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The daughter of a disgraced earl, she matched wits with a prince. It is the fourteenth century, the height of the Medieval Age, and at the court of King Edward III of England, chivalry is loudly praised while treachery runs rampant. When the lovely and high-spirited Joan of Kent is sent to this politically charged court, she is woefully unprepared for the underhanded maneuverings of her peers. Determined to increase the breadth of his rule, the king will use any means necessary to gain control of France—including manipulating his own son, Edward, Prince of Wales. Joan plots to become involved with the prince to scandalize the royal family, for she has learned they engineered her father's downfall and death. But what begins as a calculated strategy soon—to Joan's surprise—grows into love. When Joan learns that Edward returns her feelings, she is soon fighting her own, for how can she love the man that ruined her family? And, if she does, what will be the cost? Filled with scandal, court intrigue, and prominent figures of the Medieval Age, The First Princess of Wales has at its center a wonderful love story, which is all the more remarkable because it is true. Karen Harper's compelling, fast-paced novel tells the riveting tale of an innocent girl who marries a prince and gives birth to a king. Despite being betrothed to Harry Fitzroy, the son of King Henry VIII, Mary Howard must contend with her scheming father, the Duke of Norfolk. A first novel. Original. One of the greatest loves of all time-between Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley-comes to life in this vivid novel. They were playmates as children, impetuous lovers

as adults-and for thirty years were the center of each others' lives. Astute to the dangers of choosing any one man, the Virgin Queen could never give her "Sweet Robin" what he wanted most-marriage-yet she insisted he stay close by her side. Possessive and jealous, their love survived quarrels, his two disastrous marriages to other women, her constant flirtations, and political machinations with foreign princes. His Last Letter tells the story of this great love... and especially of the last three years Elizabeth and Dudley spent together, the most dangerous of her rule, when their passion was tempered by a bittersweet recognition of all that they shared-and all that would remain unfulfilled. An arrogant earl looking for the perfect wife; a strong-minded governess determined to transform him into the perfect man--who will win? A grand-scale historical novel from the New York Times bestselling author of Mistress Shakespeare. Born into a first family of Ireland, with royal ties on both sides, Elizabeth Fitzgerald—known as Gera—finds her world overturned when Henry VIII imprisons her father, the Earl of Kildare, and brutally destroys her family. Torn from the home she loves, her remaining family scattered, Gera dares not deny the refuge offered her in England's glittering royal court. There she must navigate ever-shifting alliances even as she nurtures her secret desire for revenge. From County Kildare's lush green fields to London's rough-and-tumble streets and the royal court's luxurious pageantry, The Irish Princess follows the journey of a daring woman whose will cannot be tamed, and who won't be satisfied until she restores her family to its rightful place in Ireland. Warning: Laughter ahead! Liz Curtis Higgs delivers again with "Fine Print," where a businessman and the speech coach he's hired have no idea there are matchmakers at work on their behalf! Her novella is part of a delightful triple-header in Three Weddings and a Giggle. The "giggle" comes from Carolyn Zane, whose "Sweet Chariot" drops readers in on two little old ladies who purchase a motor home sight-unseen, then drag their adult grandchildren along for cross-country antics. In Karen Ball's "Bride on the Run," an heiress defies her father's demand that she marry a man she doesn't love. If only she hadn't waited until her wedding day to do so! So it's out the window, down the rose trellis ... and headlong into one escapade after another. Thoroughly fun! Following the tremendous success of her first novel, Innocent Traitor, which recounted the riveting tale of the doomed Lady Jane Grey, acclaimed historian and New York Times bestselling author Alison Weir turns her masterly storytelling skills to the early life of young Elizabeth Tudor, who would grow up to become England's most intriguing and powerful queen. Even at age two, Elizabeth is keenly aware that people in the court of her father, King Henry VIII, have stopped referring to her as "Lady Princess" and now call her "the Lady Elizabeth." Before she is three, she learns of the tragic fate that has befallen her mother, the enigmatic and seductive Anne Boleyn, and

