



Anne Boleyn and Me: The Diary of Elinor Valjean, London, 1525-1536

Alison Prince

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When the King came riding in on his big, black horse, a murmer went up, because his tunic was stitched with the words, DECLARE I DARE NOT. All the ladies were giggling behind their hands, and I asked Mama what it meant. Her face had turned quite pink and she said, ..Never mind.., so I asked Rosanna later. She told me the words meant the King has a new love, but he dares not say her name. But everyone knows her name, of course. It is Anne Boleyn.

Anne Boleyn and Me: The Diary of Elinor Valjean, London, 1525-1536 Details

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From Reader Review Anne Boleyn and Me: The Diary of Elinor Valjean, London, 1525-1536 for online ebook

SyaSya Syed Nasir says

As much as I enjoyed the story, I am also feel sad and devastated with the flow of the plot. I don't know what to explain about my feelings right now. I still feel sad.

Alex says

A sequel to Alison Prince's 'My Tudor Queen,' this instalment in the My Story series details the rise and fall of Anne Boleyn, as told by Elinor, daughter of Eva and lady-in-waiting to Lady Anne.

My critique of the novel is the same as 'My Tudor Queen,' - that a teenage lady-in-waiting has far too much political insight to be realistic. I probably am being too harsh on what are actually children's novels, written to get young readers interested in history, but still, it makes the novel a little unbelievable.

Unlike other novels in the My Story series, I probably wouldn't recommend this novel for readers under the age of 12. Given the nature of Anne Boleyn's execution, there are mentions of sex and incest, which may provoke difficult conversations in younger readers.

Lauren Kirwan says

very historic and boring

Alyssa says

The My Story series were the first books that I was really interested in and recently I have gone back to read some of them. I have always had an interest in the Tudor era and Anne Boleyn and Me gives a great new perspective on the history.

The characters whose journal format this book is written in is not what you read the story for. The character Elinor has enough of a storyline but the main focus is on the Royal history. I didn't mind though as the pace of the story was really good and kept you interested the whole time.

I originally started this book with only a little bit of general knowledge on Anne Boleyn. I was greatly informed by the end though, it was educational but in a light matter.

I never really knew what the character of Anne Boleyn was like but after reading this I feel a little more enlightened. Anne is such a puzzling person. Initially I thought she was an evil, manipulative women trying to win the crown. But towards the end when she lost everything I couldn't help but feel sad for her.

The sick ways of the Tudors shocked me at every page. I can never imagine a time like that but sadly it makes for interesting reading.

Rebecca says

This book is one in the My Story series. The books in this series are fictional diaries of young girls living during different periods of British, Scottish, and Irish history.

Elinor Valjean begins her diary in 1525, when she is eleven. As the daughter of a lady-in-waiting to Queen Catherine of England, she has grown up at court. Over the next few years, Elinor describes her daily life living among royalty, and how she eventually becomes a lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn. Elinor and her family sympathize with Queen Catherine because of their ties to her. But Anne Boleyn is determined to be queen, and King Henry VIII is determined to divorce Catherine, because she has failed to provide him with a son and is now too old to have any more children. But as Elinor's life becomes happy, as she grows up, falls in love, marries, and has children, Anne's only becomes worse, as she ends up disappointing Henry by failing to provide a living son.

This is my favorite book from the My Story series, and I highly recommend it to readers who are interested in the Tudor era or who enjoy historical fiction in diary form. I loved the setting, the historical detail was fascinating, and Elinor was a likeable narrator.

Rebecca says

You're sure to love this book. Elinor Valjean is a young lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon and later on in the book, Anne Boleyn. It is an extremely accurate read, with all the dates correct and the names. Not only is it about the queens, but you also see Elinor falling in love, marrying a handsome man and having two children, Maria and Michael. Also you can read Elinor's mother's diary earlier on in the series which is good. Highly good for a wet Sunday afternoon. Loved it

Lillian says

I am not sure what I feel about this book. I was horrified by all the wrongdoings and early marriages that took place. King Henry was surely a piece of work.

Just a stark reminder that one's actions will succeed you for generations to come.

At the same time, I am wondering whether middle-grade kids will be able to handle this book....hmmm

Renae says

Pretty pedestrian. Not really a huge waste of my time, but about what I'd get watching Anne of the Thousand Days.

Yoshi says

Main Characters

Elinor Valjean,
Anne Boleyn,
Henry VIII,
Catherine of Aragon.

This book is the diary of Elinor Valjean a girl who works serving the queen of England. She is married to a blacksmith named Tom and her father used to be the jester for the king but unfortunately he was killed by a disease.

It's a normal day in the Royal household. Or is it? Henry VIII wants an heir and he wants it to be a boy. Henry VIII's wife (Catherine of Aragon) is going to have a baby and she is hoping it is a boy to please her husband...

