



# The Redheaded Princess

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## **The Redheaded Princess** Ann Rinaldi

Growing up, Elizabeth fears she can never be Queen. Although she is the King's daughter, no woman can ever hope to rule over men in England, especially when her mother has been executed for treason.

For all her royal blood, Elizabeth's life is fraught with danger and uncertainty. Sometimes she is welcome in the royal court; other times she is cast out into the countryside. With her position constantly changing, the Princess must navigate a sea of shifting loyalties and dangerous affections. At stake is her life—for beheading is not uncommon among the factions that war for the Crown.

With the vivid human touch that has made her one of the foremost writers of historical fiction, Ann Rinaldi brings to life the heart and soul of the young Elizabeth I. It's a portrait of a great leader as she may have been as she found her way to the glorious destiny that lay before her.

## **The Redheaded Princess Details**

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Author : Ann Rinaldi

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, English History, Tudor Period, Childrens, Middle Grade

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# From Reader Review The Redheaded Princess for online ebook

## Kayla says

I read this for a book report in 8th grade. We had to go this thing where we had to find an adult to read the book with us and I read it with my mom. I just picked and I didn't quite understand. When I was 13, I was quite ignorant to the Tudor era. I didn't even know Elizabeth I was Henry VIII's daughter.

This book is the starter of a long standing 3 and a half year long obsession I've had with Edward VI. Honestly, he was my favorite character. I loved him so much. He's probably one of the least important kings of all time and yet I'm madly in love with him.

I can't tell you how historically accurate it is because honestly, I could care less about the Tudor dynasty once Edward VI is no longer part of it. Henry VIII and Edward VI's reigns are my field of expertise when it comes to the Tudor era. But most of what I know seems pretty accurate.

I learned so much from this book. As I've stated before, it's started a long standing interest with this time period. I am now the proud owner of 5 books relating to the Tudor era and the proud owner of entire Tudors TV show box set.

I only really have two complaints about the book:

1.) The book is not as good, in my opinion, once Edward dies. But that's up to the individual. I liked Edward the book just wasn't as fun to read after he was gone. Ultimately most people will probably be like, "Oh, it's so sad that he died so young." and move on with their lives where as I was devastated.

2.) I re-read it just a few months ago at the end of my sophomore year of high school and I realized just how easy of a read it is. I read that whole book in one school day the second time around. It's not a book intended for older audience by a long shot. It's probably more for children aged 10-13, so about middle school aged children is the most appropriate age to be reading this book.

It's not an innocent, youthful story as the title would make it seem. It's a story about growing up and making the transition from childhood to adulthood. That's why it's so perfect for middle schoolers because that's the time in your life when you're still in between. In honesty, Elizabeth has a lot of problems that most teenagers deal with. She gets crushes, she has heartbreak, she has to deal with the stress of learning, she has to deal with her messed up family and how divided her sister is from her and Edward.

So if you're a parent or teacher of a child that really likes historical fiction, this would be a great book to recommend to them.

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## Aubrey Frandsen says

### HISTORICAL NOVEL

This novel explores the childhood of Queen Elizabeth I. She grows up in unstable circumstances where she is constantly having to watch what she does or says in order to stay alive. She must not upset anyone that may have any chance whatsoever to sully her name or to influence others to get rid of her. She goes through

many extremely difficult circumstances, including the deaths of many people close to her and constant threats on her on life, all while learning to become the queen she knows she will be one day. I enjoyed reading this novel and learning from it. Rinaldi does a fantastic job of researching Elizabeth's life and providing an accurate yet interesting story. Though the novel starts off kind of slow, Rinaldi is able to teach things through this novel that people otherwise might not have remembered. I remember learning much of this in my high school history classes, but it wasn't until I read this book that Queen Elizabeth became interesting and that I began remembering details from her life that influenced her as a person and as a queen. I loved that Rinaldi was able to paint such an interesting picture that would be interesting to many people who otherwise are not interested in history.

