



Faithful Traitor: The story of Margaret Pole

Samantha Wilcoxson

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Margaret Pole is no stranger to fortune's wheel. From her childhood as firstborn of the heir apparent of England, she was brought low as the daughter of a traitor. After years of turmoil as the Tudor dynasty made its roots, Margaret finds favor with her cousin, King Henry VIII.

Will the remnant of the York dynasty thrive under this tempestuous king or will Margaret discover that there is a price to pay for having an excess of royal blood?

Samantha Wilcoxson is the author of *Plantagenet Princess, Tudor Queen*. This retelling of the life of Elizabeth of York has been recognized as an Editors' Choice by the Historical Novel Society and is an Amazon best seller in biographical fiction.

Step into Tudor England....

Faithful Traitor: The story of Margaret Pole Details

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From Reader Review Faithful Traitor: The story of Margaret Pole for online ebook

Karen says

I really like Margaret Pole!!!

Helen Hollick says

This book has received a Discovering Diamonds Review:

"This is a tale that leaves you drawing in breath at the end, wondering, if the fates had been spun differently, what this likeable family of York would have achieved had they been given that chance."

Helen Hollick

founder #DDRevs

Carol Macarthur says

Very good. Well researched!

Kenzie Erickson says

once again the show was stolen and this book had me hooked from beginning to end!!!

Jennifer says

As few books as there are on Elizabeth of York, there are even fewer on her cousin Margaret Pole, so I was eager to read this second book in the Plantagenet Embers series. The book started when Margaret is around thirty years old, when hears of Elizabeth's death. At first I was a little disappointed that we didn't get to see a younger Margaret; I would've liked to have seen how Margaret's parents interacted with her in the short amount of time they lived after she was born. I also would have liked to see the beginning of Margaret's friendship with Catherine of Aragon; they're already good friends at the start. Later on I realized that this book was purposely picking up right about where *Plantagenet Princess*, *Tudor Queen* left off.

Initially I struggled to retain interest in the story; Margaret leads a relatively quiet life at first, primarily concerning herself with building projects and arranging marriages for her children. The story starts to pick up after "The King's Great Matter", in which Margaret, as Governess to Princess Mary, must choose who to support. Margaret's courage is evident when she supports Mary and Catherine, even plotting to see Catherine in secret (which the author admitted to fabricating, but I found it a great idea). Margaret is still only human, however, as evident when she has to confront Henry VIII face to face. I also really liked the brief glimpse we

saw of Catherine Howard. I have read that she provided Margaret with adequate clothing as it states; it was refreshing to see her portrayed as a little bit more than a vapid tart.

The ending to *Faithful Traitor* was abrupt, but then, so was the real life decision to have Margaret executed, so I am more than okay with it. This story shows how dangerous it was to have royal blood during the time of the Tudors. 4.5 stars, but since Goodreads doesn't allow that, I'll bump it up to five. I can't wait for the third in the series to come out; I'm always game for a novel on Mary Tudor.

Belinda Curd says

More please!!

Absolutely loved this book! Could not put it down. I suffered from a book hangover with this one. All I know to say is WHEN'S THE NEXT BOOK COMING OUT??? I cannot wait I love reading about the Plantagenets bring it on!!!

Blair Hodgkinson says

Faithful Traitor is the second of the Plantagenet Embers series by Samantha Wilcoxson.

As with its predecessor, this novel tells the story of a high-born Plantagenet woman who has outlived the fortunes of her dynasty, but where the first novel followed a princess made queen by blood and fate, this book studies the life of an unwilling Plantagenet rival to the Tudor monarchs.

Margaret Pole was a figure well-placed by history to observe the transition from the Plantagenet era to the Tudor age and Wilcoxson has seized upon the opportunity. Margaret is observant about the change in the wind and quick to understand the danger her own blood poses to herself and her descendants. With most of the male Plantagenet challengers to the Tudor throne dead, imprisoned, bought off or openly showing their true colours against the new regime, the loyalty of the high-blooded Margaret is important to the Tudor kings both for its own sake and in order to help keep Plantagenet sympathizers in check. Margaret is highly-prized at the Tudor court, becoming a confidante of Tudor queens and rising so high in favour that she even becomes a guardian to precious Tudor heirs.

But Margaret never forgets she is charting a course in dangerous waters. The kingdom is still traumatized by the bloody dynastic conflict we remember today as the Wars of the Roses. She lives in an unstable age when not only regimes change but even the faith of the country is in flux. A woman in Margaret's position stands on even shakier ground. Any misstep--a suspicious marriage alliance or an unfashionable religious observance--could prove fatal to her or her children. As the years pass and friends pass away or fall victim to changing fortunes, Margaret and her family face growing danger from a powerful and increasingly erratic Tudor king and not all of her family members are as discreet and wary as Margaret herself.

While Samantha Wilcoxson's novel follows the trials of a highborn family, she presents her characters in a manner that is highly relatable to the modern reader. Margaret has to keep a weather eye open for the perils of politics, but she's just as watchful over the health and care of her children or the management of her estates

and Wilcoxson interweaves Margaret's worries and concerns into the narrative in a manner that makes the character more genuine. This is a real, living, breathing woman from child to mother as familiar to us today as at any time in history, but the author never turns her into an anachronism: Margaret is also firmly entrenched in the political, spiritual and material concerns and attitudes of her own age.

