



# **The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor: Elizabeth I, Thomas Seymour, and the Making of a Virgin Queen**

*Elizabeth Norton*

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England, late 1547. King Henry VIII Is dead. His fourteen-year-old daughter Elizabeth is living with the king's widow, Catherine Parr, and her new husband, Thomas Seymour. Seymour is the brother of Henry VIII's third wife, the late Jane Seymour, who was the mother to the now-ailing boy King.

Ambitious and dangerous, Seymour begins and overt flirtation with Elizabeth that ends with Catherine sending her away. When Catherine dies a year later and Seymour is arrested for treason soon after, a scandal explodes. Alone and in dreadful danger, Elizabeth is threatened by supporters of her half-sister, Mary, who wishes to see England return to Catholicism. She is also closely questioned by the king's regency council due to her place in the line of succession. Was she still a virgin? Was there a child? Had she promised to marry Seymour?

Under pressure, Elizabeth shows the shrewdness and spirit she would later be famous for. She survives the scandal, but Thomas Seymour is not so lucky. The "Seymour Scandal" led Elizabeth and her advisers to create of the persona of the Virgin Queen.

On hearing of Seymour's beheading, Elizabeth observed, "This day died a man of much wit, and very little judgment." His fate remained with her. She would never allow her heart to rule her head again.

## **The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor: Elizabeth I, Thomas Seymour, and the Making of a Virgin Queen Details**

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# From Reader Review The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor: Elizabeth I, Thomas Seymour, and the Making of a Virgin Queen for online ebook

**sassafrass says**

Whilst an interesting read this book was largely concerned with charting Thomas Seymour and his downfall at the hands of his brother rather than Elizabeth Tudor. Her story only really comes into play in the last 100 or so pages, though I do like that the author set about to overturn so many historical rumours, especially the always popular 'secret baby.'

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**Kara says**

I don't think "The Temptation of Elizabeth" is the right title for this book – "Young Elizabeth: Trial By Fire" might be a more accurate sum up of this period in Elizabeth's life.

This book shows in detail how much she was *never* tempted to give in to Seymour's wolfish charms – she knew she was in danger from beginning to end, and never had a moment of down time away from intense scrutiny on all sides to catch her breath.

This is an important but painful read, to see a classic case of sexual assault examined under a microscope. It's so classic its cliché – the older relative taking advantage, the confusion of the victim of how to handle an authority figure doing something wrong, the victim blaming, the secrets and then painful exposure – it plays out like any modern day scandal.

Instead of focusing on Elizabeth, the book catalogs the people around her in this time period, showing how much events very much did *not* take place in a vacuum and how Elizabeth, like so many royals after her, lived in a fishbowl environment, surrounded by a whole parade of people who all had eyes and ears – and mouths all too quick to repeat what they observed.

Still, amongst all the scandal and bad calls and inaction and hand wringing and wrong doing on the part of everyone around Elizabeth, we also see how brightly Elizabeth shines out, even at this young age, as smart, clear eyed, and able to think both in the moment and long term to come out of the ashes of disaster as bright as untarnished gold, and ready, after surviving this crucible, to go on to be one of England's greatest monarchs.

Some readers will be understandably frustrated that the book does not focus exclusively on Elizabeth, but it worked for me in showing what other people were doing and how much else was going on at court while Elizabeth was in the country placidly doing her Latin lessons. It plays an important part of what happened – she was sucked into a firestorm of events that, for the most part, involved actions taken by other people elsewhere while she was just trying to be studious and obedient. She actively did everything she could to avoid a scandal like the one that killed her mother – and yet despite all her actions she almost ended the same way, and the fact that she came out the other side, again, speaks to how much she towered, head and shoulders, above others when it came to handling a crisis.

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## Orsolya says

Tudor-period aficionados are quite familiar with the machinations of Thomas Seymour and the juicy rumors/drama surrounding his advances towards Elizabeth Tudor (the future Queen Elizabeth I). Some have gone as far as to say that Elizabeth had bore a child with Thomas. These episodes aren't, however, a major focus of her life with many books mentioning them but moving onwards quickly. Elizabeth Norton attempts to highlight these affairs in, "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor: Elizabeth I, Thomas Seymour, and the Making of a Virgin Queen".

