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The First Queen Of England



Synopsis

Before Anne Boleyn stole the heart of a King and demanded marriage, another woman strove to wed an already married King of England. This is the story of Elfrida, who would become the first crowned Queen of England. England is united under Edgar, but twenty years of uncertainty and a dwindling royal nursery, have left the royal family vulnerable to extinction. Edgar, a king at only 15 years old, has an acknowledged daughter and wife, but the dying Ealdorman, Aethelwald, has commanded his wife to seek out the King, now in his early twenties. True to her husband's wishes, Elfrida pursues the king, nervous of her husband's intentions, but trusting them all the same. When the king tries to make her his concubine, Elfrida refuses and withdraws from the court, only to find herself dreaming of the king, desiring his touch and his presence. When the king seeks her out once more, she willingly follows him back to his court and finds herself plunged into a world of politics and self-interest where her future happiness rests not only on the king loving her but also on the goodwill of others with much to play for at the king's court. Bringing alive the characters of tenth century England; its young king, Edgar; its ealdormen, Brythnoth, Aethelwine, and Aelfhere; the great reforming religious figures of Archbishop Dunstan, Bishop Aethelwold and Oswald and the great women of the period, Lady Elfrida, Lady Aethelflaed and Lady Wulfthryn, The First Queen of England evokes tenth century England at its most enigmatic, shining a welcome light on England's first crowned queen, a woman who would go on to accomplish much, but who must first steal the heart of an amorous king and earn her place at court, and overcome the obstacle of the outcome of not only the king's second marriage, but also his first. The Mercian Brexit can be read as introduction to The First Queen of England.

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Customer Reviews

Good to hear some perspective from the view of this queen, whom historically being considered as the wicked one having ordered the death of his stepson, Edward, the Martyr. Reading about her history helps to understand what happened in the future might not totally have something to do with her greed and selfishness. Her own son proved to be not as a good king, which leads to all the invasion of foreign forces and the ending of Anglo-Saxon rule in England.

This was a topic I'd never read about before. I found it a very enjoyable read and never lost interest in the story. I would have given it 5 stars if the author didn't use 21st century phrasing so much, or the misuse of words such as "smirk" or "mutter". I don't know how historically accurate this was, but all in all it was an enjoyable read.

Interesting read.

The book is much more a modern cheap romance novel set in historic times than good historic fiction. It was a fast and engrossing read, but not what I was looking for, i.e. non-fiction made fiction by adding conversations. This appeared totally fictional.

Medieval and Saxon Kings fans Review I rounded this up to 4 stars..maybe 3.75 or so, and the reason is, I felt the characters were not as developed as they could have been. Elfrida was pretty much ruled by her passions, especially for Edgar, and I am not sure that did her justice. She was after all an important figure as Queen and Dowager Queen for many years, but it was a novel after all. M.J. Porter, in his quite excellent historical note, probably explains this, as he says that: first, it is the least historical novel he has written and, secondly, that he usually focuses on men in this period. The author bases most of his sources on contemporary accounts, which is good. He also says that were he to write a sequel it would be of Elfrida and be ten years later. Edgar, known as 'The Peaceful', although we did not get into much of this in this tale, was the first King of all England. He

built a very large navy and kept the Danes from pillaging as well as keeping peace in the Danelaw. Shires and Hundreds were briefly mentioned as he met with his Eldormen as well as his and his Queen's support of monastic reform. He died at only 33 years of age but I think there were some very good years that could be part of a sequel or two. Overall I did like the book and am going to look at others this prolific writer had penned.

Kept my interest in fact I read in a day in half it was so good. The characters were interesting and just fascinated me that I couldn't put the book down. Great characters and the author took you back in to a time that even if not totally historically accurate, it still held my interest.

Brian and Juliet are truly gifts from God, rescuing dogs from hellish conditions and giving them warm, loving homes. They found Sheba in terrible condition, and concluded that she'd been used as bait for fighting dogs and thrown away. Her story evoked three major emotions in me—deep sadness, that she had to suffer until Brian and Juliet became her saving grace; rage at the evil, heartless and soulless monsters who would abuse an innocent animal so brutally; then relief that Sheba is now warm, comfortable, well fed, and very much loved. Please take some time out of your busy lives and read these stories, which I know will not just evoke many of same emotions, but I'm hoping they will inspire you to donate to shelters or even rescue some animals and do a good deed. The rewards are endless.

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