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# Beware, Princess Elizabeth



## Synopsis

Imprisonment. Betrayal. Lost love. Murder. What more must a princess endure? Elizabeth Tudor's teenage and young adult years during the turbulent reigns of Edward and then Mary Tudor are hardly those of a fairy-tale princess. Her mother has been beheaded by Elizabeth's own father, Henry VIII; her jealous half sister, Mary, has her locked away in the Tower of London; and her only love interest betrays her in his own quest for the throne. Told in the voice of the young Elizabeth and ending when she is crowned queen, this second novel in the exciting series explores the relationship between two sisters who became mortal enemies. Carolyn Meyer has written an intriguing historical tale that reveals the deep-seated rivalry between a determined girl who became one of England's most powerful monarchs and the sister who tried everything to stop her.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

This second title in the series of historical novels based on prominent women of the United Kingdom, begun with *Mary, Bloody Mary*, chronicles the first 25 years in the life of Queen Elizabeth I. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr 5-8-As the title suggests, this gripping historical drama tells of the danger Elizabeth Tudor faced

on her way to the throne of England. The novel is not meant to portray Elizabeth's whole life; rather, set within a story frame of her coronation, the narrative relays the hardships, ill treatment, and tragedies that occurred between the death of King Henry VIII and the death of Elizabeth's half sister, Queen Mary. Because the story is told in first person, readers have a sense of being with Elizabeth and feeling the uncertainty, apprehension, and determination she feels. The author does not pull any punches when it comes to telling about Elizabeth's feelings for Tom Seymour, her religious convictions, or the bloodshed caused at the behest of Queen Mary. The political intrigue and changing alliances could be confusing, but a family tree at the front of the book helps readers keep most of the relatives straight. If only there were a chart of court advisors, foreign dignitaries, and servants! Reading Jane Yolen's *The Queen's Own Fool* (Philomel, 2000), about Elizabeth's cousin Mary, Queen of Scots, would be an interesting comparison/contrast study with this novel because both women faced similar types of opposition. Elizabeth was a unique person in her own time, and her intelligence, drive, and independence will appeal to today's readers. -Cheri Estes, Detroit Country Day School Middle School, Beverly Hills, MI Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the historical fiction book *Beware, Princess Elizabeth*, by Carolyn Meyer, the theme is to persevere against all odds. This book takes place in the 1500's in London, England and the outskirts of London. The titular protagonist is a teenage Princess Elizabeth, who is a bit of a rebel, and the future queen of England. After her father, King Henry VIII dies, his last wife dies, and finally her half brother dies, the kingdom of England is left in the hands of Elizabeth's sister Mary. Mary is the daughter of King Henry's first wife, who hated Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, and therefore, hates Elizabeth. Under Mary's rule, Elizabeth is in constant danger, forced to convert to Catholicism, and is put under arrest in the Tower of London. After countless betrayals, repeated imprisonments, and being treated like a common peasant, she still ascends the throne, but not after a long and painful journey to get there. While this book is aimed more towards girls, with its protagonist being a princess, it still has the adventure, beheadings, and various other elements that could make it appealing to boys as well. This is a really good book, and shows an insight to one of England's greatest monarch's days before she was queen. It also shows how little those of stature cared for each other. After her father's death, Elizabeth remembers the death of her father's fifth wife: "My mother was not the only wife my father sent to the Tower and then had put to death. I was eight years old when his fifth, Catherine Howard, was sentenced to die. All the nervous excitement of this latest execution could not be kept from me, and it was as if my own mother's execution were being

repeated. I wept, I cried out, for days I could neither sleep nor eat. Kat, frantic to calm me, summoned the court physician to prescribe a sleeping draught. When I awoke it was over. I listened as servants whispered how Catherine Howard's head had been caught in a basket, her blood sopped up by crones with handkerchiefs, her body carried off for burial. The way it must have been for my mother, I thought, and I have thought of it many times since that day. Remembering Catherine Howard's death has always struck terror to my heart." (17-18.) This is an example of how ruthless the monarchs were at this point, and how even eight year old Elizabeth could be in danger. It also shows how empathetic Elizabeth is, even when thinking of the woman who faced the own doom as her own mother. This story is a lot like other stories of women in power at this time. Elizabeth is forced to persevere against the odds that she faces, and these odds are only increased by her gender. This book is a fantastic read for anyone who loves adventure and a bit of a history lesson at the same time.

I wish the book extended into the early days of Elizabeth's reign. It offers insight into the brutal nature of royal siblings' interactions and the fight for power rising above and destroying the potential for any sense of family

We all know who Elizabeth I is; Gloriana, the Virgin Queen, the last of the Tudor monarchs. But underneath all the powder and the wigs, who was this woman? How did Elizabeth Tudor go from the scared cub of a lion to as ferocious as the lion himself? The book starts off with Henry's death, declaring weakling Edward as king. From there we get to see Elizabeth's life (albeit a PG-13 version) unfold; all the major events of her life are covered, such as Thomas Seymour's failed flirtations, the Wyatt Rebellion, and her incarceration in the tower. Unfortunately, as most of Carolyn Meyer's Young Royals books do, the book ends before Elizabeth begins her reign. I suppose the purpose of these books is to focus on the familiar royal characters in their younger years and nothing more. I still wish that some of these books would at least cover the first year of the specific royal woman's reign, to show you how things started off for them once they took the throne. I myself am an adult who enjoys adding Tudor books to her collection, and this is definitely a worthy addition. It's perfect if you have a young person who has an interest in history, or is looking for a strong female role model.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth I was a golden age for England. I've always wanted to get past the history books and get a glimpse into what life would have been like for Elizabeth as a young girl.

After all, she was the daughter of Henry VIII and the fallen Anne Boleyn. Life couldn't have been easy for her after her mother was executed, I kept thinking. Questions pounded through my head, one by one: How could such a young girl live through such a time? How did she cope with being the younger, supposedly "illegitimate" daughter of Henry VIII? How did she feel about being the daughter of a woman believed to be one of the worst of sinners? This book is woven with spellbinding magic, telling the story of a young girl and her struggle not only to be Queen of England, but also to be known, and I quote, "not for my (Elizabeth's) father (Henry VIII), or my mother (Anne Boleyn), or my sister (Queen Mary I of England, also Bloody Mary), but for myself (Elizabeth)."

Carolyn Meyer paints a wonderful picture of what Elizabeth's teenage years must have been like. This narrative, a historical fiction, tells of Elizabeth Tudor's years after her brother Edward's death and into her elder half-sister's reign. The rebellions and suspicions cast upon Elizabeth put her life in terrible danger, sending her to the tower where her mother was executed years earlier. It's a great book, especially for those of you guys and gals that loved *Elizabeth I: Red Rose of the House of Tudor, England, 1544 (The Royal Diaries)*, this one is more geared towards the young adult market with its language and content. However, this novel doesn't focus on Elizabeth's romantic escapades like some novels do, just her struggle to maintain her faith and her life under her sister's ever watchful gaze. It is a great book, and I highly recommend it. :)

It's an interesting and delightful read. A good insight into the life of a Queen and what she lived through

I really loved the history and the easy read this series was.

Another great effort by Carolyn Meyers. Written from a framework of recorded history, but it is what "might have been" or what some other authors wrote. The history is accurate, but the personalities? Surely they were different then, and their lives were only what we might imagine. Elizabeth lived through the tribulations and was a long admired Queen. Her story is told here with flourish and class. Ms. Meyers has done it again, produced another historical fiction tale that will help many to understand a little better. It is a joy to read!

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