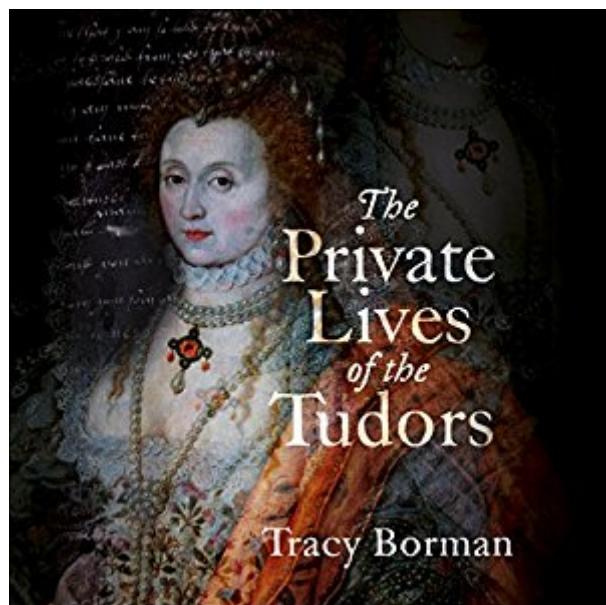


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# The Private Lives Of The Tudors: Uncovering The Secrets Of Britain's Greatest Dynasty



## Synopsis

Tracy Borman, author of the best-selling biography of Thomas Cromwell, takes us behind the scenes to reveal the intimate secrets of the Tudor court and the private lives of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I and more. 'I do not live in a corner. A thousand eyes see all I do.' (Elizabeth I) The Tudor monarchs were constantly surrounded by an army of attendants, courtiers and ministers. Even in their most private moments, they were accompanied by a servant specifically appointed for the task. A groom of the stool would stand patiently by as Henry VIII performed his daily purges, and when Elizabeth I retired for the evening, one of her female servants would sleep at the end of her bed. These attendants knew the truth behind the glamorous exterior. They saw the tears shed by Henry VII upon the death of his son, Arthur. They knew the tragic secret behind 'Bloody' Mary's phantom pregnancies. And they saw the 'crooked carcass' beneath Elizabeth I's carefully applied makeup, gowns and accessories. It is the accounts of these eyewitnesses, as well as a rich array of other contemporary sources, that historian Tracy Borman has examined more closely than ever before. With new insights and discoveries, and in the same way that she brilliantly illuminated the real Thomas Cromwell, *The Private Life of the Tudors* will reveal previously unexamined details about the characters we think we know so well.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tracy Borman's *The Private Lives of the Tudors* is a rich history that slips behind the privacy of the throne and describes the Tudor monarchy in luscious detail. Colorful and filled with interesting facts,

each member of the dynasty is highlighted from the choice of clothing to personalities, behaviors, eating habits, finances, even down to the people serving them. No stone is left unturned in this well-researched book and every aspect of Tudor lives is examined and explained. Religious practices, both the marriage and the birthing bed, education, each facet of their existence down to the extravagant cost of the fabric for the clothes they wore. Fascinating, opulent, and eloquently written, this is a wonderful window into the world of a turbulent and impressive dynasty that shaped an era.

It is interesting to me because it offers details what other books I have read about this era do not describe. It is detail oriented and I am enjoying the read because of the other books I have read about the Tudors. It is not a story, it is a description of the large staff, titles, and living arrangements at the many castles and court. It is well researched and written and is a positive addition to better understanding the times and the people of the Tudor reign.

Wow! I may not be Henry VIII and have six wives but I have one theme in this review! The theme is the excellence of *The Private Lives of the Tudors* by Dr. Tracy Borman. Borman is also the author of the best book on Thomas Cromwell which was a recent bestseller on both sides of the wide pond. Borman in this great book (thankfully free of footnotes at the bottom of the page!) is able to skillfully weave the history of the Tudor monarchs with how the royals lived during this time period from the reign of Henry VII in 1485 to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 ending the dynastical years of the Tudors. We learn all about such subjects as:  
a. How royal children were born  
b. What the royals and the courtiers around them wore each day  
c. Religious rituals of the day  
d. Barbering and medical practice during this time  
And many more fascinating facts about daily life...We also learn about Henry VII the dour and parsimonious founder of the dynasty; Henry VIII the most famous British king; the sickly son of Henry and Jane Seymour the ill fated Edward VI Bloody Mary the daughter of Henry and Catherine of Aragon; and of course Elizabeth I in all her finery and human frailty. An excellent read and one which will keep you entertained and educated. Written in a style which is easy to comprehend for the layperson. The book is being published to coincide with a BBC program on the Tudors.

I enjoyed this book very much. I've read many, many books about Tudor England and Queen Elizabeth I so not everything in this book was news to me. However, there were a lot of things in it that I did not already know. It was fascinating to read about how their clothing was made and where

their food came from. The book is lovely to read and, I thought, totally engrossing.

The book is very well written and brilliantly researched. It explores parts of their lives we have yet to see before. Tracy Borman has outdone herself.

This is a perfect look behind the mysteries of everyday life in the Tudor times. It is very easy to read and lots of fun.

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