



The Taming of the Queen: by Philippa Gregory | Summary & Analysis

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INTRO

Brief Summary

?The Taming of the Queen tells the story of Kateryn Parr from just before she wed Henry VIII, until just after his death. The work is semi-historical, weaving facts with fiction to tell the story of one of the only two of Henry's six wives to survive him. Over the course of the story, Kateryn will grow into a very educated woman, becoming the first English queen to publish in her own name. In order to survive in the turmoil of Henry's court, she must learn to understand and participate in the constant intrigue. She must do this while trying to hold onto her own values as an enlightened woman and religious reformer. With enemies at court, a secret lover, and the constant threat of the deadly loss of Henry's favor hanging over her head; this isn't be easy.

SETTING

?This work is set in various royal palaces throughout the English kingdom during the 1540's. All is told from Kateryn's perspective, with the location changing primarily with the seasons.

?This period in English history is marked by shifts in religious practices. Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church primarily over his wish for a divorce, and would continue to institute changes over the course of his rule. The kingdom is divided between those who wish the reforms to continue, and those who wish a return to Catholicism.

?On the international stage, tensions are high. England still longs for the recapture of their lands lost to France. There is animosity between Spain and France. The Lutheran beliefs in Germany cause tension between them and the Catholic nations.

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