that she herself has been declared illegitimate, an injustice that will haunt her. What comes next is a succession of stepmothers, bringing with them glimpses of love, fleeting security, tempestuous conflict, and tragedy. The death of her father puts the teenage Elizabeth in greater peril, leaving her at the mercy of ambitious and unscrupulous men. Like her mother two decades earlier she is imprisoned in the Tower of London—and fears she will also meet her mother’s grisly end. Power-driven politics, private scandal and public gossip, a disputed succession, and the grievous example of her sister, “Bloody” Queen Mary, all cement Elizabeth’s resolve in matters of statecraft and love, and set the stage for her transformation into the iconic Virgin Queen. Alison Weir uses her deft talents as historian and novelist to exquisitely and suspensefully play out the conflicts between family, politics, religion, and conscience that came to define an age. Sweeping in scope, *The Lady Elizabeth* is a fascinating portrayal of a woman far ahead of her time—an orphaned girl haunted by the shadow of the axe, an independent spirit who must use her cunning and wits for her very survival, and a future queen whose dangerous and dramatic path to the throne shapes her future greatness. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Alison Weir’s *Mary Boleyn*. The New York Times bestselling author of *Mistress Shakespeare* delivers the epic tale of Elizabeth I’s most trusted companion—a commoner who lived among royals.... Katherine Ashley, the clever, beguiling daughter of a poor country beekeeper, catches the attention of powerful, ambitious Thomas Cromwell—henchman for King Henry VIII. Cromwell secures for Kat a place in the royal court, but as a reluctant spy. Plunged into a treacherous game of shifting alliances, Kat is entrusted by Anne Boleyn to protect her daughter, Elizabeth. In the face of exile, assassination attempts, imprisonment, and a romantic flirtation that could cost the young princess dearly, Kat will risk everything—even her own secret love—for her bright, clever Elizabeth. New York Times bestselling author Alison Weir explores the turbulent life of Henry VIII’s mother, Elizabeth, the first queen of the Tudor dynasty, in this “superbly readable and engaging” (Historical Novels Society) novel. Elizabeth of York is the oldest daughter of King Edward IV. Flame-haired, beautiful, and sweet-natured, she is adored by her family; yet her life is suddenly disrupted when her beloved father dies in the prime of life. Her uncle, the notorious Richard III, takes advantage of King Edward’s death to grab the throne and imprison Elizabeth’s two younger brothers, the rightful royal heirs. Forever afterward known as “the Princes in the Tower,” the boys are never seen again. On the heels of this tragedy, Elizabeth is subjected to Richard’s overtures to make her his wife, further legitimizing his claim to the throne. King Richard has murdered her brothers, yet she feels she must accept his proposal. As if in a fairy tale, Elizabeth is saved by Henry Tudor, who challenges Richard and defeats him at the legendary Battle of Bosworth Field. Following his victory, Henry becomes king and asks Elizabeth to be his wife, the first queen of the Tudor line. The marriage is happy and fruitful, not only uniting the warring houses of Lancaster and York—the red and white roses—but producing four surviving children, one of whom, Henry VIII, will rule the country for

the next thirty-six years. As in her popular *Six Tudor Queens* series, Alison Weir captures the personality of one of Britain’s most important consorts, conveying Elizabeth of York’s dramatic life in a novel that is all the richer because of its firm basis in history. A historical novella from the New York Times bestselling author whose work is “as good as the best of Philippa Gregory” (Library Journal). Baltimore, 1835: Violet McClellan encounters a handsome stranger placing lilies on her mother’s grave, and soon discovers an unexpected connection—and a passion for him. Captain Nathan Stone feels the same. But he is about to leave on a three-year voyage to a foreign and dangerous land, raising the possibility that despite the feelings between them, they may become strangers once again.... Follows a woman whose function it once was to read books aloud to Marie Antoinette, as she recounts her memories of living at Versailles during the final days of the French revolution. From New York Times bestselling author Karen Harper comes a novel based on the lives of two amazing sisters . . . One sailed the Titanic and started a fashion empire . . . The other overtook Hollywood and scandalized the world . . . Together, they were unstoppable. They rose from genteel poverty, two beautiful sisters, ambitious, witty, seductive. Elinor and Lucy Sutherland are at once each other’s fiercest supporters and most vicious critics. Lucy transformed herself into Lucile, the daring fashion designer who revolutionized the industry with her flirtatious gowns and brazen self-promotion. And when she married Sir Cosmo Duff-Gordon her life seemed to be a fairy tale. But success came at many costs—to her marriage and to her children . . . and then came the fateful night of April 14, 1912 and the scandal that followed. Elinor’s novels titillate readers, and it’s even asked in polite drawing rooms if you would like to “sin with Elinor Glyn?” Her work pushes the boundaries of what’s acceptable; her foray into the glittering new world of Hollywood turns her into a world-wide phenomenon. But although she writes of passion, the true love she longs for eludes her. But despite quarrels and misunderstandings, distance and destiny, there is no bond stronger than that of the two sisters—confidants, friends, rivals and the two “It Girls” of their day. **INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** “A superb suspense writer...Brava, Ruth Ware. I daresay even Henry James would be impressed.” —Maureen Corrigan, author of *So We Read On* “This appropriately twisty *Turn of the Screw* update finds the *Woman in Cabin 10* author in her most menacing mode, unfurling a shocking saga of murder and deception.” —Entertainment Weekly From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Lying Game* and *The Death of Mrs. Westaway* comes this thrilling novel that explores the dark side of technology. When she stumbles across the ad, she’s looking for something else completely. But it seems like too good an opportunity to miss—a live-in nannying post, with a staggeringly generous salary. And when Rowan Caine arrives at Heatherbrae House, she is smitten—by the luxurious “smart” home fitted out with all modern conveniences, by the beautiful Scottish Highlands, and by this picture-perfect family. What she doesn’t know is that she’s stepping into a nightmare—one that will end with a child dead and herself in prison awaiting trial for murder. Writing to her

