six Tudor Queens series (in which each book is dedicated to recounting the life of one of King Henry VIII's wives). Spanning from 1501 to 1536, Katherine's life is examined from the time of her crossing the seas at age sixteen to the moment when the last breath leaves her body.

Though Katherine remains a central figure throughout the book, Weir integrates relevant moments of historical import, touching on politics, warring nations, Spanish and English traditions, and religion. While historically informative, it is Katherine's life as a princess and as a Queen that captivates from start to finish. The glamour of wealth is evident in young Katherine's collection of "gowns of red and gold damask, woven silk, velvet of the costliest black, [and] cloth of gold," and the perks of being royalty are obvious when a "heavy gold diadem glittering with sapphires, rubies, and pearls" is placed on Katherine's head.

Expensive gowns and glittering gemstones are, however, superficial compensation for the oppressed life of a woman living in the sixteenth century. Weir paints a stark portrait of the lack of autonomy Katherine suffers, despite her status as Queen. Her life is never hers to control and she is, therefore, a figure who's easy to sympathize with.

"The unpalatable truth was that what she wanted was immaterial. She knew she was powerless to affect her future. It would be decided to the advantage of others. That was the way it had always been if you were a princess."

Whether girl or woman, princess or queen, females are to be chaste and demure. A wife's duty is to be silent, to put her husband's image before hers, and to prioritize her husband's needs before all else. "[T]he voices of women, even queens, counted for very little." Even education is beyond reach, as teaching women is considered frivolous with emphasis directed, instead, on a woman being moral and pure.

"They encourage light behavior," Vives explained, "but the Princess will benefit from reading moral tales such as 'Patient Griselda.'" Katherine had read the story in Boccaccio's Decameron, and thought that this morality tale of a woman who endured much sorrow and humiliation at the hands of her husband, yet loved him in spite of it, would offer a good example to [the Princess]."

Katherine's moments of joy and sorrow are captured with nuanced writing. Weir finds a harmonious balance between providing an abundance of historical details and conveying Katherine's emotional evolution.

Though the story is delivered in a third-person narrative, Katherine's feelings are so resonant that it often seems like a first-person delivery.

(view spoiler)

At just shy of six hundred pages, Weir's fictional retelling of Katherine's life occasionally feels long-winded with slow pacing, but those lulls are few in number.

Katherine of Aragon: The True Queen is a believable, moving portrayal of an admirable woman fighting for love and holding fast to her religious convictions.

Thomas says

4 stars.

This is a long book, 624p. I think that it does represent a very good representation of Katherine's viewpoint and also what it was like to be a queen 500 years ago. I was raised Roman Catholic and taught that Henry VIII's move to divorce Katherine was based on lust for Anne Boleyn. But the book makes clear Henry's fear that if he did not have a lawful son and heir, his country might descend into civil war when he died. He had an illegitimate son by a mistress, but his sons by Katherine died. He became convinced that he was cursed because he married his brother's widow. The battle of Bosworth, ending the civil war with Henry VII triumphant, took place in 1485, only 6 years before Henry VIII's birth. Henry VII impressed upon his sons the importance of carrying on on the royal lineage to avoid another civil war.

Katherine refused to accept any of the alternatives Henry VIII offered her, annulment, entering a nunnery or divorce. She was defending her daughter Mary's right to royal lineage and her own conscience, which said that she was Henry VIII's lawful wife. She believed that it would be a great sin to give in to Henry VIII. Henry VIII became mean and vindictive toward Katherine and even had his messengers threaten her with arrest for treason. The author does a very good job of portraying intrigue at the royal court and painting a picture of England 500 years ago. I recommend it to historical fiction fans.

Two quotes:

"Heading his chamber was his fair haired Groom of the Stool, William Compton..."

"The melodious sounds of shawms, crumhorns, lutes, sackbuts, regals, pipes and tabors echoed from a leafy bower where musicians played unseen."

This book was a Goodreads giveaway and I thank the publisher, Ballantine books. I apologize for taking so long to read it.

