



Mary, Bloody Mary

By Carolyn Meyer

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Blood is thicker than water - unless the King decrees otherwise. A compelling first-person narration of childhood, as told by Henry VIII's daughter, Mary Tudor. History remembers her only as "Bloody Mary" because of the brutality of her reign, but this compelling recreation of her childhood brings alive the contradictions and conflicts and true danger of being the daughter of a 'divorced' queen as her father falls under the spell of the "witch" Anne Boleyn and why such an apparently privileged little girl could grow up to be such a monster. Published by Harcourt Brace in USA 1999, it has been widely reviewed and acclaimed; was an ALA Notable Book, and among the ALA 10 Notable Books of that year.

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Mary, Bloody Mary By Carolyn Meyer Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Teen fans of the movie *Elizabeth* will be fascinated with the pomp and sinister intrigue of *Mary, Bloody Mary*, an engrossing story about the teen years of Mary Tudor, half sister to Queen Elizabeth and daughter to Henry VIII. As a baby, Mary was adored by her father, who carried her around on his shoulder and displayed her for the court to admire. But as his marriage with her mother, Catherine of Aragon, waned for lack of a male heir, Henry began an affair with the beautiful Anne Boleyn. Mary was convinced that Anne was a witch. Didn't everyone know she had a sixth finger? And wasn't it Anne who persuaded Henry to declare his first marriage invalid (rendering Mary a bastard)? As the king grows ever colder, Mary is banished to a distant house, forbidden from seeing her mother, left to wear rags, and finally--at Anne's bidding--summoned back to court to be a servant to her baby half sister Elizabeth. Once there, Mary lives in constant dread that she will be poisoned or sent to the executioner's block in one of her father's rages. By the time Anne Boleyn herself is beheaded, Henry's first daughter has become the bitter and angry woman who was to be known as Bloody Queen Mary for her savage religious genocide. Carolyn Meyer, long acclaimed for her teen fiction (*Drummers of Jericho*), accurately captures the glitter and grandeur as well as the brutality of this fascinating period in history. (Ages 10 to 16) --Patty Campbell

From Publishers Weekly

This riveting slice of fictional royal history paints a sympathetic portrait of Henry VIII's oldest daughter, before she earns the title Bloody Mary. Trained not to weep in public, the young princess puts on a steely front but lives in constant fear of her father's tyranny. The novel begins in 1527 when 11-year-old Mary learns that she has been betrothed to the middle-aged king of France. The accessible first-person narrative chronicles Mary's dramatic change in status from riches to rags when her father attempts to annul his marriage to Catherine, Mary's mother, and conveys how Mary's (and the nation's) fate is affected by her father's obsession with "bewitching" Anne Boleyn, his excessive spending and his execution sprees. The novel ends in 1536, just after Henry VIII takes his third wife, Jane Seymour, and things begin to look a bit more optimistic for Mary. While the pacing is at times uneven, Meyer's (Gideon's People) account convincingly sets the stage for Mary's own sprees of persecution (mentioned in a thorough afterword) and provides an excellent introduction to pre-Renaissance customs, fashions and morals. The author's characterization of the Catholic queen demonstrates there was much more to Mary than the deeds that earned her a sanguinary nickname. Ages 11-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up-Utilizing a first-person narrative, Meyer delivers a compelling account of Mary Tudor, who literally went from princess to servant. Henry VIII's oldest daughter lives the privileged life of royalty until her father becomes obsessed with producing a male heir. His realization that Mary's mother will never give him a son coincides with his infamous affair with Anne Boleyn, whom he ultimately marries. This marriage changes not only the course of history, but gravely affects Mary's life as well. She once expected to inherit the throne; now she merely hopes to survive her father's violent reign. After years of banishment, separated from her family and friends, Mary is summoned back to court so that she may act as her half-sister's (the future Elizabeth I) servant. The novel ends with Anne's death and the spurned princess's tenuous readmittance into court. Meyer deftly handles the intricacies of court intrigue and Henry's descent into madness while focusing on how these events shaped Mary's life and personality. The excellent characterization brings these historic figures to life. Perhaps the novel's only flaw is its failure to emphasize Mary's early religiosity that led to her eventual zealotry. The author's note discusses Henry's virtual parade of

marriages as well as Mary's "reign of terror." This book will inspire readers to further investigate the fascinating Tudor monarchy.

Laura Glaser, Euless Junior High School, TX

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lynn Gowen:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive raise then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Mary, Bloody Mary book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Thomas Jones:

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Chris Robins:

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Brandon Justice:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list will be Mary, Bloody Mary. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this e-book you can get

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