lawyer from prison, she struggles to explain the events that led to her incarceration. It wasn’t just the constant surveillance from the home’s cameras, or the malfunctioning technology that woke the household with booming music, or turned the lights off at the worst possible time. It wasn’t just the girls, who turned out to be a far cry from the immaculately behaved model children she met at her interview. It wasn’t even the way she was left alone for weeks at a time, with no adults around apart from the enigmatic handyman. It was everything. She knows she’s made mistakes. She admits that she lied to obtain the post, and that her behavior toward the children wasn’t always ideal. She’s not innocent, by any means. But, she maintains, she’s not guilty—at least not of murder—but somebody is. Full of spellbinding menace and told in Ruth Ware’s signature suspenseful style, *The Turn of the Key* is an unputdownable thriller from the Agatha Christie of our time. Did you love *WOLF HALL*, *BRING UP THE BODIES* and *THE MIRROR AND THE LIGHT*? If so, you'll be gripped by *MISTRESS CROMWELL*: discover the powerful story of the woman in the shadows . . . Reader acclaim for *Mistress Cromwell* 'A delicious frisson of danger slithers through every page of the book. Enthralling.' Karen Maitland 'A delicate and detailed portrayal, absolutely beautifully done. Captivating.' Suzannah Dunn 'Rich, vivid and immersive, an enthralling story of the turbulent Tudor era.' Nicola Cornick 'Fantastic read from the perspective of Cromwell's wife.' ***** Reader Review 'Excellent read. Very well written and researched. Would recommend this book to anyone interested in Tudor times.' ***** Reader Review 'The book had me gripped from start to finish. Highly recommended.' ***** Reader Review 'Rich with period detail - so evocative of the Tudor period... I really enjoyed this.' ***** Reader Review *MISTRESS CROMWELL* presents the rise of Tudor England's most powerful courtier, Thomas Cromwell, through the eyes of the most important - and little known - woman in his life . . . When beautiful cloth merchant's daughter Elizabeth Williams is widowed at the age of twenty-two, she is determined to make a success of the business she inherited from her father. But there are those who oppose a woman making her own way in the world, and soon Elizabeth realises she may have some powerful enemies - enemies who know the dark truth about her dead husband. Happiness arrives when Elizabeth meets ambitious young lawyer, Thomas Cromwell. Their marriage begins in mutual love and respect - but it isn't always easy being the wife of an independent, headstrong man in Henry VIII's London. The city is both merciless and filled with temptation, and Elizabeth soon realises she must take care in the life she has chosen . . . or risk losing everything. *MISTRESS CROMWELL* was previously published as *THE WOMAN IN THE SHADOWS*. Do you love the novels of Carol McGrath? Have you read *THE SILKEN ROSE*, her brand new novel, starring one of the most fierce and courageous forgotten queens of England? Available now! _____ Praise for bestselling author, Carol McGrath: 'Brilliantly researched and cleverly brought to life' - Joanna Courtney 'Intense, gripping and intricately plotted' - Alexandra Walsh 'Completely engrossed me from the start . . . Incredibly rich and vividly told' - Nicola Cornick 'Expertly brings to life . . . a woman who finds herself