The premise of "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" is solid with its aim to focus on the interactions between Elizabeth and Thomas but sadly the execution is poor. Is Norton's attempt to debunk myths? Perhaps it is to look at the psychological effects these events left on Elizabeth? Maybe it is merely a historical recall. Whatever it is that Norton was trying to achieve; it is missing from "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" as the text lacks a thesis, seems pointless, and is "all over the place".

Norton's work voids any consistency with a roller coaster-text which at some points is well-researched while other times (most of the time) reads like a historical fiction novel. "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" barely focuses on Elizabeth and Thomas and is more of a light dual-biography of the two figures during concurrent times. In fact, much of the book highlights the political maneuverings of Thomas Seymour versus their relationship at all. Basically, "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" is not what it claims to be.

There is also a major issue with Norton's prose which is highly fluffy and bluntly: a whole lot of filler crap. Norton is flowery and illustrative to the point that it often feels like nothing is being said at all as she just describes fictional details. Many reviews complain about Norton's books being stylized in this manner and "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" is no exception. Not much will be learned by the reader and Norton should instead pen historical fiction (she would perform rather well).

Elaborating further on this, "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" is rife with speculation, assumptions, exaggerations, and "would have" and "could have" –statements. Not to mention, an overabundance of descriptions of thoughts and feelings which have no solid backing sources. Norton's "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" sorely lacks any credibility of academic value.

On the other hand, these traits cause the pace to be quite fast making the book easy-to-read and very light resulting in a perfect introduction to those new to the topic or YA readers. Educated readers will be highly irritated, however.

The only time "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" feels memorable is during the discussion of the rumors surrounding Elizabeth giving birth to Thomas's child. Norton attempts to mesh out myths and rumors and explain merits (or lack thereof). Sadly, this section is very brief and Norton moves on quickly. If "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" had more of this, then the text would be better tri-fold.

The final quarter of "The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" is noticeably stronger than the former portions of the book. Norton dives deep into Seymour's behaviors and actions truly giving the reader a sense of his erratic nature and downfall. The problem is precisely this, though: the book becomes a Seymour biography so that the concept of presenting Thomas and Elizabeth is lost (although this makes the text useful for those seeking information regarding Seymour).

The conclusion wraps up with an epilogue concerning the outcomes of key figures and aims to heighten Elizabeth sentimentally (although it fails to firmly do so). Norton also offers some notes and bibliography.

“The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor” encompasses a unique subject but Norton fails to execute it properly. The text is light, fluffy, and basically overfilled with “hot air” and speculation. Gathering from reviews of Norton’s other works; this is her speed and style. “The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor” is only recommended for an introduction to the topic in a non-academic way (pop history) or if wanting a quick, filler read (which is how I will personally go into reading other works from the author). Otherwise, “The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor” can be skipped.

*\*\*Please note: My rating for “The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor” is more of a 1.5 but is rounded up to 2\*\**

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## **Melissa says**

Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for an Advanced Reader Copy in exchange for an honest review. I usually inhale Tudor period books whether fiction or non-fiction, but this one couldn't keep me going. I don't know if it was the heavy focus on Thomas Seymour instead of Elizabeth, or if it was just the length at which Norton was taking to get to the meat of her thesis. Lots of minute details for those looking for that kind of thing.

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## **Molly Davies says**

This book by Elizabeth Norton seemed to have great promise. I’d never read any of her books in the past, so I didn’t have any expectations other than what I’d inferred from reading the cover of the book, and from that I thought this would be a rainy afternoon read that I could really get my teeth into. I’d imagined a fiction story based on true events – such as Lucy Worsley’s Eliza Rose – but I couldn’t have been more wrong! This is also down to the fact that I found this book in The Works with the fiction books, when I am sure it shouldn’t have been.

I really really REALLY did not enjoy this book.

That is not to say the book is bad of course, but I felt a bit misled, and the book itself was nothing that I’d suggest was an enjoyable book.

I had expected a book on Elizabeth Tudor and Thomas Seymour’s relationship from her younger years to his death. The time frame was correct, but the plot was wrong. This book was definitely more about Seymour, and that is not what I wanted. Every bit of the promise of the book – for me – was highly suggestive of it being about Elizabeth – from the blurb to the image of Elizabeth herself on the cover. In reality it was just a biography of what Thomas got up to for a few years of his life, which I ultimately discovered was boring as hell!

