



The Exiled

Posie Graeme-Evans

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In this windswept story set in the lusty fifteenth century, the enchanting Anne faces the challenge of raising her child in exile. Always resourceful, she flourishes as a merchant and is able to support her household. But the local businessmen aren't pleased about competing with a woman and her foes are multiplying around her, desperate to put her back in what they believe is her rightful place.

Anne has a secret that her enemies could use to destroy her. Her beloved son is the product of a passionate affair with the king, Edward IV, who knows nothing of his existence. If this information were to fall into the wrong hands, it could prove lethal for Anne and her child. She struggles to find peace in a world of duplicity and suspicion, where adversaries masquerade as allies, and someone very powerful wants her dead. Yet, despite the pressure of her enemies, what pains Anne the most is that she is unsure when or if she will see her darling Edward again.

The Exiled Details

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Ella Stern says

Now that Lady Anne de Bohun is living in Brugge with her son, Edward, named for the King of England whom she loves but cannot be with. But Anne has a second secret as well: She is the illegitimate daughter of the former English king, Henry the Sixth. As tragedy befalls them all, how will Anne save herself, and this time, her son, from treacherous hands who threaten her at every turn?

Carol says

This is a wonderful historical novel featuring the forbidden love between a King of England and the granddaughter of a king. The lengths they go to in order to hide their love is remarkable and, at times, heartbreakingly. A good read.

Yasmin says

Finally done! It took me over a month to finish this book, mostly because of its changing rhythm. It's a great little story, old-English-themed and full of adventures for the young beautiful Anne. I really enjoyed living with the characters this past month, and there is some fine writing in it also. Altogether a great read!

Eva says

Started the series because it is partly set in Bruges, but the setting isn't really motivation enough to continue. Customary historical(in a broad sense) fiction,, Mary Sue-ish heroine, which is getting on my nerves.... on to better things.

Sarah Wagner says

I read The Innocent a number of years ago and I always meant to continue this trilogy before now, but I only found the time recently. The Exiled picks up in the city of Brugge, where Anne, exiled after her adventures at the court of Yorkist King Edward IV, which included an affair with the king and the birth of an illegitimate child, has settled and begun to earn a living as a merchant. She must wrestle with the prejudice and envy of her fellow merchant, who do not care to trade with a woman, much less a successful one. But Anne must also contend with politics, as her former royal lover engages to marry his sister to the Duke of Burgundy, enveloping Anne in a complex game of love, intrigue, and schemes with very powerful people. A fun read, if somewhat liberal with the history of the time.

Amanda says

Pretty much immediately after I finished the first novel, *The Innocent*, I ordered *The Exiled*. I was entranced from the very first page by Posie Graeme-Evans' masterful, strongly woven prose filled with drama, elegance and unparalleled detail that makes this book go down easy.

The Exiled started out with an action-packed bang. Anne, after having gone into exile at the end of *The Innocent*, is now living in Burgundy with her foster mother Deborah and young son Edward. She hopes to live a peaceful life, but that's quickly shattered when someone tries to kill her. Anne discovers that information about her mysterious birth has started to leak -as well as information about the possible father of her child.

Soon after, King Edward IV of England visits Burgundy for the wedding of his sister Margaret to the Duke of Burgundy. Anne plans a way to see him and explains to her passionate lover (and forbidden love) that young Edward is his son. Soon after, Anne is kidnapped, most likely by agents of Edward's jealous queen, and she is plunged into a new adventure where she must fight to keep her life and get back to her son.

After the kidnapping however, things started to go downhill. I really enjoyed the first half of this book even though it was a little bit slow, but it didn't stay on the same level throughout. I was also grateful that *The Exiled* wasn't nearly as steamy as *The Innocent* and just dripped with thick, well written plot full of political intrigue. Events slowly became more and more unbelievable, almost to the point that the plot felt conceded and drawn out. Action shifted to something of a bizarre soap opera between Anne, Edward and other characters that just made me yawn. Even though the plot is thicker here and revolves more strongly on political intrigue and action than romance (unlike the first one), it becomes so contrived that the historical part of this novel seems fictional. Fans of truly historical novels will wince at the highly illogical and unlikely events near the end of the book, while fans of pure fiction and romance/historical romance will just shrug it off.

I really wanted to like this book more, but it just wasn't as enjoyable as *The Innocent*. It has lovely, well-crafted writing, story-telling and plot but it becomes a prisoner of its own predictability and, compared to the last one, lack of creativity in plot. The most annoying part of *The Exiled* was that the ending was virtually the same as the first one. There are several unanswered questions (many still left over from *The Innocent*), it feels abrupt and made me look back at the rest of this book and think: what was really accomplished here? very little. It seems to me that Graeme-Evans wasn't sure how to continue her story and make it into a trilogy where each novel contained the same quality as the previous ones.

All in all, a bit of a disappointment after the last book, but still filled with beautiful prose and a semi-enjoyable plot.

Sarah Mac says

As with the first installment of the Anne trilogy (*The Innocent*), I quite enjoyed this book.

Since being exiled to Brugge, Anne has made a life for herself. She quickly takes advantage of her

connection to the powerful Cuttifer house & bullies her way into the trading community, which earns her enemies in the textile guild. Though she stretches her economic wings very sweetly -- Anne does *nothing* without heaping teaspoons of sweetness -- she refuses to dial down that awesome Sue-given business acumen & find a husband who could act as her household frontman. Given time, the merchants might have grudgingly accepted her presence...except she gambles on the Duke of Burgundy's impending marriage to Edward IV's sister, beating everyone to the punch, & any goodwill is ruined.