at the heart of a deadly power game for the throne' - KJ Maitland

During the childhood years of Queen Elizabeth II, one of the most famous women who ever lived, a young governess helped shape her into the icon the world knows today. In 1933, twenty-two-year-old Marion Crawford accepts the role of a lifetime, tutoring the little Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose. Her one stipulation to their parents is that she bring some doses of normalcy into their sheltered and privileged lives. At Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Balmoral, Marion defies stuffy protocol to take the princesses on tube trains, swimming at public baths, and on joyful Christmas shopping trips at Woolworth's. From her ringside seat at the heart of the British monarchy she witnesses the trauma of the Abdication, the glamour of the Coronation, the onset of World War II. She steers the little princesses through it all, as close as a mother. As Hitler's planes fly over Windsor, she shelters her charges in the castle dungeons (not far from where the Crown Jewels are hidden in a biscuit tin). Afterwards, she is present when Elizabeth first sets eyes on Philip, her future husband. But being beloved confidante to the Windsor family comes at huge personal cost. Marriage, children, her own views: all are compromised by proximity to royal glory. In this majestic story of love, sacrifice and allegiance, bestselling novelist Holden brings to life the early years before Queen Elizabeth II became monarch. "This captivating page-turner whisks readers back in time to Buckingham Palace in 1933...A majestic story that delves into the incredible life of Queen Elizabeth II before she took her place on the throne."—Woman's World In April 1897, Charlotte Bill enters service into the house of the Duke and Duchess of York as a nanny. For decades, "Lala", as she is called, cares for her royal charges, some of which will rule, and one known as "The Lost Prince". A historical novel of the legendary Eleanor of Aquitaine and the one person she loved more than power-her rival for the throne. At only nine, Princess Alais of France is sent to live in England until she is of age to wed Prince Richard, son of King Henry II and Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. Alais is an innocent pawn on the chessboard of dynastic marriage, her betrothal intended to broker an uneasy truce between the nations. Estranged from her husband, Eleanor sees a kindred spirit in this determined young girl. She embraces Alais as a daughter, teaching the princess what it takes to be a woman of power in a world of men. But as Alais grows to maturity and develops ambitions of her own, Eleanor begins to see her as a threat-and their love for each other becomes overshadowed by their bitter rivalry, dark betrayals, conflicting passions, and a battle for revenge over the throne of England itself. Lady Frances Sidney becomes a lady-in-waiting for Queen Elizabeth and uses it as an opportunity to use the intelligence-gathering tools she learned from her spymaster father to keep her queen safe in this new novel from the author of His Last Letter. Original. 30,000 first printing. Something evil is gathering power in the kingdom. It knows the secrets in your heart, and nobody is safe... Petra Kel - young and headstrong - has been named General of the Queen's Guard. But while Petra's head may be in rebuilding the war-torn kingdom alongside her childhood friend Queen Belengaria, she left her heart miles away in