Once I’d gotten over the fact that the book wasn’t going to be about what I’d hoped, I tried to remain open-minded. But even the way it was written rattled my cage.

It's partially my fault for picking this book before I had really looked at what it was going to be like – all the references and the 40+ page long bibliography! – but it had promise from the outside, the inside was really disappointing for me! Especially as much of the book was speculation rather than fact, as though the author wasn't sure what had actually happened and didn't want to commit to any facts.

I do have to commend the length of research that the author must have undertaken in order to write the book, but in my opinion it's better suited to a history textbook!

So to recap – I won't accidentally be purchasing any more non-fiction books (even if they look and sound like fiction books) as I get easily bored and endlessly cross, and then it takes me t h r e e weeks to finish the damn thing.

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## **Sister M. says**

liked it!

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## **Caidyn (SEMI-HIATUS; BW Reviews; he/him/his) says**

So, when I sit down to write reviews, it's very rare that I actually plan something out. Or even write down what's in my mind. Typically, I wait until the very last page and gather my thoughts for a few minutes, then set down to write what's on my mind immediately after I finish. I don't like waiting to write reviews unless I have to. I don't like prewriting them either; it makes me feel like I've already formulated my idea for the book before it's even done.

**However** with this book, I did write down my thoughts beforehand, mainly taking breaks in the middle of paragraphs when a new revelation came to me just so I could really keep track of what was on my mind. I knew I wouldn't finish it last night, and sleeping on my ideas would mean I'd just end up forgetting them.

Above is what I ended up writing down. Literally six sticky notes full of my thoughts. Which is a whole lot for me since I like to hoard my sticky notes for when I really need to use them.

Now, onto the real review!

This is my first book by Elizabeth Norton. I've heard of her. If you look in my books, I basically have all of her books on my to-read shelf, along with put on my Tudor shelf just so I keep everything nice and neat, and know where to look. Based on this book, ***I will definitely be reading more***. This whole saga in Elizabeth I's life is my least favorite to read about. Everyone keeps saying that it's new information about the Virgin Queen, when it's really not. Just, right now, it's being treated as a hot topic. So, I was looking forward to this book, however I was also wary since I really hate reading about this scandal.

Why, you ask? Why do I -- who loves everything Tudor England, who has a tattoo of Anne Boleyn's name on my arm -- hate reading about this? Because of *rape culture*. I'll get to that in a second. Before I get into the people involved in the bulk of this scandal and their motives/what I think of them based on (not too

accurate) psychological insights that I've gained from reading so much about them, I want to actually talk about the book.

Norton did a great job balancing out sources. At first, I was worried that while this was talking about Elizabeth, it was going to be too heavy on Thomas Seymour. Sure, he was the prime mover in this, but this is a book advertised as the temptation of *Elizabeth Tudor*, not Thomas Seymour. Women weren't really written about in this time period, even princesses and queens. Hell, we have scant details on Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, and Catherine Howard, and those were three very important people in this same time period. But, Norton did a great job. She also didn't push her assumptions onto the reader. Her whole hypothesis is this is what made Elizabeth advertise herself as the Virgin Queen (something I completely agree with) but she lets the facts speak for themselves. Rarely does she try to reinterpret information so it seems more to one side than the other. That's something I really appreciate. It allows me, as a reader, to formulate my own hypothesis.

My own hypothesis of what really happened between Elizabeth and Thomas is this: **They did not have sex.** If anyone took her virginity, I'd say it was Robert Dudley, but even then I'm not sure. Elizabeth, her whole life, was (rightfully) frightened of marriage. In this time, sex was expected with marriage. The Virgin Queen was just a political means to help with past slanders and to keep her throne as her own, so she wouldn't have to share it with someone like her half-sister, Mary, did with Phillip II of Spain.

Again, **however**, it is entirely possible that Thomas Seymour went further. He was ambitious to a fault. Norton describes him as "a man ruled by ambition and given to fiery passions". It's completely true. Before settling with the Dowager Queen (Katherine Parr), he tried marrying both Mary and Elizabeth Tudor. Even then, he still tried for Elizabeth. He was a fourth son. (Technically third since his eldest brother, John, died young, but whatever. Fourth son.) If he wasn't ambitious, it was very likely that he would have inherited nothing. It is also very well documented that women in court had to be very careful. There were few women around compared to men. And, it's true that men would rape women, no matter how noble of birth. So, to me, it's completely possible that Thomas could have raped Elizabeth. He made sure there was time alone so no one would see them.

