

Books Fit for a King or Queen

By Laura Leonard, Library Director

Did you tune in for Harry & Meghan's wedding? Have you been binge watching *The Crown*, *The Tudors* or *Young Victoria*? Maybe you are pre-ordering tickets for *Mary Queen of Scots* starring Margot Robbie? There is no doubt that British royals hold immense appeal for many of us. Find a comfy chair and delve into these historical fictions full of royal intrigue:

In *The Other Queen Philippa* Gregory uses multiple perspectives to tell of the sixteen years during which Mary Queen of Scots was under house arrest, as ordered by her cousin Elizabeth, at the estate of George Talbot & his wife Bess. Check out other novels by Gregory's including *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The White Queen*.

Henry VIII is well known for having many wives, his clash with the Catholic Church, and the creation of The Church of England. *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel relays how these events unfolded from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell, advisor to King Henry.

Whether it is historical fiction or biography you seek, Alison Weir serves up both. She is writing a series of six books, each of which focuses on one of the wives of King Henry VIII. New readers should consider beginning with *Katherine of Aragon: The True Queen*.

Let's not forget about the many biographies and non-fiction titles available.

The Plantagenets: The Warrior Kings and Queens Who Made England by Dan Jones is a fascinating history of those that ruled England for more than two centuries during the Middle Ages. Read about the battle for control of the throne in Jones' follow-up, *The Wars of the Roses: the fall of the Plantagenets and the rise of the Tudors*.

The battle for the English crown was not fought on many fronts. *Blood Sisters: The Women Behind the Wars of the Roses* by British biographer and journalist Sarah Gristwood reveals the way in which wives, mothers, and sisters influenced the shifting power dynamic.

If you are interested in more contemporary biographies try, *Elizabeth the Queen: The Life of a Modern Monarch* or *Prince Charles: The Passions and Paradoxes of an Improbable Life* both by Sally Bedell Smith.

Please contact the Wyckoff Library for more suggestions at ref@wyckofflibrary.org or 201-891-4866, x2. Go to www.bccls.org to view availability and request books from the library. Ask a librarian how to access Novelist, a database that you can access using your library card that will help you find your next great read.

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