their homeland, the day she turned her back on the only man she ever loved and fled. But then Petra's past - in the form of Bel's roguish brother Zander - comes crashing in, just as rumours of dark magic begin to swirl at court. Petra can't afford to be distracted... but the unfinished business between herself and Zander is like a vice upon her heart. When evil takes hold of the kingdom and threatens Bel, Petra is forced to make the impossible choice between love and loyalty. And will the insidious magic of the Stone's Heart reveal the heart-breaking reason why she left Zander behind all those years ago? A gripping and magical read that will captivate you from the very first page. Perfect for fans of The Selection, Bella Forrest and Sarah J. Maas. Readers absolutely love The Stone's Heart... 'One of my most anticipated books for this year and it didn't disappoint!' Ridiculously Obsessed Bookworm, 5 stars 'Really does pack a punch... I loved every minute of it. The only negative emotion I felt was when it ended... filled with action, adventure, and romance and it will have you at the edge of your seat so many times. There were things I never saw coming and I held my breath on numerous occasions... I was deeply invested in all the characters, and I can't wait to see what is going to happen next ... This book has everything a fantasy reader will love... If I could give more than five stars I would. I absolutely loved it and will be waiting not so patiently for book 3.' Amanda J Evans, 5 stars 'The book is SO fast paced, with so many events and ambushes and exes and twists, right up until the very last page... I will 100% attest that I could barely put it down.' One Nurse Reader 'A fantastic read that kept me guessing and reading right to the very end, and a series I plan on rereading as soon as possible.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Oh, my. This was a very good read. Full of mystery and betrayal. A heart-pounding gem with lots of twistys. Recommend highly.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Another fun, fast paced read with plenty of action and adventure... Both female leads are strong, independent woman trying to prove themselves in a male-oriented world, living in the shadows of their families and trying their best to balance their duties against their own ambitions and desires... Great ideas, fantastic storytelling and likeable characters make this a compelling read that I didn't want to put down.' Goodreads Reviewer 'Petra is strength, she is loyalty, she is heartbroken, she is headstrong and she is unconditional love. Petra is the hero that I aspire to be... I enjoyed seeing the strength in vulnerability being explored in this story and the strength of friendship, love and companionship.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Plenty of action and romance... a wonderful light fantasy with a touch of sci-fi. Definitely recommend.' Tales of a Librarian 'I don't know how but the books in this series always manage to somehow make me cry like a little baby... that ending was so sweet!' Goodreads Reviewer 'This was just as fab as the first one... I loved it... It had a great story line and kept me hooked.' Goodreads Reviewer 'It's a twisty, turny rollercoaster ride. I honestly didn't know whom Petra could trust at one point. The characters are fun, the world building is meticulous and the story is amazing.' Goodreads Reviewer 'A wonderful fantasy... just as captivating as the first book. This author has an epic way of storytelling that sucks you in immediately!'

Goodreads Reviewer In a gripping historical novel of suspense and romance, two women fight to defeat the enemies of the precarious Tudor monarchy by uncovering the secrets of the dead.... London, 1501. In a time of political unrest, Varina Westcott, a young widow and candle maker for court and church, agrees to perform a clandestine service for Queen Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII--carve wax figures of four dead children, two of her offspring lost in infancy and her two brothers, the Princes of the Tower, whose mysterious disappearance years ago has never been solved. Having lost a child herself, Varina feels a sympathetic bond with the queen. And as she works under the watchful eye of handsome Nicholas Sutton, an ambitious assistant to the royals, she develops feelings of quite a different nature.... Then news comes from Wales of the unexpected death of newly married Prince Arthur, the queen's eldest child and heir to the throne. Deeply grieving, Elizabeth suspects that Arthur did not die of a sudden illness, as reported, but was actually murdered by her husband's enemies. This time her task for Varina and Nicholas is of vital importance--travel into the Welsh wilderness to investigate the prince's death. But as the couple unearths one unsettling clue after another, they begin to fear that the conspiracy they're confronting is far more ambitious and treacherous than even the queen imagined. And it aims to utterly destroy the Tudor dynasty. While Meg Wyatt's favor in the court of Henry VIII rises and falls as her best friend's does, Meg's pledge of loyalty to Anne Boleyn may cause her lose her greatest love and her own life. Twenty years after she and her best friend played a prank on a girl who subsequently disappeared, now-married Sadie begins to relive that nightmarish summer after a boy from her old neighborhood returns to town and unsolved mysteries begin to unravel. Original. Lady Eleanor Ramsay is the only one who knows the truth about Hart Mackenzie. Once his fiancée, she is the sole woman to whom he could ever pour out his heart. Hart has it all--a dukedom, wealth, power, influence, whatever he desires. Every woman wants him--his seductive skills are legendary. But Hart has sacrificed much to keep his brothers safe, first from their brutal father, and then from the world. He's also suffered loss--his wife, his infant son, and the woman he loved with all his heart though he realized it too late. Now, Eleanor has reappeared on Hart's doorstep, with scandalous nude photographs of Hart taken long ago. Intrigued by the challenge in her blue eyes--and aroused by her charming, no-nonsense determination--Hart wonders if his young love has come to ruin him . . . or save him. The Tudors were an unforgettable dynasty who wielded absolute power during a remarkably turbulent time in English history. Each ruler's survival required a fierce struggle to maintain control - often against incredible odds. From Henry VII, England's last king to win the crown in battle, and the tyrannical Henry VIII with his succession of wives, to the fiercely Catholic 'Bloody Mary', and her sister, Elizabeth, the 'Virgin queen', Jane Bingham examines just how fairly history has treated these Tudor rulers. Both as politicians and as individuals, it is no wonder these larger-than-life monarchs still capture our imaginations today. Before the crown there was a love story... If you love Jennifer Robson or The Crown you will love New York Times