A bit of a side note, but it was also a common view that women were evil temptresses to men. They *always* want sex, even if they protest. Always. Sound like rape culture to anyone? It's still like that today, but that's another rant for another time. For women, it is basically impossible to rape them because they want sex all the time, and if they deny it they're just trying to tempt men further.

I've already talked about Thomas and what I think of him, so I'm going to move onto the next person on my hit list: Katherine Parr. Her actions are completely understandable. Not acceptable, but understandable. Thomas was her fourth husband. Three of her marriages were pretty unhappy. Her first husband died young and left her with debt; there's really no evidence to whether they were happy or unhappy together, but most fictional tellings describe her first husband as abusive in some way. Then, her second husband, she married for safety. He died, then immediately afterwards, Henry VIII came around. With him dead, Thomas was her one real shot at love in a marriage. So, of course she was going to try to make him happy no matter what. When sexual abuse is alleged towards a parent -- father, stepfather, boyfriend -- by a child, some mothers will take the side of their significant other. Refuse to believe it because they want to be happy. So, I understand why Katherine acted the way she did towards Elizabeth. It's so sad and disgusting (rape culture, again), but understandable and almost expected.

Now... Elizabeth. I can only imagine what went through her head at this time. Confusion, shame, self-blame. I mean, she wanted his attention at first. In quite a few relationships when a predator goes for a young girl,

they make her feel wanted. Elizabeth lacked a father figure in her life. She had to fight for attention from Henry VIII. So, when a man who could be a father figure is giving her attention, she wanted it. Also, she was at an age where she would start noticing that men were attractive. So, when he went further -- coming into her room when she was still in bed, cutting her clothes while wearing them, tickling her inappropriately -- confusion came. She didn't want *that*. She didn't want him to go that far. And, **no one** helped her. Her stepmother was a party to some of the things, before realizing how wrong this was. Her confidant, Kate Ashley, was encouraging her to go for Thomas. In fact, Elizabeth was blamed for what had happened.

This whole scandal is all about rape culture. And, it hasn't changed much over the years. Norton did a great job of capturing every aspect and person who was privy in the scandal. This is perfect for those who want to read about a very concentrated point in history and who doesn't know a lot about the time period. She gave a great introduction and constantly had footnotes to explain people or things that were mentioned in passing, just to give the reader a refresher. Highly recommend this book.

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### **Michelle Cristiani says**

fascinating, entertaining, and well-told. I especially find this era of Elizabeth's life very interesting.

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### **Krista says**

"The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor" has no idea what it is. Is it a biography of Thomas Seymour? The final lines of the book, taking us mentally back to Seymour, would suggest as much. Is it a deeper investigation of the Elizabeth and Thomas Seymour scandal? The book suggests this with the title, but goes heavily off this theme throughout the book. It is a novel, as the author repeatedly characterizes the behavior of people without having a factual reference for them? (She says Elizabeth spoke "timidly," at one point, just as an example.)

The upshot: I still don't know what this book is trying to say. It's a pop history that really doesn't forward my understanding of the Seymour scandal, but seems to be a rehash of already acknowledged facts.

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### **Gordon Thursfield says**

A history of Thomas Seymour's relationship with Elizabeth Tudor, and his conflict with brother Edward Seymour (Somerset), Edward VI's protector.

Part 1 'the seeds of scandal' is a biography of Thomas Seymour from October 1537 when the future Edward VI was born to sister Jane Seymour .

Part 2 'the scandal deepens' - Henry VIII dies in January 1547; Thomas Seymour marries Catherine Parr in secret in May 1547 and becomes Elizabeth's step-father from hell. In September 1548 Catherine dies after giving birth.

Part 3 'the scandal unveiled' covers the remaining period up to Thomas Seymour's demise in March 1549 and details just how close Elizabeth came to going down with him.

The book is well researched. Despite getting a little lost with the chapter speculating about Elizabeth's

pregnancy, the book was an enjoyable read.

Excellent. Recommended.