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### **Mindelynn says**

Would have enjoyed a bit more character development

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### **Lydia says**

I don't know what to expect from this author. I didn't know, I should say. I got it out because we're studying Queen Elizabeth right now in History, and I thought that this might be nice. I like historical fiction, usually. It captured my attention because of how amazing the picture on front is. Yes, yes, the girl is cute, but I was intrigued by how life-like the picture was, and you could literally imagine that this picture, this imagination was actually a real girl. Wow. So, I never saw that coming, but I now have a shelf for cool covers. =P  
Oh, my.

Well. I thought that Rinaldi could have done better, to be honest. I've never read anywhere but here about Elizabeth's life being a complete romance, with her jumping from guy to guy and falling in love with every one. In truth, it made me disgusted, and wondered if Rinaldi got the truth or just likes romance and decided to ruin Elizabeth's image in my mind as a good queen who really cared about her people. Gah. I mean, her first little romance thingy starts when she's--what--14? For heaven's sake. And then, she's in love with this other guy... and this other guy... and Rinaldi says in the voice of Elizabeth, "I decided right then, that I would never let a man hold sway over me." Good night. And then she goes and "falls in love" again. I was not expecting romance, but at least it could be a good one, and Rinaldi really portrayed Elizabeth as a total loser, whatever she may think.

The storytelling was lame; it moved way too fast when I wanted it to slow down to understand what was going on, and it moved way too slow when I wanted it to just move on already. The characters were all either calculating and sly or good-hearted and angelic. I just couldn't stand it.

And the romance in it! For naive little me... well, we'll leave that bit alone.

No, I don't think I'll be reading Rinaldi's stuff again.

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### **Andrea says**

I love anything this author has written. I started this book at 8:30 pm on 2/13 and finished it at 12:30 am on 2/14. I have been this way with all of her books. I have always been fascinated by Elizabeth's life and read

anything that has to do with her and when I saw that my favorite author had written a historical fiction based from Elizabeth's life I just knew I had to have this. I love this book more than I can even begin to express.

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## Chloe says

The *The Redheaded Princess*, by Ann Rinaldi, is a charming book written about the young Queen Elizabeth the first. It told most of her story, how she grew up, who she was the closest with, and also what she might have actually been thinking before and in the beginning of her reign. There was drama, old fashioned romance, parties, dancing, feasting, and all the guilty pleasures I'm sure you could enjoy if you were of her status at that time.

It broke my heart at times when she would feel so conflicted, and hurt, and not really be sure of what to do next. But thankfully, she had her closest friends to help and guide her through this troubling and traumatic time period. I loved the humor, the descriptions of the characters. It was an absolute pleasure to read. When reading the book, I often found myself wondering, will we ever have someone like her leading our country? Have we before? But alas, that is the last thing that we need right now. Changing the way our government works and making it into an entirely different system would lead to destruction and catastrophic events. there were some parts that I was not fond of, mostly because this book is supposedly supposed to be an appropriate book. But I overall think it was a lovely book. I think people would like to read it, just maybe..... 16 and older? I think that would be more appropriate. Ann, I love your book. Thank you for writing it. For now I go to a different adventure to read. Till then, I bid you good reading.

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## Mara says

**Cover Blurb:** I don't mind the person on the cover of this book because it's a side profile, she's not staring at me, and it's done in the style of a portrait.

**What I Liked:** Rinaldi has always been good at breathing new life into historical figures. I think that it must be harder to do so with famous historical figures - such as Queen Elizabeth I. But she did a remarkable job. She paints a very interesting and entirely believable picture of a young Elizabeth: mature for her age, but flawed, and regal. A young girl who learned the meaning of treachery very early on, and a young girl who was very clever. And Elizabeth had to have been clever in order to literally keep her head through the turmoils of her time - and to be able to dodge marriage proposals and her own sister.

**What I Disliked:** The relationship between Elizabeth and Thomas Seymour was just creepy. I don't think it was supposed to be romantic, and I'm not saying the Author should have left it out. But I had a very difficult time sympathizing with Elizabeth on this matter.

**Believability:** As with all of her books, *The Redheaded Princess* is very well researched, and I have nothing to complain about.