bestselling author Karen Harper's novel about Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. 1939. As the wife of the King George VI and the mother of the future queen, Elizabeth—"the queen mother"—shows a warm, smiling face to the world. But it's no surprise that Hitler himself calls her the "Most Dangerous Woman in Europe." For behind that soft voice and kindly demeanor is a will of steel. Two years earlier, George was thrust onto the throne when his brother Edward abdicated, determined to marry his divorced, American mistress Mrs. Simpson. Vowing to do whatever it takes to make her husband's reign a success, Elizabeth endears herself to the British people, and prevents the former king and his brazen bride from ever again setting foot in Buckingham Palace. Elizabeth holds many powerful cards, she's also hiding damaging secrets about her past and her provenance that could prove to be her undoing. In this riveting novel of royal secrets and intrigue, Karen Harper lifts the veil on one of the world's most fascinating families, and how its "secret weapon" of a matriarch maneuvered her way through one of the most dangerous chapters of the century. 'Fans of The Crown will enjoy this poignant look behind the royal curtain'

GEORGIE BLALOCK A crown princess. Her childhood nanny. A shocking betrayal... Marion Crawford is just twenty-two years old when she becomes governess to the little Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose in 1931. As their beloved 'Crawfie', she is instantly confided in, trusted and immersed in the lives of the royal family. As World War II finally comes to an end, it's clear that Princess Elizabeth has fallen in love. Now heiress presumptive to the British throne, no one believes that Prince Philip of Greece is a suitable husband for the future Queen of England. No one, that is, except for Crawfie. For Crawfie, too, has fallen in love - and has convinced her fiancé George that they must wait for Elizabeth and Philip to receive the King's blessing before she leaves the service of the Crown. Yet soon she finds herself torn between her loyalty to Princess Elizabeth and losing the man she loves. But no one ever anticipated the betrayal that will sever her bond with the royal family forever... Authority and accessibility combine to bring the history and the drama of Tudor England to life. Almost 900 engaging entries cover the life and times of Henry VIII, Mary I, Elizabeth I, William Shakespeare, and much, much more. *

Almost 900 entries covering people, events, ideas, movements, institutions, and publications * An extensive chronology of important events from the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 * Maps and photographs * A guide to related topics * Appendixes that include genealogies and lists of European monarchs, contemporary popes, English bishops, speakers and sessions of Parliament, and major battles, rebellions, and uprisings * A bibliography of historical novels set in the period * An annotated list of films and television programs set in the period * A list of useful websites * An extensive, up-to-date bibliography divided into topical sections

Basing her gripping tale on the life of the real Jane Popyncourt, gifted author Kate Emerson brings the Tudor monarchs, their family, and their courtiers to brilliant life in this vibrant novel. Beautiful. Seductive. Innocent. Jane Popyncourt was brought to the court as a child to be ward of the king and a companion to his

daughters—the princesses Margaret and Mary. With no money of her own, Jane could not hope for a powerful marriage, or perhaps even marriage at all. But as she grows into a lovely young woman, she still receives flattering attention from the virile young men flocking to serve the handsome new king, Henry VIII, who has recently married Catherine of Aragon. Then a dashing French prisoner of war, cousin to the king of France, is brought to London, and Jane finds she cannot help giving some of her heart—and more—to a man she can never marry. But the Tudor court is filled with dangers as well as seductions, and there are mysteries surrounding Jane's birth that have made her deadly enemies. Can she cultivate her beauty and her amorous wiles to guide her along a perilous path and bring her at last to happiness?