Evgnossia O'Hara says

My Review is finally up!

Alison Weir managed to describe the inner world, the emotions and the long-suffering fate of Katherine of Aragon, the first wife of the King Henry the eighth. Through her writing and her deep knowledge of history she brings into live the political principles, the values and the games during the Tudor's domination in England.

To read more click the link below:

Katherine of Aragon, The True Queen | Review

Tony Riches says

I must admit a certain empathy for Katherine of Aragon, so I'd been looking forward to this book since I first heard Alison Weir was writing it. Like many, I was failed by my history teachers, who I remember dismissed Katherine's almost twenty-four year marriage in their haste to get on to the 'interesting' bits. That meant it was up to me to learn Katherine's amazing story of courage, love, loss - and determination.

Alison recently said of Katherine on the Tudor Times website, "As a woman of high principle and integrity, she deserves to be celebrated as one of the greatest and most loved queens of England. In telling her story, I have tried not to make Katherine too much of a saint. She had failings, naturally, and she could take a blinkered approach to crucial issues, but her innate honesty, loyalty, faith and good intentions make her a most sympathetic character."

This comes through from the start, when we join the young Catalina arriving in England, unable to even speak the language yet full of hope and optimism. I like the skilled development of even the minor characters we've come to expect of Alison Weir, particularly her harsh Spanish 'Duenna', clinging on the old traditions, and Katherine's maidservants, driven by their own self-interest.

I was unsurprised although a little disappointed to see Henry VII is yet again portrayed as sinister and insensitive, although I appreciate way all the English lack manners and refinement through Katherine's eyes. Conversely, it's fun to see Henry VIII as a cheeky boy who can't believe his luck, slowly turning into the man we expect him to become.

Although I've studied the details of Katherine's life, it is still harrowing and sometimes shocking to share her seemingly endless, often tragic pregnancies, with their awful consequences. I feel I have a new insight into her character and her faith after reading this book, so for that reason am happy to award it a rare five stars.

Book Riot Community says

TUDOR ENGLAND, who doesn't love it. Alison Weir is embarking on an ambitious project here, to write detailed novels about each of Henry VIII's storied wives (how she's going to do super-boring Jane Seymour, I do not know). I've had a special place in my heart for Katherine of Aragon since *The Tudors*, and *Katherine of Aragon* goes it from her excellent point of view. It could be easy to make her seem overly pious and kind of lame, but this is the daughter of ISABELLA OF CASTILE, and she is damn fascinating. Henry and Katherine were married by far the longest out of any of his wives, and this book gives you a blow by blow of their marriage without sinking into tedium. And Anne Boleyn is now out! Get it. Read it. Love it. If you like historical fiction. If not, then maybe do not do that.

— Alice Burton

Susan says

They are the family which we never seem to lost interest in – the subjects of endless books, documentaries and television shows. Even now, the Tudors seem larger than life; with Henry VIII the central character, circled by the six women he married. Now, Alison Weir has started a new historical fiction series, putting each wife at the very centre of her own story.

For many of us, the historical facts will be well known. However, whether you are a history fan or not, you will be able to read this book and enjoy it. For Weir is a consummate story teller and she takes us through the life of Katherine of Aragon from the time she first arrives as a young princess from Spain (then the Infanta Catalina) to marry Henry VII's heir, Prince Arthur.

Katherine arrives in England homesick and cold; only to find Prince Arthur sickly and faintly disinterested. Of course, much historical research has been spent trying to discover whether this marriage was ever consummated. Alison Weir takes the point of view of Katherine as central in this novel and so she also assumes that what Katherine stated happened was the truth. Therefore, this is very much Katherine's story as she would have told it and is a very sympathetic portrayal of Henry's first wife.

If you are familiar with Katherine's life, there is little point in rehashing it here. If you know little about her, then you will find this an engrossing portrait of a women who believed completely in doing her duty. She would never have questioned her parent's, or later, her husband's, wishes. She was sent to England to be Queen and she had every intention of carrying out this role to the best of her ability and creating an alliance between England and Spain. So, it makes it even more moving that when Henry decides he wants a divorce that, for once, she digs in her heels and refuses to move over gracefully.

