



# The Shadow of the Pomegranate

*Jean Plaidy*

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**The Shadow of the Pomegranate** Jean Plaidy

**The third of Jean Plaidy's Tudor novels, continuing the story of Katherine of Aragon's failing marriage to the adulterous Henry VIII ...**

Whilst the young King Henry VIII basks in the pageants and games of his glittering court, his doting queen's health and fortunes fade. Henry's affection for his older wife soon strays, and the neglected Katherine decides to use her power as Queen to dangerous foreign advantage.

Overseas battles play on Henry's volatile temper, and his defeat in France has changed the good-natured boy Katherine loved into an infamously callous ruler. With no legitimate heir yet born, Katherine once again begins to fear for her future...

## The Shadow of the Pomegranate Details

Date : Published 2006 by Arrow (first published 1962)

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Author : Jean Plaidy

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# From Reader Review **The Shadow of the Pomegranate** for online ebook

**Rebecca Hill says**

There will be no review at this time

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**June Louise says**

*"Then he began to pace up and down again.....a lion, not sure of his strength, but aware of the cage that enclosed him. The bars were strong, but his strength was growing. One day, he knew, he would break out of the cage. Then there would be nothing - no person on Earth to restrain him."*

**The Shadow of the Pomegranate** follows on from **Katharine, the Virgin Widow** - not only focusing on poor Katharine of Aragon, Henry VIII's long-suffering first wife; but the politics in Europe, involving Katharine's father, Ferdinand of Spain (and his duplicity and sneakiness), and Louis of France, highlighting Henry's embarrassment and rage at being tricked and used by both these countries.

*"His face was suffused with rage. The tyrant was bursting his bonds. The metamorphosis was taking place before the eyes of the Queen. The vain, good-natured boy was showing signs of the brutal egocentric man."*

Poor Katharine has an unenviable life. She undergoes numerous pregnancies in Henry's quest for a son - most of them resulting in a still-birth or miscarriage - and is accused (by her husband) of conniving with her father in order to serve Spain and ruin England....

*"But he cut in: 'I do not forget. I know full well that you have been in league with your father, whispering in my ear, tempting me to this or that project...knowing all the while that it was to your father's benefit...and not to mine'.*

*'Henry, I swear this to be untrue.'*

*'Swear if you will. But who trusts a Spaniard?'*

*'You talk to me as though I were a stranger....and an enemy.'*

*'You are a Spaniard,' he said."*

On top of all of this, she then discovers that her beloved husband is having a "fling" with one of her ladies-at-court, Bessie Blount, which in its turn has an outcome which "twists the dagger" into Katharine's rather fragile future. To me, Henry appears a very unlikeable character, self-centred, and extravagant - as demonstrated by the decadent and elaborate masques he would hold; the very opposite of his father, Henry VII. Despite all this Henry VIII is a popular King - seen as a "golden boy" - and boy! Does he know it!

I love Jean Plaidy's books - and as with this book's predecessors, **The Shadow of the Pomegranate** is very well written. I learn a lot from her novels and would recommend them to anyone - historical fiction fan or not. Now to the next in the Tudors series.....

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### **Tracey says**

A nice Tudor read , told from the points of view of both Henry VIII and Katharine of Aragon.

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### **Heaven Claussen says**

Wonderful series!

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### **Annelies says**

Enjoyed this one A LOT. 4,5 ster

Jean Plaidy (een pseudoniem) stierf in het jaar dat ik werd geboren. Ze heeft ontzettend veel boeken geschreven over mijn favoriete periodes in de geschiedenis. Ik wou haar dus zeker een kans geven, maar ik verwachtte een verouderde visie op de gebeurtenissen.

Dit boek gaat over de eerst jaren in het huwelijk van Katherine en Henry. Ik weet zeer goed wat er in deze periode politiek gezien allemaal gebeurde, maar las er nog nooit over. De meeste boeken beginnen bij Anne Boleyn.

Oké, ik heb genoten. Het boek is geschreven vanuit Katherine's standpunt, maar heel wat andere personages doen hun zegje. Sommige standpunten vond ik heerlijk verfrissend. En het boek focust op hun huwelijk, maar schuwt het politiek plaatje zeker niet. De relatie met Spanje, Frankrijk, de Nederlanden en de bijhorende verdragen en oorlogen worden grondig toegelicht. En dat vormde voor mij een ideale mix.

En verouderde visie? Ik was op veel vlakken akkoord met haar neerzetting van de personages. Behalve op 1 punt, waar een bepaald personage ineens heel jong wordt voorgesteld. Jammer, dat haalde me even uit het verhaal. Haar ware leeftijd had het verhaal ook niet minder goed gemaakt. Maar echt een detail, want dat personage wordt in dit boek nog maar 1x vermeld. Enfin, verder echt een foutloos parcours wat mij betreft.

De schrijfstijl is heel feitelijk en misschien wat cliché, maar ik neem zeker nog meer boeken van haar op.

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### **Kyrsta says**

Please visit my blog for my full review:  
<http://bookchateau.blogspot.com/2012/...>

This story begins shortly after the marriage of Katharine of Aragon and King Henry VIII and tells the tale of their tumultuous marriage, their desire for heirs and Katharine's battle between pleasing both her husband and her father at the same time. Book 2 in the Katharine of Aragon trilogy but works as a stand-alone novel as well. Like her other novels, it was very well written and I really enjoyed the story. It was a little slow to

begin with but it definitely picked up about half way through the novel.

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### **Shelly says**

Meh.

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### **Carol She's So Novel?? says**

I have struggled to find Plaidys recently & was delighted to find this one in a second hand book store.