"Gaslamp Fantasy," or historical fantasy set in a magical version of the nineteenth century, has long been popular with readers and writers alike. A number of wonderful fantasy novels owe their inspiration to works by nineteenth-century writers ranging from Jane Austen, the Brontës, and George Meredith to Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, and William Morris. And, of course, the entire steampunk genre and subculture owes more than a little to literature inspired by this period. Queen Victoria's Book of Spells is an anthology for everyone who loves these works of neo-Victorian fiction, and wishes to explore the wide variety of ways that modern fantasists are using nineteenth-century settings, characters, and themes. These approaches stretch from steampunk fiction to the Austen-and-Trollope inspired works that some critics call Fantasy of Manners, all of which fit under the larger umbrella of Gaslamp Fantasy. The result is eighteen stories by experts from the fantasy, horror, mainstream, and young adult fields, including both bestselling writers and exciting new talents such as Elizabeth Bear, James Blaylock, Jeffrey Ford, Ellen Kushner, Tanith Lee, Gregory Maguire, Delia Sherman, and Catherynne M. Valente, who present a bewitching vision of a nineteenth century invested (or cursed!) with magic. A Kirkus Reviews Best Fiction Book of 2013 At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. The author of The Queen's Pawn delves into the early life of the legendary Eleanor of Aquitaine in her new historical novel. After her father's sudden death, fifteen-year-old Eleanor is quickly crowned Duchess of Aquitaine and betrothed to King Louis VII. When her new husband cannot pronounce her given name, Alienor becomes Eleanor, Queen of France. Although Louis is enamored of his bride, the newly crowned king is easily manipulated by the church and a God that Eleanor doesn't believe in. Now, if she can find the strength to fight for what she wants, Eleanor may finally find the passion she has longed for, and the means to fulfill her legacy as Queen. This collection examines the afterlives of early modern English and French rulers. Spanning five centuries of cultural memory, the volume offers case studies of how kings and queens were remembered, represented, and reincarnated in a wide range of sources, from contemporary pageants, plays, and visual art to twenty-first-century television, and from premodern fiction to manga and romance novels. With essays on well-known figures such as Elizabeth I and Marie Antoinette as well as lesser-known monarchs such as

Francis II of France and Mary Tudor, Queen of France, Remembering Queens and Kings of Early Modern England and France brings together reflections on how rulers live on in collective memory. From the #1 New York Times bestselling author behind the acclaimed Starz series The White Queen comes the story of lady-in-waiting Margaret Pole and her unique view of King Henry VIII's stratospheric rise to power in Tudor England. As an heir to the Plantagenets, Margaret is seen by the King's mother, the Red Queen, as a rival to the Tudor claim to the throne. She is buried in marriage to a Tudor supporter—Sir Richard Pole, governor of Wales—and becomes guardian to Arthur, the young Prince of Wales, and his beautiful bride, Katherine of Aragon. But Margaret's destiny, as cousin to the White Princess, is not for a life in the shadows. Tragedy throws her into poverty, yet a royal death restores her to her place at young Henry VIII's court where she becomes chief lady-in-waiting to Queen Katherine. There she watches the dominance of the Spanish queen over her husband and her tragic decline. Amid the rapid deterioration of the Tudor court, Margaret must choose whether her allegiance is to the increasingly tyrannical Henry VIII or to her beloved queen. Caught between the old and the new, Margaret must find her own way, concealing her knowledge that an old curse cast upon all the Tudors is slowly coming true... She survived her own innocence, and the treachery of Europe's royal courts; The Last Boleyn is the story of the rise and fall of the Boleyns, one of England's most powerful families, through the eyes of the eldest daughter, Mary. Although her sister, Anne, the queen; her brother, George, executed alongside Anne; and her father, Thomas, are most remembered by history, Mary was the Boleyn who set into motion the chain of events that brought about the family's meteoric rise to power, as well as the one who managed to escape their equally remarkable fall. Sent away to France at an extraordinarily young age, Mary is quickly plunged into the dangerous world of court politics, where everything is beautiful but deceptive, and everyone she meets is watching and quietly manipulating the events and people around them. As she grows into a woman, Mary must navigate both the dangerous waters ruled by two kings and the powerful will of her own family in order to find a place for herself and the love she so deeply desires. The ideas & plans behind ALL chess openings! Volume 2 of an accessible primer and reference book about chess openings. Provides a solid foundation to build your opening repertoire on. Explains what you should be trying to achieve, with clear indications for further study. * Comprehensive: covers all main variations likely to arise * Easy-to-use: important moves and key positions are highlighted in colour * Long-lasting: it doesn't outdate because it is about basics - not the latest fashions * Complete: explains the plans and counterplans for both Black and White * Down-to-earth: simple, verbal introductions (not a database dump full of dead trees) * Convenient: every opening is illustrated with a number of instructive games * Prize-winning: received the Golden Award of the Italian Chess Federation This book helps beginners to develop a solid understanding of fundamental opening play, gives casual players the ability to choose the opening that suits their style and taste, and is a tool for club