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### **Louise says**

I'm glad to read a book focused on Thomas Seymour. I've read about his marriage to Queen Katherine, his flirtations (especially the one with Elizabeth), his business dealings, relationship with his nephew the king and his eventual demise through the many volumes on Elizabeth and the Tudors. This short volume puts it all together such that a more accurate title would be "The Tempter of Elizabeth Tudor".

There is a lot here that, while it may not be new, was new to me. For instance the details of Seymour's financial rape of Katherine; Seymour's involvement with counterfeiting and the particulars of the way his brother humiliated him inclusive of the seizure of Katherine's jewels.

I don't know the authenticity of the sources that Norton uses to document items like Katherine's catching Seymour and Elizabeth in an embrace and other signs a reciprocal relationship. She does discuss the motives of those who enter into the historical record that Elizabeth is the reported (masked) woman in labor whose new born was thrown into a fire by a nobleman in an opulent home. She does not give any detail on those who claim that Elizabeth had a baby that lived.

One item that caught my eye, was the famous dress cutting scene. As I remember it from (library books and this is Saturday night) other tellings, that Seymour cut Elizabeth's dress with scissors with Katherine holding her. In this telling he uses his SWORD! To me, this is not a flirtation (neither, really, is the other version); it's an assault, on both Katherine and Elizabeth. Perhaps there was a rape of Elizabeth; hence, Katherine's favorable treatment of Elizabeth and the silence of others.

I recommend this for those who want a short quick read on Thomas Seymour.

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### **Penmouse says**

Author Elizabeth Norton has written a fact-based lively history concerning Queen Elizabeth I. Her book reads much like a novel, thanks to her delightful writing, while providing fact.

What I liked most about her book was the end notes that offered citations, and when needed, brief historical tidbits offering historical perspective.

Recommend.

Review written after downloading a galley from Edelweiss.

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## **Katharine says**

I received this as a Goodreads First Read. I wish I had enjoyed it more. I think someone with more background knowledge of the Tudors and Seymours might have liked this more and gotten more out of it. There were so many people introduced throughout that it was hard to keep track of everyone. I wonder if they were all essential to the story.

I also expected it to be more about Elizabeth I than Thomas Seymour. It didn't really get into the making of the Virgin Queen as much as I'd hoped and expected.

I am glad that I read the whole book as it improved in the later half. It felt a little more focused as well.

I wish I could give this 2.5 stars.

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## **sweepea888 says**

Disclaimer: This book might be a bit dry if you're not obsessively into British history.

I've always been fascinated by Elizabeth I; her early life was far from easy despite being the daughter of the formidable Henry VIII. Her mother, Anne Boleyn was beheaded when she was a child. Elizabeth was then relegated to veritable second class citizenship as a result; living better than most in the kingdom but always having less than her sister Princess Mary (daughter of Henry and Queen Catherine of Aragon). Elizabeth's keen mind and facility with languages set her apart; though never vaunted as a beauty her sharp features and always assessing stoic brown eyes were commented on by those who met her. Undoubtedly her troubled start in life led her to develop a wariness and cunning to ensure she was always a step ahead of any potential threat.

Before Elizabeth became the fabled 'Virgin Queen' (aka Gloriana) who ushered in the Golden Age she was a young woman who desperately needed guidance and protection. She was never hapless, however; she was a quick study and realized when games were being played and when people were trying to manipulate her as they would a pawn. She rather enjoyed these little head to heads; always rising to the occasion she'd outsmart others with a quip written with her quill .

Thomas Seymour was rakish, attractive and many women desired him but he set his sights on the young Elizabeth. While proof exists that their attraction was indeed mutual the avaricious Seymour wanted to become king and felt marrying Elizabeth was the ticket. Seymour had a torrid affair with Elizabeth's beloved stepmom, Henry VIII's widow Catherine Parr. They hid their affair for a while so as not to upset Seymour's brother, Lord Protector (of Henry's only son, Edward) Somerset.

Catherine kindly agreed to take Elizabeth into her household as they got on well and Catherine, being childless herself, felt a maternal obligation to help the young orphaned princess. Seymour proceeded to creepily sneak into Elizabeth's bedchambers and.. 'slap her playfully on the buttocks'.

The modern reader BE LIKE 'LOL WUT.'