Although this is very much a straightforward fictional biography, there is a real sense that Alison Weir is a master of her craft, and so knowledgeable of the time period that she easily makes you feel that you there, at Court, with the characters. This could bring new readers to historical fiction, in the way that, "The Other Boleyn Girl," did when I first discovered the Tudors as a, much younger, reader. Very enjoyable and sure to be a great success. Now, I cannot wait to read the volume about Anne Boleyn...

Nat K says

4.5★s for me.

I think that Alison Weir best sums up this book herself:

"I have tried in these pages to evoke the sights, textures, sounds and smells of an age, a lost world of splendor and brutality, and a court in which love, or the game of it, held sway, but where dynastic pressures overrode any romantic considerations. It was a world dominated by faith and by momentous religious change – and a world in which there were few saints. This was Katherine's world, and we can only understand her properly within its context."

From birth, Katherine (Catalina) of Aragón was destined to be a Queen. Her lineage, her background, her education all set the stage for her to be destined to a life of royalty. Setting sail as a young woman from her beloved home of Spain to England to marry King Henry's brother Prince Arthur, sets this story in motion.

What I enjoyed is that Alison Weir wrote this from Katherine's perspective. We get an eagle eye view of events unfolding in "real time". From being deeply and happily in love with King Henry, to the betrayal that later followed, you can feel every wave of happiness and each stab of hurt and regret.

This story saddened me deeply with the unjust way in which Katherine was treated. Women were very much at the mercy of the men-folk, and were considered chattels with little or no say in how they led their lives, or what opinions they had. In fact, anyone who had an opinion which did not mirror the King's met untimely and cruel deaths. Those who remained loyal to Katherine were many, and suffered cruelly for it. What made it even more poignant for me, is that she continue to love Henry until she drew her last breath.

This is such superb writing. A definite must read for anyone who is new to the story of King Henry and his wives, or for someone who'd like to dip their toe in the water and read the story from another perspective.

I definitely have the next instalment (Anne Boleyn) waiting in the wings, to continue this amazing series.

Matt says

As she embarks on a new series, Weir pulls on much of her past research to create strong novels based on the six queens of Henry VIII. The focus of this first novel is Katherine of Aragon, who was betrothed to England's Prince Arthur at a young age. When she arrived in England, Katherine found herself unsure of the decision negotiated by her parents, though she understood she was a pawn to forge a necessary political alliance. Upon meeting her future husband, Katherine began to sense the awkwardness of the situation, for this was a man who did not show the raw attraction or curiosity she was told to expect. Her marriage to Prince Arthur became one of a friendship rather than an amorous connection, as Weir supports in numerous instances. Additionally, the controversial 'non-consummation' of their wedding is a historical gem Weir explores in the narrative, a key piece of information that plays a central role in the latter portion of the story. When Arthur became ill and died, Katherine renewed her role as pawn, though not in the same fashion. Her hand was potentially pledged to King Henry VII, the French dauphin, and Prince Henry (the heir to the English Throne) at various points, all to secure alliances, but also to keep options open for both Spain and England. Eventually, she married Prince (now King) Henry and their union seemed full of love, especially after receiving a papal dispensation to unite. Here began the next struggle in Katherine's life, trying to give England an heir. A number of pregnancies ended in miscarriage or death days after birth, including a few sons. When one child survived, Katherine was overjoyed with Princess Mary, though the Queen realised that she still bore the yoke of producing a male heir. Could this issue be founded in God's displeasure with their union? When Katherine eventually succumbed to menopause, she knew that she has failed Henry, though held firm that she has done all in her power. Henry refused to show his disappointment outwardly, though plotted with his closest advisor, Cardinal Wolsey, to bring an heir to the throne. Weir does mention an illegitimate heir, from Henry's philandering, but no son around which England could unite. Thus began the delicate shift of dissolving his marriage with Katherine so that he could turn to the young Anne Boleyn, a former lady of Queen Katherine and the new love interest of the King. As the Queen refused to admit her marriage was anything but legal and the King failed to convince her to divorce, Henry turned to Rome for the pope to invalidate it. Katherine held firm to the earlier dispensation, hoping it would save her and ensure that she and Mary would never become black marks in the English history books. Katherine was eventually