This biographical novel doesn't carry the reader to battlefields or through the byzantine labyrinths of court politics, nor does it drag its main antagonists down into scandal. It's not a thriller, but it has a suspense of its own as you begin to invest yourself in the lives of Margaret and her family and you find yourself growing increasingly concerned for what will befall them next and what resourcefulness and cunning they will find in themselves to secure their own survival. When the worst happens, Margaret herself has a lifetime of understanding and intelligence to draw upon and she faces down her circumstances with incredible and satisfying bravery. Despite some grim events, this is a life-affirming story about courage, faith and family values in times of trial and as such it has a timeless quality.

Samantha Wilcoxson is adept at opening up the hearts of the characters for her readers and I am looking forward to seeing what she does in her next novel where she has set herself another challenge: to humanize the often-feared royal figure of Mary I.

Pat McCord says

Please let me go

Very good but did not mention that lady Salisbury stood up to protest her execution and that is why it was such a good death

Patricia Wesslink says

I wasn't very familiar with Margaret Pole and her family's place in the Tudor period but *Faithful Traitor* filled in the blanks quite thoroughly, and was easy to read and well paced to hold my interest. I couldn't put it down and I look forward to reading more from this author.

Paula says

Out of Order

I read this book out of order seeing it is book two in a series. But it works very nicely as a novel on its own. I'm a great fan of historical fiction and enjoyed this novel. The real stories of women are often hidden and given to us only with days of birth, marriage, and death. Samantha Wilcoxson provides an entertaining tale of a strong woman who loved her family under the difficult conditions of Tudor England. The only problem I had with Wilcoxson's book was the compacting of years into one or two lines. Other than that, I believe I will now look for Book One to read.

Paula Lofting says

Reviewed for Discovering Diamonds - will share soon

Amy says

Faithful Traitor: The Story of Margaret Pole is the second installment from Samantha Wilcoxson's Plantagenet Embers series. I enjoyed spending my time with Margaret. I could not imagine the life she had in the lifelong fear she must have endured. The story is so well written that I found myself going to my computer to do searches to see if certain events really did happen.

This is a great read that I highly recommend and I look forward to read book 3 other series.

5+ stars.

I purchased this book directly from the author. Therefore, I was not required to write a review. This review is 100 percent my own honest opinion.

Jane says

A different take on the Tudor era

This shows the Plantagenet side the Tudor era. The 2nd in a trilogy, it gives a perspective of just how perilous life was for those in the white rose lineage. Despite being close blood relative, Margaret Pole was still a threat because of her royal blood. Daughter of George, cousin to Henry's mother, she had a claim to throne, as did her children. The author has created an almost diary-like book that makes it feel very personal. I look forward to the last book about Mary Tudor.

Rebecca Hill says

Margaret Pole was born into one of the most powerful families in England. But power does not always mean safety. Daughter of the Duke of Clarence who was executed for Treason, niece to two kings of England, she is hardly just anyone. When her uncle loses his throne to Henry Tudor, she knows what it is like to feel fear. Living daily with the fear and the past is something that she is able to come to grips with. But she slowly manages to keep her fingers in the political games going on in England. Married off to a knight, she finds love with her husband, and after the birth of several children, she learns that her beloved husband has died. After the death of Henry Tudor, his son Henry VIII takes the throne. Margaret is a friend of the new queen, and through her manages to begin to rebuild her family fortune. She regains her family title, and is now the Countess of Salisbury. But the wheel of fortune doth quickly turn! With her Plantagenet blood, she is constantly under suspicion, and when one of her sons refuses to bend to the king's will in his great matter, her relationship which was already fraying with the king undergoes further deterioration. When her friend is set

aside as queen so that Henry can marry another, the political divides become more apparent at court. But what will the future hold for the Countess of Salisbury?

This book was a great read! I had an extremely hard time putting it down! I had read Hazel Pierce's biography of Margaret Pole prior to reading this one, to make sure that I had the basics of her life down. Samantha Wilcoxson has not disappointed. She brings the reader into the story, and you feel as though you are going through the trials along with the Countess. Her life was one of heartbreak and terror. It is amazing that she managed to live such a long life, considering that her brother was executed merely for being a Plantagenet. It might be that she escaped early detection, simply because she was a woman, however, Henry VIII had different plans. While he could be generous, he was demanding and if he thought there was any chance at all of you being disloyal, your life was in jeopardy. There was nothing disappointing in this read at all! You are hooked from the first page! The entire story is enthralling, but specked with sadness as you read about the trials and heartbreaks that Margaret Pole endured in her lifetime.

Kathleen says

A magnificent and moving book that appealed to me on many dimensions. I had previously read about Margaret of York in books about the era and one book just about her. I feel this one is very important as it illustrates her life a bit differently which is necessary to understand the history of that time.

An important dimension, in my estimation is how she looks back at her life trying to make sense of events, and her own, as well as God's, participation in it. I am a similar age and think that is a very astute angle for the writer to have pursued.

In that same type of thought, how Margaret's relationship is with her children made me think in context my own four, each one having a unique place in the family. The difference, of course is her ingrained view of what it means to be a peer of them realm, and related to the King and his parents. This family had a long and convoluted history of attacking their cousins and anyone who threatened them.

How different might Margaret's life had been if her mother had lived, had her father not been executed by his brother and had Richard Pole who had stabilized her life not died? The events of her childhood alone were horribly traumatic and left little room for coping skills.

God and her Catholic faith were indeed what she depended on, as did her quite religious children, or at least some of them.

A very fine treatment of a family matriarch who was both progenitor and descendant of the ruling class of this era. 5 Stars ~ I am off to the Elizabeth of York book by Samantha Wilcoxson to take to the beach with me.