**Writing Style:** As always, it's good. She gives Elizabeth a convincing narrative voice, as she does with all of her protagonists.

**Content:** The Author handles Elizabeth and Thomas Seymour's very short affair without undue detail, though the purpose behind their morning game was made clear without being graphic.

**Conclusion:** This was a very pleasant historical-fictional summary of Elizabeth's early life before she became queen. It was enjoyable; not at all disappointing.

**Recommended Audience:** Historical fiction fans, Rinaldi fans, girl-read, fourteen and up.

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### **Natalie says**

This was a fun book. Ann Rinaldi is such a good writer, and she has brought so many historical figures to life. Reading this makes me want to pick up her historical fiction novels set in America again.

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### **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by The Compulsive Reader for TeensReadToo.com

In Rinaldi's spectacular new book for young adults, she's moved beyond American history to British, and the tale of a young redheaded girl who yearned to be queen.

Despised by her father and sister, shoved aside by the nation's leaders, and motherless, young Elizabeth I grows up at her country estate where she learns from a young age the dangers of crossing paths with monarchs. She realizes that even though her sister and her brother stand between her and the Crown, she will one day be queen.

THE REDHEADED PRINCESS is her sharp, fast-paced, and beautifully wrought story of how that came to be.

Wonderfully detailed and breathtakingly accurate, this is perhaps the most engaging book that tells of Elizabeth's plights and triumphs.

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### **Amalia says**

The whole time I was reading The Redheaded Princess, I kept thinking I had read it before. But no, that didn't seem quite right. Why was it so familiar? I do not read a lot of historical fiction so what had I read that dealt with this time period? I was flummoxed - until Lady Jane Grey became Queen. Ah, yes, I had read the 'story' from her perspective. After finishing the book, I read the Author's Note and discovered that Rinaldi had also penned that version of events. Ok. Now, it all makes sense. I have read about the time period and characters in a book by the same author!

The Redheaded Princess chronicles the life of Princess Elizabeth from early childhood until she becomes Queen Elizabeth I. We are privy to her hopes and dreams and her growth as she struggles and learns, sometimes the hard way, how to make her path and where to place her loyalties in this tumultuous time. Much more than a list of dates and description of events, The Redheaded Princess explores relationships. It explores how relationships are or can be affected by power or the lack thereof. What does it mean to be Queen? What are the responsibilities that come with this power? How do the various characters handle the power they are given? These are some of the questions that we delve into alongside Elizabeth as she prepares

to one day be Queen of England.

Rinaldi makes the history come to life on the page. She somehow manages to create characters we care about and relate to on some level. She takes an almost unknowable world and make sit feel like somewhere we have visited. Although, I guess in this case, I had!

Educational and entertaining - what more can we ask?

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## **Becky says**

Rinaldi, Ann. 2008. *The Redheaded Princess*.

*The Redheaded Princess*. What can I say about this one? It's a fictional novel--for teens--about Princess Elizabeth. The novel opens when she's a child and she's still estranged from her father, King Henry VIII. The novel closes with the death of her sister, Queen Mary, a.k.a Bloody Mary. In between, there are many ups and downs along the way. Her semi-reconciliation with her father and his newest and latest wife, Katharine. Her relationship with her half-brother, Edward, the boy who would become King (and did in fact become King) yet who never really "reigned" on his own. Too young. Too sickly. Her very, very strange relationship with Thomas Seymour. Her turbulent relationship with her older half-sister, Mary.

Elizabeth's life was strange. No doubt about it. Never knowing her mother, only really hearing about how she had "bewitched" the King into divorcing his wife. She was presented to the girl as a whore and a witch. Someone dangerous to imitate. She had a distant relationship with her father. Sometimes in favor and in court, other times forgotten and left to fend for herself in the country. Not that she was alone. She had her servants, her friends, her tutors. But still. Without parental guidance let's say. And she didn't have normal family relationships with her brother and sister either. When one sibling has the power of life and death over the others, the power to imprison, things can get messy very very quickly.