pushed out of her place as Queen, even as Rome refused to recognize Henry's wedding to Boleyn, which caused the largest of schisms and led Henry to create the Church of England to justify his actions. Vilified by her husband while being supported by the English people, Katherine fought with all she had to keep her name clear and allow Mary her rightful place as heir to the throne. Even in her dwindling years, Katherine found many who spoke in favour of her marriage and against Henry's conniving nature to blot out their marriage, a veritable act of treason to verbalise. A masterful novel that allows English history buffs to bask in Weir's superior writing style that flows so effortlessly, Katherine of Aragon emerges not as a saintly woman, but one of passion who held firm to her personal and religious beliefs during a tumultuous time at the English Court.

While this is considered a piece of fiction, any reader who knows their history or has devoured much of Weir's past work will realise that it is steeped in reality. As I read, I became aware that the 'fiction' moniker was placed there more to validate the detailed dialogue than a shuffling of facts to create a more dramatic story. Weir lays down a powerful narrative that flows effectively throughout Katherine's life and shows that while she was isolated from her Spanish parents, she held firm to protect herself and her daughter from Henry's self-centred approach to life. While long and highly detailed, Weir offers the reader an insightful look into the life of this first of Henry's six wives, perhaps the strongest advocate of them all. Weir brings Katherine of Aragon to life in this opening novel and leaves readers itching for the next instalment, sure to be filled with as much drama, bridging from the narrative peppered throughout this book. There is surely crossover material to be explored more thoroughly within the second novel, though Weir is able to secure focus on events from Katherine's perspective. This novel offers everything the reader could expect from perusing its title, with chapters full of anecdotes woven into powerful dialogue.

Kudos, Madam Weir for this exceptional piece of writing that piques the interest of readers from all walks of life. I look forward to the next book in the collection and how you tackle the Boleyn character.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Kim Kaso says

The tragic story of Henry VIII's first queen, a true royal, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. Alison Weir's research is always outstanding, and her affection and compassion for this woman caught between her love for Spain and England, between her love and devotion to God and her husband, and between her love for her husband and her one living child, Mary, is a beautifully told story. I found myself once again deeply immersed in the complex and endlessly fascinating world of the Tudors. Masterfully written, very highly recommended.

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

I love British history and I love seeing different interpretations. Whether it be a speculative piece of fiction based on a place name, a tale inspired by vicious court rumour, or a story founded on fact, I love it all.

I'm not kidding when I say that this book is a door stopper. It's over 600 pages and yes, more than a little bit

daunting. But the imagery is stunning. Right from the start, the vivid descriptions transported me to Katherine's side.

Lolly's Library says

4.5 stars

A novel told from the perspective of Katherine of Aragon, stretching from those first heady days when she arrived in England as the bride-to-be of Arthur, first-born son of King Henry VII, to her last painful and ignominious hours she spent as the discarded, yet defiant, wife of King Henry VIII.

I must say, the book started off rather slow for me: once the drama of Katherine's marriage to Arthur had passed and she and Henry were married, most of the time was spent wrapped up in Katherine's wedded bliss, which seemed a bit too . . . blissful for a woman, especially a high-ranking woman, of this period. For instance, the first time Henry is unfaithful, Katherine is shocked and hurt by his behavior. Really? Should she be? After all, it's not like love or even affection between royal spouses was the norm, despite the appearance Henry gave of being as in love with Katherine as she was with him. Aristocratic and royal marriages were made for alliances, for power, not for love; adultery, on the man's part, was the accepted norm. So it seemed strange for Katherine, the daughter of Isabella of Aragon, to exist in a cloud of naivety and meekness. But then things start to pick up once the King's Secret Matter, which soon becomes the King's Great Matter, gets exposed and the hurly-burly with Anne Boleyn begins. Then we see the fire of Katherine of Aragon spark to life as she fights for her husband, her marriage, her title, her daughter, and her entire life and future.