There is no one as good as Plaidy at creating the feeling of mistrust & unease that minor royals & courtiers must have felt in Tudor times. Fascinating watching Henry the VIII change from a rash & petulant boy, to a terrifying tyrant.

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### **BAM The Bibliomaniac says**

Audiobook #247

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### **Emma says**

This instalment of Plaidy's Tudor series sees Henry VIII beginning to turn from a glittering boy into a sly, selfish young man. This novel begins to track the decline of Katharine of Aragon as well as the political struggles across Europe at the time. An enjoyable historical novel whereby you cannot help to feel sorry for poor Katharine of Aragon.

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### **Richard says**

I am continuing to read through Jean Plaidy's, the Tudor Series bit by bit as I like to read different genres. I think her writing style is so easy to read and the factual stuff is easy to absorb.

I can't really say any more other than her books are superbly written and anyone interested in the Tudor dynasty, should read this series, even though there are several other authors out there who have written on this topic.

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### **Sharon says**

The more I read novels about Henry VIII the more I grow to dislike the man.  
This was a great book, you can not help but feel sorry for poor Catherine of Aragon. Poor devoted soul who

put up with so much for so little reward.  
Good read for those who like English history.

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## **Eunice Ingrid Cleofas says**

I found this book at a second-hand bookstore. Since the bookstore is a bit short on some historical fiction authors I like, I decided to take a book from an author I do not know but is related to my interest -- 15th-16th century England. Alright, well, I skimmed through the pages and like I expected, it's about Catherine of Aragon. I bought it and it took me about 4 months before I began to actually read the novel.

It was a pretty good novel, but I expected it to centralize Cathrine of Aragon. Even though it did not fulfill my expectations, it went beyond that and I actually loved how the events in the novel were presented. It was a turn-around for me to actually like third-person perspective novels (I started hating third-person perspective novels after reading a terribly written third-person perspective novel).

Reading the plot from the back of the book, I felt disappointed. Just to be clear, it said something about Catherine being neglected and due to neglect, she decided to engage in dangerous political affairs (?).

### **Spoilers begin here:**

Neglect only began halfway through the novel when the king started having mistresses, and throughout the entire novel, I never saw Catherine engaging on dangerous political affairs. Rather, she was passive and never took a dangerous step. In fact, through half of the novel, Henry acted the opposite of neglect on Catherine.

Well, putting aside the plot at the back of the book, it was still a great book. I loved how a third-person perspective novel can change the way we see each character. You do not grow to hate a character, but instead, understand them as human because humans sin. (In all of the novels that depicted Henry VIII's reign as king, I managed to not like him in all of them. I liked him well enough before he became king, but after that, it went downhill for me. He is indeed a terrible husband both in history and fiction).

Maybe, I shall start reading Jean Plaidy's novels if I could find some copies around here. She intrigued me with her writing on this one. She has a great list of novels which I hope to read when I have the time and the book I should like to read from her.

Now, it's time to read another book.

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## **Iset says**

This was my very first Jean Plaidy – the pseudonym used by prolific author Eleanor Hibbert, who under this pen name alone produced at least 92 historical fiction novels. From what I'd heard of Plaidy previously, her prolific output made her the staunch backbone of the historical novel genre. But she seems to be mainly well known for sheer output than quality. I've rarely heard anyone talk about her actual writing. I chose this book because I'd just finished a few Tudor era books and the events of the period were fresh in my mind to compare with Jean Plaidy. I also picked out the novel that immediately follows on from this one, as I

generally give an author the benefit of the doubt if one book is bad, it seems premature to blacklist them on the basis of what could just have been one dip in their usual standard – although there admittedly some books that are so awful that I just can't return to the author – and, further, some that are so awful that I feel compelled to return out of sheer morbid fascination... but that's another tale for another review.

My reaction to *The Shadow of the Pomegranate* was just kind of blah, to be honest. It was straightforward, and not in a snappy, bold, attention-grabbing kind of way. In the simplistic, dull, unengaging kind of way. The writing is fairly standard – never surprising, never unexpected, and certainly not inventive, inspirational or imaginative – and by that I refer to both the plot and the language construction. Everything is just as it seems. I was rather bored throughout, and the book couldn't hold my attention for more than a handful of pages at a time. It felt flat, like a disappointingly deflated soufflé. The characters were stock caricatures just bobbing along on the surface, with no greater depth, and certainly couldn't be mistaken for subtle, complex human beings. The viewpoint flits about according to convenience without giving any deeper insight, and I didn't feel anything for these characters or what happened to them. This is definitely one of my shorter reviews, but honestly I don't know what more to say. If the book had been absolutely dire, truly awful, I could've said a lot about where and why it didn't work for me, but it's not awful, it's just *there* and it fails to do a lot right or capture the elements that create a really good story. I'm going to give Plaidy one more chance with the sequel to this book – *The King's Secret Matter* – but I have a sneaking suspicion it will be just the same.

**4 out of 10.**

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## **Sue Law says**

Second in Plaidy's series on Katharine of Aragon, this starts with the teenaged Henry VIII choosing to marry his brother's virgin widow despite the difference in their ages and against the advice of his senior advisors. We follow Katharine through a series of disastrous pregnancies while her husband grows up from boisterous youth to paranoid adult desperate for a son and heir and looking for reasons why the lack of success is someone else's fault. This episode ends with the baptism of Henry's first healthy illegitimate son (by Elizabeth Blount) shortly after Katharine's last miscarriage of a male foetus. Katharine is required to attend, and the threat to her is clear. Steadily paced and well readable.

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