The plotting. Oh the plotting. The scheming. It seems that there was never an end to the number of people who wanted to use these three children as pawns to gain favor, esteem, wealth, and power. Manipulations. Trying to turn the family against one another time and time again.

The religion. I wonder if readers grasp just how big this Catholic versus Protestant issue was back in the day. Where being one or the other could cost you your life. To realize just how opposing and judgmental they were of one another. It is hard, I think, for readers to grasp until they've studied the era, studied the writers of that time period. This was really and truly life and death stuff. And believers had to be ready to die for how they chose to worship. For how they viewed the sacraments.

Anyway, if you're already familiar with the Tudors, with Henry VIII and his children (Mary, Elizabeth, Edward), then you won't learn much more than you already know. If you're not that familiar, this would be a nice place to start.

This novel would be a good companion to Rinaldi's previous novel, *Nine Days A Queen: The Short Life and Reign of Lady Jane Grey*.

The real question may be how does this one compare to Carolyn Meyer's series on the Young Tudor women. Mary, Bloody Mary. Doomed Queen Anne. Patience, Princess Catherine. Beware Princess Elizabeth. And

the answer to that would be purely subjective.

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### **Sarah says**

This story begins in England in the year 1542, when Elizabeth is nine years old. Although she is the daughter of King Henry VIII, she is not officially recognized as a princess because she, along with her other half-siblings Edward and Mary, have fallen out of their father's favor. Instead, she lives as Lady Elizabeth, head of the household at Hatfield with her nanny. Throughout her childhood she rarely visits her father at the palace.

Many people say that she is very much like her father; this pleases her, but also makes her uneasy. After all, King Henry beheaded her mother! Watching her father's relationships with so many women, Elizabeth learns that marriage while on the throne only seems to complicate things and vows to remain single when she eventually becomes queen.

However, this is easier said than done. From the age of eleven she begins receiving requests from men for her hand in marriage...and we must remember that Elizabeth is third—not first—in line for the crown. Not only must she cope with that, she must also stay in her family's favor as time goes on. She gets along fine with Edward when he is king, but she and Mary but heads over religion when Mary is queen. In fact, Mary gets so angry that she uses her power to send Elizabeth to the Tower because she won't bend to her will. How is Elizabeth able to survive until 1558, the year she is finally able to accept the crown as her own?

This is a good, fast-paced story told from Elizabeth's point of view. Ann Rinaldi does admit at the end that this is indeed her own interpretation of Elizabeth's story and that there are probably more accurate accounts out there, but that her goal was to make a fun book about an interesting female figure based on historical events.

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### **Sienna says**

Probably closer to 3 and a half stars.

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### **Erin says**

This was the first book I have read by Ann Rinaldi. I liked it. The redheaded princess being Elizabeth I, Queen of England. This is a historical fiction about her early life as the princess. Again, I was reading aloud with my 11 year-old daughter, and we both enjoyed the story. It wasn't as captivating as I had hoped. It was good, but not great.

I did find myself cringing at one part in the book. Sir Thomas Seymour loved Elizabeth enough to propose to her, but once she refused, took little time to recover and married her step-mother, the widow of King Henry VIII. The part that had me skipping sentences, Thomas would go into Elizabeth's bedroom every morning and "romp" with her. Tickling, putting hands all over her, slapping her rump. Very tasteful for "new" books these days. If this were an adult book, It would be considered very clean, you get the idea and do not need it



spelled out, which I am grateful that Rinaldi did not go further into detail, especially since it is fiction, it could be worse. But, this is a book targeted to the 9-12 year old. Could we just leave that part out. OK, so he loves her and marries Katherine just to be near Elizabeth, but romping in the bedroom every morning, Yuck!

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### **Lilah Neider says**

A good read to pass the time in a world from long ago.

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### **Mary says**

This book definitely should not be a children's novel. There were a few scenes in the book where the main character would "romp" with another character in bed. This "romping" was very rough and inappropriate for kids to read. Things that aren't even in many young adult books I've read! Other than that the story IS compelling but I do NOT recommend this for young readers.