This is not an unbiased book, nor should it be. This is a highly personal tale, told completely from one woman's perspective. Such a singular perspective doesn't allow for an unbiased telling. We see the events of this well-known historical period through a single set of eyes, augmented by the opinions of those in her household who are loyal to her, those who fight for her rights against those of Anne Boleyn. Anne Boleyn will get her say in the next book; in this book, she is only the "night crow" or "that woman" or "the Lady." And that's fine. This is not a history book or even a biography. This is historical fiction. Get interested in the history behind the story, but don't get your history *from* the story, even though this particular story is being told by an historian.

And a good one. Alison Weir thoroughly immerses us in the world of Katherine, her household, her retinues and routines, her high and low fortunes. We are with her every step of the way as she lives through the disappointment of her marriage to Arthur, as she floats through the glorious first years of her marriage to Henry, as she slowly becomes beaten down, small defeat by large, when Henry finds Anne, leaves Katherine, and splits Christendom in two in his quest to satisfy his desire to have a male heir. By the end of the book, it's quite easy for the reader to loathe both Henry and Anne as Katherine suffers repeated bouts of ill health, living in constant fear from the specter of poisoning hanging over both her and her daughter, Mary's, heads. Each illness of Mary's fills the reader with the same pangs of terror as it does Katherine, despite knowing that Mary survives these years of hell, years which imprint on her character indelibly.

However, because we are getting a story from Katherine's perspective, that also means we're getting a Tudor-washed, Ferdinand-washed tale as well, as is to be expected. So, in order for the Tudors to be winners, Richard III has to be the villain. In order for Ferdinand to be ruler of Spain, Juana has to be mad. It's a bit hard to swallow at first, but I had to keep telling myself, history is written by the victors. Henry VII and

Ferdinand were the victors; Richard III and Juana were not. Alison Weir does a good job of explaining the choices she made as a writer in her Author's Note, explaining she changed relatively little in attempting to evoke the sights, smells, and textures of a lost age. She also explains how writing the book from Katherine's perspective granted her a different, more intimate psychological perspective on this amazingly scrupulous, lionhearted, and resolute woman, which in turn allows us to better understand why Katherine wouldn't have knuckled under and given in to Henry's demands, for though the idea of Katherine retiring to a convent and becoming his "sister" might seem reasonable to us now, to Katherine, they were utterly repugnant.

Of course, probably the most famous incident in Katherine's life was her first marriage to Arthur and whether or not it was consummated. For what it's worth, I have always been of the opinion that it hadn't been, that Arthur had been too sickly and all his hearty exclamations of "My throat is parched for I have been this night in the midst of Spain!" were just ego-boosting boasts from a young boy who wished to appear masculine in the eyes of his court. While I have no doubt Katherine would've done everything in her power to protect herself and her daughter, her faith was too strong to allow her to lie about something as crucial as consummation.

Marialyce says

This was a wonderful telling of the life Katherine of Aragon, the true Queen and wife of Henry the Eighth. Katherine is presented as a woman of high morals and standards who stood by both the love she had for Henry and the life that she ultimately was condemned to lead. Hers was a sad life, deprived of her husband's love and denied the ability to be and see her daughter. Her loss of so many children while being married to Henry, was so tragic and yet her Christian faith allowed her to continue on.

Katherine was ever so courageous and melded always to the fact that she was Henry's true wife and that Anne Boleyn's claim to being the legitimate queen was a travesty. Henry, is presented as the man she truly loved. He was so besotted by Anne and so clamoring for a male heir that he willingly forsook the love that Katherine had for him. He was, and continued to be, a man filled with the overwhelming desire to have to have a son in order to continue the Tudor line. It is what seemed to drive him constantly and truly made him into the unfeeling, unreasonable man we see towards the end of Katherine's life.