Being a young woman she enjoyed the attention in a way, was flattered and attracted but also torn by her

loyalty and love to her stepmother Catherine (Seymour's clueless wife!) This created a wedge in their relationship later on; Parr suspected SHENANIGANS and well, she saw what her creepy husband was up to. Parr then sent Elizabeth to live with her own sister as a remedy for this. Not helping things was Kate Ashley, the instigator I mean main lady who waited on Elizabeth. She was older yet not wiser; weirdly she encouraged this...weirdness between Seymour and Lizzie. But! she shirked her primary duty to protect the honor of Lizzie. Inexplicably Kate Ashley (\*\*dramatic aside: I kept thinking of RICK ASTLEY when i saw her name. NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP! NEVER FONNA LET YOU DOWN!" Rickrolled. IN MY HEAD\*\*) never did get canned for being remiss in her job. Maybe she had nude photos of important people #BLACKMAIL

Elizabeth missed her stepmother and after a series of impassioned missives was taken back into the fold with Catherine Parr. Parr gave birth to a baby girl (somewhat miraculously given her advanced maternal age and not bearing children in any of her other marriages) Sadly she succumbed to fever, common postpartum issue in that era. Seymour continued his not so subtle overtures to wed Elizabeth. His backup plan included several bold attempts to kidnap his nephew, King Edward (Elizabeth's half brother) . Seymour, ever the wily coyote reasoned that if he had physical custody of Edward he'd have the power. These attempts were seen as treasonous of course.

Seymour's contentious relationship with his older brother, Lord Protector Somerset is featured in great detail. It's all salient, as his anger at his brother's conservatorship over Edward seemed to fuel his attempts to manipulate Elizabeth's affections in his favor. A man with a plan.. or three.

Seymour's scurrilous character spilled over into his daily dealings as well. He started a shady fake currency side gig by employing the help of a man to crank out false royal coins. The operation flourished until they got caught. Also. Seymour greedily started to cash on on piracy. Did he share the spoils with His Majesty? HELL NO. I'm pretty sure Seymour was a psychopath. Solid.

The part of the book that went into a bit of detail (not as fun) was the back and forth where Elizabeth was repeatedly questioned about Seymour trying to marry her without the Council's (the people who run the show at court) express permission. Imagine a young, educated but unwordly woman (Elizabeth never did leave England once. Fun fact!) being interrogated by seasoned officers to admit wrongdoing. She never broke once. This was the glimmer of the stoic, measured character that would later take the throne. It seems despite her mother's memory living on in ignominy Elizabeth never let others forget she was royalty, Henry's daughter. Fake it till you make it kind of shit. YISS!

Seymour fared a little worse; he was thrown into the Tower and so was Kate Ashley. Even when they started talking Lizzie said NOT HEARING IT NOTHING HAPPENING OVER HERE.

So that part was fun, just a little dry in the back and forth toward the end of the book.

I read another book on Elizabeth by Norton (during the years of her reign) and she's a thorough, solid researcher. This is the first book I have read on the years before her reign; I knew of her dalliance with Seymour I did not know much detail though.

There were some rumors the flirtation between the two led to an illegitimate child; Norton investigates this and it's riveting. Some folk lore about a midwife being blindfolded, taken to the estate of someone who clearly had money- and (gross warning here) delivering a baby blindfolded and being asked to cast it into a fire. JESUS . But apparently people though this was Lizzie, giving birth the Seymour's baby in secret so as not to besmirch her name and future as a royal.

Norton concludes it is likely this did indeed happen but we cannot definitively say it was the child of Elizabeth.

Also, this time period establishes Elizabeth as a contended; she holds her own with seasoned, intimidating interrogators. She also issues a little payback to some enemies once she takes the throne (bad ass) and she even uses her wit to entreaty her moody half sister, Princess Mary (in what is now known as the famous 'Tide Letter') to not execute her since Mary was a little crazy, creepy and paranoid. Once again. Lizzie is saved by her cunning.

A worthwhile book if you are interested in how Elizabeth developed her grit.

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## **Heather says**

Despite Elizabeth's name being the in main title, this is really Seymour's show. And I don't think that's a bad thing. Honestly, we have SO many books about dear Liz, I was kinda dreading reading another one. But this really surprised me when we left her story and shifted to Seymour for most of the run. It made for a far more enjoyable read.

\*\*I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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