

AUTHOR'S NOTE



This has been a deeply interesting book to write, about a woman who triumphed in the material world and tried at the same time to serve God. She is remembered by feminist historians as a ‘learned lady’, one of the very few who had to struggle for the privilege of study; by Tudor historians as the matriarch who founded their house; and by less reverent memorialists as ‘t’ old bitch’ who became a mother-in-law from hell. Trying to create for the reader, a character who could grow from a child with a sense of holy destiny, into a woman who dared to claim the throne of England for her son, has been a challenge and a deep pleasure. Some parts of this novel are history, some are speculation, and some are fiction. In particular we do not know who killed the princes in the Tower, nor even that they died in the Tower. Obviously, the claimants for their throne: Richard III, the Duke of Buckingham, Margaret Beaufort and her son, were the people with most to gain from their deaths.

I am indebted to the historians who have researched Margaret Beaufort and her times and especially to Linda Simon for her

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biography, and Michael K Jones, and Malcolm G Underwood whose biography was the starting point for my own work. I owe Michael Jones many thanks for being kind enough to read my manuscript.

More research material and further notes are on my website at PhilippaGregory.com and readers may like to attend the occasional online seminar there.

These are the most helpful books I have read:

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