It was a different time for sure, where a woman, even if she was queen, had little or no rights and was subjugated to the will of her father, brother, uncle, and husband. Katherine, in the end, was able to go to her god with the knowledge that she lived an exemplary life, one that was dedicated to her belief in the power and the glory of an almighty being. She also died knowing that she alone was the one true queen.

Lois says

I actually enjoyed this portrait of Katherine from first arrival in England to her death. I'm a fan of the Tudor period. This was well written and easy light enjoyable reading.

Yet, I'm tired of the misogynistic view of Anne Boleyn as home wrecker and Katherine as the helpless ingenue: unwilling to speak ill of either her husband the King or her rival Anne Boleyn. Both seem simplistic portraits of such complex women.

Weir is one of my favorite historians so I'm disappointed in this showing.

Henry chose to divorce Katherine. He then chose to cut off Anne's head. I find the suggestion that she had

power over him insulting.

Why set her up as the villain when history clearly has Henry repeating this asshole pattern of behavior with multiple people in his life, not just his wives. He has friends and relatives killed as well. He was a tyrant and he, not Anne, is responsible for the fate of Katherine of Aragon.

Brooklyn Tayla says

That was all the phenomenal; and more.

Haunting, moving and fascinating, Alison Weir takes us through the life of Catalina of Aragon, or Katherine as she becomes in England. At age 16 she is betrothed to the young Prince Arthur, who of course tragically dies of illness a short time after they wed.

Eventually, Katherine marries his brother, Henry; and it's here where things take a tragic turn, and this Queen's downfall slowly ends. For Katherine could not bear Henry a live son, which leads him to think their marriage was never blessed by God (seriously dude?!).

Alison Weir has longtime been a favourite of mine; she can do no wrong, I feel. This book is no exception. At 597 pages long (though it passes 600 what with the dramatis personae, how cool! And the bibliography) this book was never not once boring. I devoured it, because even though I'm very familiar with the life of Queen Katherine, I had not read a lot about her in fiction. It was a treasure to read something so extensively researched, and I felt like I was right there with Katherine as she became made her voyage to England and mourned her homesickness to her beloved Spain; to when she became Queen, to when she was exiled. I felt like I went through the same emotions as her, too; sheer joy to utter heartbreak.

Weir captures the characters perfectly. I mean, I know it's fiction but I felt like it was all real life! She did stick exceptionally close to Katherine's life, as the records state it, and she just got the character of Henry VIII down pat. I was shocked and disgraced with his behaviour in the book. He was a pure maniac, a beastly tyrant.

What's more is this is the first book in a series of six! One book a year, for each wife! I cannot wait for the second instalment, about my favourite, Anne Boleyn!

Jessie Frederick says

I'm just really into historical fiction coupled with Henry VIII right now. *Katherine of Aragon* was a wonderful read. I've always had a fascination with the British monarchy, so this book only naturally entices me. I first heard of it at the beginning of May - a month before it was released, so I patiently waited for it to come out then immediately when to Barnes & Noble to purchase. I was so happy to find that I enjoyed it as much as I had hoped I would. Totally worth the newly released, hardback price tag.

Though I won't by any means act as an authority on the Tudors or Henry VIII and his wives, I will acknowledge that I've done some basic research, and I have to admit that Alison Weir knows her stuff. She's clearly a qualified historian, and it reflects in this piece of fiction. I personally enjoy when fiction based off history has some level of accuracy. (Though I also like wild fabrications as well. It is fiction after all, and I'm after a good story.)

I've watched many documentaries on this period, and it seems that Katherine of Aragon is always glossed over. It's true that a lot of the juiciness starts when Anne Boleyn comes into the picture, and her wickedness is hard to ignore. But unfortunately, it comes at the expense of Queen Katherine's story. So I was excited to read this account (although it's fiction) of Katherine's life from her perspective. It has made me really love the queen, and I'm eager to read more about Katherine, her reign, and her life having now read this book.

Brava, Alison Weir!