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### **Megan says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book; I love this era in history, and have always been extremely interested in and inspired by Elizabeth the First, so I was glad to find it to my liking.

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### **Lachlan says**

This book was a great book. I liked it because it tells you about some of the things that happened before Elizabeth was queen.

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### **Hannah says**

Ah, finally got to read Rinaldi's foray into British history after all of her US historical fiction that I've enjoyed so much. I knew the basics of Elizabeth's ascent to being queen, so for me her winding path through Edward, Jane Grey, and Mary weren't a surprise, but I *didn't* know the details of her dalliances, though I knew she had had them. Rinaldi does, as always, a good and interesting job of exploring her protagonist's path to maturity (though her nine year-olds always seem like they have the equivalent maturity of 30-somethings. Not that that's a bad thing), and explains well Elizabeth's decision never to marry through the fates of Catharine Parr, Mary, Sir Thomas Seymour, and even Robin.

The section on Sir Thomas Seymour is interesting for Rinaldi in that it's probably the most risqué writing she's done (at least that I've read), and even then it's rather tame, but it fits well with what I feel like is her forte: showing children on the cusp of adulthood who are both desperately curious about the world around them and also shocked and appalled by some of the ugly realities they learn about racism, adult relationships/sex, cruelty, etc. Unlike some of her other male characters, Sir Thomas seems somewhat

charming but always seems mostly sleazy (I suppose fitting with his true character - she doesn't want us as readers to fall for him too much!). Robin is somewhat sympathetic but feels rather flat as a love interest, too, so in that sense, it doesn't feel like Elizabeth is sacrificing all that much in choosing to remain single (especially in the interests of preserving her own power and autonomy), and perhaps we're meant to feel that way.

Though I liked getting a more intimate glimpse at the royal family (Edward, for example, wishing that he had more spending money and free time to play sports as an eleven year-old king, Mary suiting herself up in her armor in one of her last deliriums, and some of the details about King Henry VIII being so fat and ill at the end of his life that he couldn't walk), it almost felt like this book was much more gossip than plot. Elizabeth's motivation/hope was always to become Queen, of course, and that was clear, but otherwise this book felt more like things were happening to Elizabeth than that she was really doing much in any way (other than dodging accusers or being implicated with schemes to overthrow the crown). In that sense, though the story was still exciting and at times emotional, it didn't feel like it had any true drive. Perhaps this is because this was an essentially passive period in Elizabeth's life (or it could also be because it seems like she spent a good half of the novel sick). Neither of these things seem to be Rinaldi's fault; it's not up to her or not whether history decided to be interesting. Still...

This also wasn't one of my favorites of Rinaldi's books, but I'm glad I got the chance to read it. It definitely piqued my curiosity about Elizabeth's later life, and I would absolutely read about that if Rinaldi were to continue in this vein.

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## **Rll595ag\_fabiolaginski says**

As far as historical fiction for young adults is concerned, this is one of the best books I have read in quite a while. I actually have read extensively about Queen Elizabeth I's reign, as I have a fascination for this particular time in British history. I found the book to be very well-researched and richly detailed. It is undoubtedly a good introduction to the historical fiction genre for the middle grades and above. I feel that the author, Ann Rinaldi, was able to capture the compelling and complex nature of the main character as an historical figure while speculating what it may have been like to grow up as the Redheaded Princess whose life and future were uncertain since the moment of her birth.

The story is told in a first-person narrative and Elizabeth's character is rendered very relatable and humane because of it. Students will see many nuances of her personality which they may identify with as teenagers. She is at the same time headstrong and confident as history depicts her, while also vulnerable and uncertain, even as she is quite aware that her position and power in society may lead her to be the future queen of England. As a cautionary note, there are many themes that may not be appropriate for younger readers (torture, beheadings and executions) occurrences these, that though real, may lead to difficult discussions. This is the first book I read by this author. She was recommended to me by my librarian for excellence in historical fiction for young adults and I have to agree with her. I will without a doubt seek out other books by her, in the hope that they may be as compelling and interesting as this novel.

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