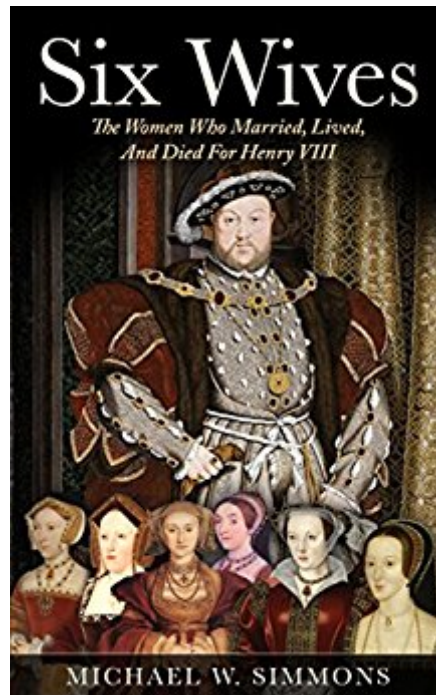


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Six Wives: The Women Who Married, Lived, And Died For Henry VIII



Synopsis

Katherine of Aragon: abandoned woman. Anne Boleyn: ambitious upstart. Jane Seymour: virtuous mother. Anne of Cleves: Flanders Mare. Katherine Howard: adulterous whore. Katherine Parr: the one that got away. These are our lingering historical afterimages of the six women who married Henry VIII over the course of his thirty-six-year reign. At the age of 18, Henry succeeded to the English throne and married the Spanish princess who had briefly been the wife of his brother Arthur. Katherine of Aragon was both a virgin and a widow when the prince died at the age of fifteen, enabling Henry to marry her himself. Their marriage lasted sixteen contented years, until suddenly, Henry fell in love with Anne Boleyn and sundered England from Rome in order to keep her. But Henry VIII would not be satisfied even after he took Anne Boleyn for his wife. His vanity, his ego, and his desperate need for a male heir, led him to marry four more women during the last ten years of his life. In this book, you will read about the lives, loves, and secret passions of these women. Four of them died for Henry's pleasure—but two escaped to tell their stories.

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Customer Reviews

Unfortunately Hollywood and other movie making venues used history to entertain but distorted the facts in the name of art. We have been fed distorted pictures of these 6 unfortunate women who were to capture the interest of the King. Probably the only one who got away happily is Anne of Cleves who was happy for the annulment and in keeping her head was able to live long after the marriage ended. This gives some insight into the thinking of all parties along with the manipulation behind the scenes of the advisors and religious leaders.

Each of Henry VIII's wives has merited several lengthy biographies, so a short book that covers all six is bound to skim over quite a bit. That said, Simmons' book does a good job of portraying each woman, along with some context of the court and political issues. The overall tone is sympathetic towards each of his wives and even towards Henry himself, though it also acknowledges his capacity for cruelty, vindictiveness, and hypocrisy. If you're looking for a brief overview, researched but not scholarly, this book will be a good, readable choice.

I got this book because to me, the most fascinating wife married to Henry VIII was Katheryn Howard. I think I understand more what made her tick and why she showed such monstrously bad judgment, knowing beforehand the terrible "justice" meted out to six innocent individuals, her cousin Queen Anne Boleyn among them. Beyond extant letters and other historical facts concerning her background, her childhood, and her subsequent life after coming to Court and attracting the King's desire, it is less difficult to "see" into her mind and personality, giving compassionate understanding to her infantile decision-making abilities even as the trap, mostly self-made, closed inexorably around her.

Palace intrigue and the overwhelming desire and need to have a male heir serves to cause Henry to marry, annual marriages, chop off the heads of two, and lose to childbirth complications two others. It also caused a religious break of England from Catholicism. He did end up with three living heirs....the last one a son. Well written story

I love the history of the monarchies in Europe. I have studied Henry VIII and his life in the past, but I learned a lot of new things with this book. I definitely recommend it.

Enjoyed the book very much. It was a short story book but still very interesting to read worth the time.

This book was well thought out and presented. I have heard a lot of accounts about Henry's wives and how they were treated but this book gave, by far, the most details

This book was loaded with a lot of information and detail about King Henry and his relationships with his wives.

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