# Philippa Gregory's 'Boleyn Traitor' offers a fresh and gripping perspective on Tudor court intrigue



Philippa Gregory returns to the Tudor era with her latest novel, *Boleyn Traitor*, a gripping exploration of court intrigue told through the eyes of Jane Boleyn, sister-in-law to Anne Boleyn. Known for her compelling portrayals of historical figures, Gregory delves into the complexities of Jane’s life within the perilous Tudor court, a world where loyalty and survival are precariously balanced. The novel depicts a turbulent Henry VIII, whose increasingly tyrannical reign is marked by executions of former allies, a string of discarded wives, and chilling displays of power.

*Boleyn Traitor* spotlights Jane Boleyn’s secretive and often maligned reputation as a spy and traitor, offering a nuanced perspective that places her at the heart of the court’s deadly power struggles. Gregory’s narrative crescendos in the final third of the book, as Jane becomes fatally entangled with Catherine Howard, Henry’s fifth wife, leading to tragic consequences. This portrayal aligns with historical accounts of Jane as a complex figure—both a victim and a participant in the fatal intrigues of Henry’s court.

The novel has been praised for its vivid depiction of the lust for power and wealth that dominates the Tudor court, especially under the rule of a mentally unstable king whose whims dictated the fate of many. According to *Library Journal*, Gregory captures the dark and unstable atmosphere of this period with compelling skill, making the book a must-read for fans of historical fiction who seek an immersive experience in Tudor England.

Gregory’s return to the Tudor period after a decade-long hiatus underscores her enduring fascination with this era, as highlighted on her official website. She aims to shed new light on Jane Boleyn, a woman whose story has often been overshadowed by her more famous relatives. The novel is described by commentators and early reviewers alike as an “explosive” and “engrossing” tale of survival against the backdrop of royal machinations.

In addition to historical intrigue, the book's release has attracted attention for its publication details: it will be available in October 2025, with special collector’s editions offered for early UK print runs. Formal praise from authors such as Barbara Erskine, who called it “compelling and engrossing,” further elevates expectations for this latest contribution to Tudor fiction.

For readers interested in the Tudor period’s infamous court dramas, *Boleyn Traitor* promises a fresh perspective on one of history’s most enigmatic figures. Gregory’s novel is a compelling addition to the genre, vividly portraying the perilous balance of ambition, loyalty, and survival within the halls of Henry VIII’s court.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-15199029/Boleyns-months-historical-fiction-Boleyn-Traitor-Philippa-Gregory-Marriage-Contract-Sasha-Butler-House-Splinters-Laura-Purcell-book-review.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.philippagregory.com/books/boleyn-traitor), [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/harpercollins-scarlett-johansson-natalie-portman-tudorcbe-b2630170.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-15199029/Boleyns-months-historical-fiction-Boleyn-Traitor-Philippa-Gregory-Marriage-Contract-Sasha-Butler-House-Splinters-Laura-Purcell-book-review.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.libraryjournal.com/review/boleyn-traitor), [[6]](https://www.harperacademic.com/book/9780063439665/boleyn-traitor)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.libraryjournal.com/review/boleyn-traitor), [[2]](https://www.philippagregory.com/books/boleyn-traitor), [[6]](https://www.harperacademic.com/book/9780063439665/boleyn-traitor)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.philippagregory.com/books/boleyn-traitor), [[3]](https://www.shakespeareandcompany.com/books/boleyn-traitor), [[5]](https://watermarkbooks.com/book/9780063439689), [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/harpercollins-scarlett-johansson-natalie-portman-tudorcbe-b2630170.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.shakespeareandcompany.com/books/boleyn-traitor), [[5]](https://watermarkbooks.com/book/9780063439689)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-15199029/Boleyns-months-historical-fiction-Boleyn-Traitor-Philippa-Gregory-Marriage-Contract-Sasha-Butler-House-Splinters-Laura-Purcell-book-review.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.philippagregory.com/books/boleyn-traitor> - Philippa Gregory's official website provides a detailed overview of her upcoming novel, 'Boleyn Traitor', set for release in October 2025. The book focuses on Jane Boleyn, sister-in-law to Anne Boleyn, and explores her role in the Tudor court. Gregory discusses her return to the Tudor period after a decade and her motivation to delve into Jane Boleyn's complex character. The page also includes related characters, reviews, and information on where to purchase the book.
3. <https://www.shakespeareandcompany.com/books/boleyn-traitor> - Shakespeare and Company, an independent bookstore, offers a pre-order page for Philippa Gregory's 'Boleyn Traitor'. The novel is described as an explosive story of Jane Boleyn's survival in the Tudor court. The page highlights the book's acclaim, including praise from The Times and Sunday Times, and provides details on the book's publication date, dimensions, and ISBN. It also mentions the availability of a special collector’s edition for the first UK print run.
4. <https://www.libraryjournal.com/review/boleyn-traitor> - Library Journal's review of 'Boleyn Traitor' by Philippa Gregory praises the novel as a compelling historical thriller. The review highlights Gregory's skill in capturing the lust for power and wealth that overcomes those serving a mentally unstable ruler. It provides insight into life at Henry VIII's royal court and his uncontrolled power. The review concludes with a recommendation for readers interested in historical fiction.
5. <https://watermarkbooks.com/book/9780063439689> - Watermark Books presents 'Boleyn Traitor: A Novel' by Philippa Gregory, set for release on October 14, 2025. The description emphasizes the novel's focus on Jane Boleyn's survival in the Tudor court, portraying her as a woman who dared to survive at any cost. The page includes praise from Barbara Erskine, a Sunday Times #1 bestselling author, highlighting the book's compelling and engrossing nature. Additional details about the author and the book's publication are also provided.
6. <https://www.harperacademic.com/book/9780063439665/boleyn-traitor> - HarperCollins Academic's page for 'Boleyn Traitor' by Philippa Gregory offers a detailed overview of the novel. The description focuses on Jane Boleyn's role in the Tudor court, emphasizing her survival through various roles and the challenges she faces. The page includes critical praise, noting the book as a compelling and engrossing read. Product details such as ISBN, publication date, and page count are also provided.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/harpercollins-scarlett-johansson-natalie-portman-tudorcbe-b2630170.html> - An article from The Independent discusses Philippa Gregory's upcoming novel 'Boleyn Traitor', focusing on Anne Boleyn’s sister-in-law, Jane Boleyn. The piece highlights Gregory's return to the Tudor period and her exploration of Jane Boleyn's character, whose evidence led to the executions of her husband George and sister-in-law Queen Anne. The article also mentions Gregory's previous works and her longstanding ambition to delve into Jane Boleyn's life.