players to test and review their opening repertoire. The first three titles of Kate Emerson's captivating and well-reviewed historical fiction series, *Secrets of the Tudor Court*, now available in an eBook box set. Whether reliving or experiencing for the first time, readers will be captivated by Kate Emerson's strong heroines and beautiful depiction of the past. This eBook box set features: *The Pleasure Palace* "The Pleasure Palace" is the name Jane Popyncourt gives Henry VIII's castle, where she must use her wiles as a mistress to uncover the secrets of her birth. *Between Two Queens* The beautiful Nan Bassett takes a job as a queen's maid to search for a handsome and wealthy husband at court—but the untimely death of the queen creates difficulties for the young, headstrong girl. *By Royal Decree* The star-crossed Elizabeth "Bess" Brooke falls madly in love with William Parr, the brother of Henry VIII's sixth and final wife, Kathryn Parr. But Will has long been slated to enter into an influential marriage with another. To defy such promises, even among the scandalous Tudor Court, would certainly mean death for the two lovers. Also featuring an excerpt from the next exciting book, *At the King's Pleasure*. Fans of *The Kennedy Debutante* and *Next Year in Havana* will love Georgie Blalock's new novel of a world on the cusp of change...set on the eve of World War II in the glittering world of English society and one of the last debutante seasons. They danced the night away, knowing their world was about to change forever. They were the debutantes of 1939,

laughing on the outside, but knowing tragedy— and a war—was just around the corner. When Valerie de Vere Cole, the niece of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, makes her deep curtsy to the King and Queen of England, she knows she's part of a world about to end. The daughter of a debt-ridden father and a neglectful mother, Valerie sees firsthand that war is imminent. Nevertheless, Valerie reinvents herself as a carefree and glittering young society woman, befriending other debutantes from England's aristocracy as well as the vivacious Eunice Kennedy, daughter of the U.S. Ambassador. Despite her social success, the world's troubles and Valerie's fear of loss and loneliness prove impossible to ignore. How will she navigate her new life when everything in her past has taught her that happiness and stability are as fragile as peace in our time? For the moment she will forget her cares in too much champagne and waltzes. Because very soon, Valerie knows that she must find the inner strength to stand strong and carry on through the challenges of life and love and war. The letter came in secret, with a pearl eardrop from an aunt long thought dead, resurrecting the forbidden past. Banished by her spiteful half sister, Queen Mary, to Hatfield House in the English countryside, twenty-five-year-old Princess Elizabeth cannot refuse the summons. The Boleyns are in grave danger. And Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn, is marked for death by a master poisoner whose reign of terror may have royal sanction. With her few loyal retainers, Elizabeth escapes to Kent. Here, in her ancestral Hever Castle, now held by the Queen's loyalists,

Elizabeth seeks to unravel the plot against her. And here, in the embrace of intrigue and betrayal, the princess must find a brilliant, powerfully connected killer—before the killer finds her.... Married by proxy to James IV, Margaret Tudor, the daughter of Henry VII, becomes the Queen of Scotland and, after a tragic loss, falls victim to the attentions of the ambitious Earl of Angus—a move that brings Scotland to the brink of anarchy and plunges her into a world of betrayal, secret alliances and dangerous passion. Original. An inventive and vibrant historical novel about the woman who dared to be the equal of the Bard of Avon. Dramatizing a marriage born of passion and strained by ambition, Arliss Ryan's fascinating historical novel chronicles a love affair for the ages, and the story of a woman who dares to fulfill her own surprising destiny. Anne Hathaway is weighing her prospects for marriage when a dalliance with young Will Shakespeare, the poetry-writing son of a rural glove-maker, leaves her pregnant and wed. When Will joins a traveling acting troupe and moves to London, Anne leaves their children in his parents' care and boldly follows him. Taking up a new identity at Will's side, Anne supports his career as a struggling actor by sewing costumes and transcribing manuscripts in the rough-and-tumble world of London's theatres. As Will finds his true calling in writing, Anne's own literary skills begin to flower, leading to a secret collaboration that makes Will the foremost playwright in Elizabethan England.