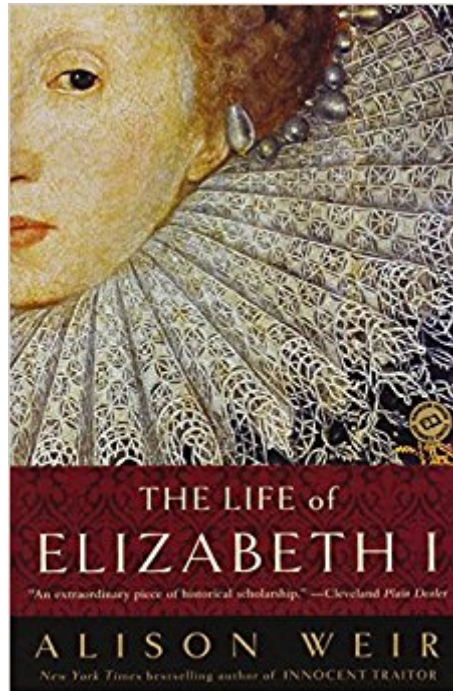




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The Life Of Elizabeth I



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Perhaps the most influential sovereign England has ever known, Queen Elizabeth I remained an extremely private person throughout her reign, keeping her own counsel and sharing secrets with no one--not even her closest, most trusted advisers. Now, in this brilliantly researched, fascinating new book, acclaimed biographer Alison Weir shares provocative new interpretations and fresh insights on this enigmatic figure. Against a lavish backdrop of pageantry and passion, intrigue and war, Weir dispels the myths surrounding Elizabeth I and examines the contradictions of her character. Elizabeth I loved the Earl of Leicester, but did she conspire to murder his wife? She called herself the Virgin Queen, but how chaste was she through dozens of liaisons? She never married--was her choice to remain single tied to the chilling fate of her mother, Anne Boleyn? An enthralling epic that is also an amazingly intimate portrait, *The Life of Elizabeth I* is a mesmerizing, stunning reading experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The long life and powerful personality of England's beloved Virgin Queen have eternal appeal, and popular historian Alison Weir depicts both with panache. She's especially good at evoking the physical texture of Tudor England: the elaborate royal gowns (actually an intricate assembly of separate fabric panels buttoned together over linen shifts), the luxurious but unhygienic palaces (Elizabeth got the only "close stool"; most members of her retinue relieved themselves in the courtyards), the huge meals heavily seasoned to disguise the taste of spoiled meat. Against this earthy backdrop, Elizabeth's intelligence and formidable political skills stand in vivid relief. She may

have been autocratic, devious, even deceptive, but these traits were required to perform a 45-year tightrope walk between the two great powers of Europe, France and Spain. Both countries were eager to bring small, weak England under their sway and to safely marry off its inconveniently independent queen. Weir emphasizes Elizabeth's precarious position as a ruling woman in a man's world, suggesting plausibly that the single life was personally appealing as well as politically expedient for someone who had seen many ambitious ladies--including her own mother--ruined and even executed for just the appearance of sexual indiscretions. The author's evaluations of such key figures in Elizabeth's reign as the Earl of Leicester (arguably the only man she ever loved) and William Cecil (her most trusted adviser) are equally cogent and respectful of psychological complexity. Weir does a fine job of retelling this always-popular story for a new generation. --Wendy Smith --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Weir describes herself as a social historian but admits that when chronicling the lives of the flamboyant Tudors, it's impossible to keep domestic politics and world affairs apart. One could hardly ignore the threatened depredations of the "invincible" Spanish Armada or pass over the intrigues of Mary Queen of Scots as she struggled to seize the throne and return England to Roman Catholicism. Weir has already negotiated the complex matrimonial life of Elizabeth's father in *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and the early lives of the resulting progeny in *The Children of Henry VIII*. After a lonely and often perilous childhood during which Elizabeth was once imprisoned in the Tower and was nearly executed at the behest of her half sister, Queen Mary, 25-year-old Elizabeth ascended to the throne when Mary died. The prevailing expectation was that she would speedily marry a strong man who would then take over as king: as Elizabeth herself admitted, it was commonly thought that "a woman cannot live unless she is married." Elizabeth did nothing of the kind and, as Weir details, she did quite well for herself manipulating the royal marriage mart of Europe. Weir uses myriad details of dress, correspondence and contemporary accounts to create an almost affectionate portrait of a strong, well-educated ruler loved by her courtiers and people alike. Hot-tempered, imperious Elizabeth has been the subject of innumerable biographies, many very good. But Weir brings a fine sense of selection and considerable zest to her portrait of the self-styled Virgin Queen. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Weir is always very good and entertaining. Learn a little history in a palatable format. I've read almost every book she's written about the royals and re-read several.

A nice biography about Elizabeth I and her life from the beginning of her reign. It goes into details about each aspect of her life (both public and private). It can be a little boring at times but overall, it is a good read.

Such a detailing book about the queen and her family, was very impressed with the writing and all the new things i read in it

I am reading this for a book club and admittedly would not have picked it up except for that. The book tends to be monotonous in its recitation of the pedigrees of various "friends" and "courtiers" of the Queen and other members of the royal family. One has to really dig through lots of verbiage to get any real human feeling in this book. But that, perhaps, is what the Queen is all about.

With such a load on information on the Queen of England considering her age and longevity on the throne, the writer has done a masterful job of organizing and writing in a very readable style. Photos add interest as do antidotes and quotes. I can picture the castles and the events that occur there, lunches, dinners, family events etc. Definitely a 5 star book. Be ready to balance a heavy, hardback book if you read in bed or reclining in the afternoon.

This would be the third book I read about queen Elizabeth I and the one I'd enjoyed the best. Thoroughly researched and concisely written, never once did I lose my interest, and some facts were presented in novel light that beg reconsideration. What an enjoyment!

Fairly superficial as I never quite got an idea of what The Queen really thought or felt as a person.

I hesitated over the \$14.99 price tag on the ebook but decided to spring for it and am so glad I did. This was a facinating read, entertainingly written, and contained all kinds of interesting facts I never knew about the life of Queen Elizabeth II and her family. I recommend it to people interested in history, particularly the World War I & II eras, as well as anyone who enjoys reading about the royal family.

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