OH NO! It turns out that the baby is a girl. The king demands another attempt at having a male heir. The attempt fails and does the next and so on until Catherine can have no more babies due to a medical problem.

The king needs a new wife if he is going to have a male heir but unfortunately the pope will not allow a divorce between the King and Catherine of Aragon.

Henry wants to marry Anne Boleyn (a young lady working in the royal household) but still the pope will not allow a divorce between Catherine and Henry. So eventually Henry marries Anne, even though he is married to Catherine.

Soon after, Catherine of Aragon dies at the age of fifty which in those days was quite old.

Anne is due a baby. The king has got his fingers crossed praying that it will be a boy. Will we finally have a male heir in the royal household.

Disastrous news came earlier today. The baby was a girl. The king is terribly angry and Anne is going to have another shot at having a baby. UH OH! This time the baby dies in Anne's tummy and so does the next one until Anne is given one last chance.

This last chance died in Anne's tummy.

Rumour has it that the king and his most trusted advisers are thinking up a plot against Anne, but not a mere divorce. Rumour has it they are going to execute Anne...

Elinor Valjean used to work for Catherine of Aragon until she died and then Elinor started working for Anne Boleyn. Elinor and her family were great friends of Catherine of Aragon who was kind and the people loved her. Elinor's mother hated Anne Boleyn at one point even calling her that woman.

I did not enjoy this book as it was all about marriages and similar things that I find boring...

Susan Pearson says

I really enjoyed this book. Having worked with children in various capacities for many years I find reading young people books a great way to engage with them. These days I think there is a greater crossover between books written for young people and adults (Rowling and Pullman are further examples of this)

This book leads on from 'My Tudor Queen' which is the diary of Elinor's mother Eva and Queen Katherine

of Aragon. Although of course there wasn't the depth that you would find in a Philippa Gregory novel (which is of course written for the adult market) you do get a sense of the times and how difficult life was for everyone with such a fickle King on the throne.

Anne says

I really enjoy the 'My Story' series and this is one of my favourites. Narrated by Elinor, a young serving girl in the household of Henry VII, it is a really great read.

Alex says

This reminded me a lot of the Dear America books I loved as a child. It was a very short, and kind of juvenile, diary format of a fictional girl living in Henry VIII's court as Anne Boleyn rises to being queen. I never really got a feel for our narrator, Elinor, even when she got married and had children. It could have been anyone writing down these events, you just didn't care about the narrator at all.

It wasn't terrible, and as a kid I probably would have loved it. But reading it now, it just fell flat.

Seonaid says

Written from the point of view of Elinor Valjean, this is a pretty good introduction to the court of Henry VIII and Tudor life.

The diary starts when 11 year old Elinor is a lady's maid to Queen Catherine of Aragon, and follows the years of political intrigue and danger as Catherine is put aside for Anne, and Elinor moves to Anne's court. During this period, Elinor herself marries, so the narrative is two-fold, covering both Elinor's private life, and the very public life of the court.

Despite covering an infamous period of history, the diary manages to be both age appropriate and historically accurate. Thus the reader becomes aware of Henry's affairs, his illegitimate children, his growing cruelty, and the ever-lengthening list of 'old friends' who were executed. Despite her own excessive ambitions and cruelties, it is always hard not to feel sorry for Anne when she is taken to the tower, partly because she does seem aware of what she has brought on others, and partly because Henry led her to believe that he would commute her sentence.

A good introduction to Tudor history for budding enthusiasts.

Rebecca says

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during different periods of British, Scottish, and Irish history.

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Lilly Minasyan says

Getting new perspective of Anne Boleyn and Henry Tudor could be well considered as my hobby. This time their story was told by Elinor Valjean, who was a servant for Anne Boleyn.

I quite liked how Elinor was different than other ladies in this book, quite boyish at first, who wanted to be a boy and declared that she wouldn't marry anyone than she fell in love, married and became mother who loved her small family and her life. She wasn't ambitious and wanted a quite life. Unlike Anne Boleyn. Who was (to say the least) ambitious. She was no one, but became the Queen of England.

I'd hate to be alive at that time, when your life could be taken away from you because the King wanted something and was arrogant. I wish someone would slap the shit out of Henry and made him think that he is a plain fat human being and he should to calm down. Though both Catherine of Aragon (his first wife) and Anne Boleyn (second wife) were of ambitious nature, which I think he liked. Both women got what they desired the most, they both became The Queen of England. Though for Anne it ended with not having her head on her shoulders (ouch!).

This book wasn't as detailed as the books I've read of this matter, but you could grasp the characteristics of both Henry and Anne.

I actually would want to know more about Elinor. Her personality was interesting, at least for me.
