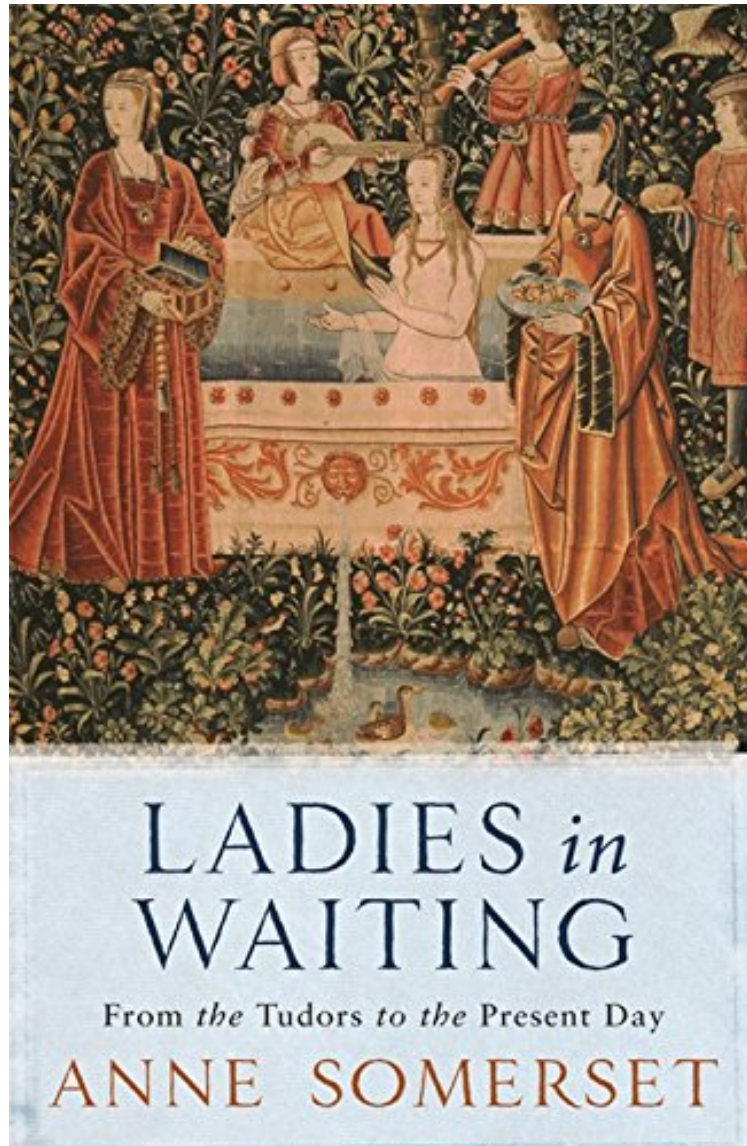


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Ladies in Waiting: From the Tudors to the Present Day

Anne Somerset

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Anne Somerset : Ladies in Waiting: From the Tudors to the Present Day before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ladies in Waiting: From the Tudors to the Present Day:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. interesting read By R. Perry I bought this book because I thought it would be interesting and because the author is the daughter of a real-life Duke. I like this sort of thing. The book is a fun and interesting read about various ladies-in-waiting over the centuries and the strict protocols involving such positions. It helps to know some English history in relation to various Kings and Queens but isn't necessary. Anne

Somerset is a good writer and can be quite amusing in telling her tales. This book would be very enjoyable to anyone who likes to read royal biographies or royal history. It is not a dry educational tome but rather a glimpse into a world that most people know nothing about and isn't really viable in today's royal world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not what expected By Scarlet I expected this book to be more about the duties of ladies in waiting and court protocol. It's not, so it was a huge disappointment. It's more about the ladies who served queens and how they got their positions. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful back-story to British royal history By greenie227 Anne Somerset does a fantastic job writing a back story to British royal history through the stories of ladies-in-waiting. It's easier to get through this book if you already have a background in British royal history, are familiar with the ups and downs, because Somerset doesn't always elaborate -- she's more interested in telling the story from the ladies-in-waiting point of view. And what a rich, gossipy, fascinating point of view it is. Behavior of royals is seen in a different light than in history books, or historical biographies. I feel like I've been viewing a portrait of British royals, and now Somerset has added some discrete shading to the picture to further illuminate. Wonderful book, couldn't put it down.

Far from being servants or decorative accessories in court, ladies-in-waiting competed for real positions of power--and many succeeded in their goals, sometimes betraying their queens in the process. A few even became royal mistresses, such as the rapacious Lady Castlemaine who amassed a fortune and flaunted her hold over King Charles I. Drawing on a wide variety of primary sources, including the diaries of such shrewd onlookers as Lady Cowper and Fanny Burney, bestselling author Anne Somerset provides a guide to the character, profligate or pious, of each court. This lively combination of entertaining anecdote and searching analysis is social history at its most colorful."...provides a wealth of juicy anecdotal material..."--The New York Times

'This is scholarly yet splendid stuff.' THE TIMES About the Author Anne Somerset is the author of such best-sellers as ELIZABETH I and UNNATURAL MURDER. She read history at King's College, London, and for two years worked as a research assistant for historians such as Hugh Thomas, Antonia Fraser and Nigel Fisher. She lives in London.