Despite their bitchy attitude toward women traders, the merchant guild denies responsibility for the repeated assassination attempts on Anne's life. But Anne is too enamored with Edward to put the pieces together. They resume their affair -- which has already produced a child -- and are discovered by bitchy Queen Elizabeth Wydeville. Elizabeth, in turn, commissions outrageous antics to eliminate her rival; not only is she insulted by Edward's affection for Anne, but their bastard son is a threat to her relevance in the monarchy. Anne, meanwhile, is kidnapped several times & hauled between Brugge & England, hiding in nunneries & fishing villages until she can get back to her family...but even if she escapes, can she keep both her son & her lover?

I classify this series as neo-bodice-ripper. Though there isn't as much sex in this installment, Anne's 'old magic' plays a more important role -- her near-death experience, her visions, the Sword Mother's ghostly appearances in key moments. Personally, I don't mind these WTFery plot devices...but I can see why they'd annoy some readers. There's also the matter of Anne's lynchpin role in the War of the Roses. She's an extreme Mary Sue; there's nothing she can't do, Good People(tm) admire her instantly, & bad guys either want her dead or grudgingly respect her backbone. But Anne's a very NICE girl, despite the sticky-sweet Sue disease. She does the best she can, acknowledges her mistakes, & refuses to be a doormat -- which is more than can be said for many heroines.

As to whether these books are historically accurate...eh, that's doubtful. But they have a good sense of atmosphere & lovely visuals for the era. My favorite detail in this particular book was the cameo by Hans Memling, who happens to be my favorite Northern Renaissance painter. (Google his Saint John Altarpiece. Beautiful.) Of course, what historical Mary Sue would be complete without a masterpiece with her as central subject? *wiggles eyebrow* The author describes Memling's "De Bohun painting" in great detail -- too bad it doesn't actually exist. :P

Anyway...this was a fun read. 4 stars for the enjoyment factor.

Lauren says

This is book two in Posie Graeme-Evans' Anne de Bohun trilogy. It picks up in the city of Bruges, about a year after the Innocent leaves off where our heroine Anne is living in exile. Anne is now a mother masquerading as the aunt of her illegitimate son Edward. While in Bruges, Anne shocks medieval society and becomes a wealthy merchant. While Anne seeks peace in Bruges she is unable to find that peace. Like the Innocent, the Exiled is a bit unrealistic and lacks plausibility for some important plot elements. It also includes some unnecessarily descriptive love scenes and too closely resembles a romance novel at times. However, it is an entertaining, quick and easy read.

The largest inaccuracy is fairly crucial to the plot. Anne, as readers of the Innocent know, is not only the former lover of the English King Edward IV of the House of York, but she is supposedly the illegitimate

daughter of mad King Henry VI of the House of Lancaster, whom Edward IV deposed in the not too distant past. Thus, although Anne is illegitimate, the fact that she fears becoming a political pawn. It is not completely clear why the author thinks this is a problem - after all, Anne is illegitimate. Unlike Katherine Swynford's children with John of Gaunt, the fictional Anne de Bohun's parents were never married and Anne was never legitimated by the pope. Thus, Anne de Bohun and her children would not matter for succession. Similarly, her son Edward would be a non-entity in the succession because Edward is also illegitimate. Anyhow, in spite of this implausibility, somehow Anne is an important political pawn... However, as I said, the novel is entertaining and if you can suspend your disbelief related to this implausibility, the book is a fun read.

Ultimately, Edward IV arrives in Bruges with his sister Margaret and Anne must decide whether to rekindle her love affair with Edward IV and whether to return with him to England. This leads to another historical inaccuracy - Duke Charles of Bruges, Margaret's husband, is described as a gallant and noble figure. He was in fact known to be a bit erratic in history, earning the nickname Charles the Rash. Ultimately, it is thanks to Charles that Burgundy became part of France.

This inaccuracy is pretty minor however. In terms of Posie Graeme Evans' history of the Wars of the Roses, she does a pretty good job of explaining the complicated dynamic of the Houses of York and Lancaster. This particularly shines through in the conclusion of the trilogy - the Uncrowned Queen. The Exiled also does a great job discussing the merchant guilds, politics between France and England, and gives a general sense of the 15th century balance of power in Europe. Overall this book is a good read, as are the other two installments of the trilogy.

Michelle says

This is the second book in the War of the Roses trilogy. Anne is now exiled in Brugge, in the household of her patron, raising her son as the child of a relative, rather than her own. She wages a quiet battle with the merchant community who are unwilling to accept her into the guild as a woman without her taking a husband. Anne uses knowledge to make a big gamble on a forthcoming wedding, getting the textiles and hiring the seamstresses to gain a major trading advantage. However, the return of King Edward to the picture creates danger for her, as do multiple assassination attempts upon her. The Queen, in particular, is a threat to Anne. Her old magic also leads to great danger, and Anne must make some difficult choices about her life.

Ashlee Nelson says

I am still loving the trilogy. The second book wasn't as good as the first book, in my opinion. There definitely is a lot going on and you have to keep up but it is a good read! I did really enjoy this book! I can't wait for the third one!

Sarah says

The Exiled is the second novel in the War of the Roses series featuring Edward IV and Anne de Bohun.

In the first novel of the series, The Innocent, Anne worked her way up into the king's court as a servant and

all-knowing medicine-woman attending the queen. Anne's gentle ways, intelligence and beauty caught the eye of King Edward IV, and the pair worked carefully to keep their love for each other a secret. In *The Exiled*, Anne de Bohun, now having full knowledge of her true identity and royal bloodline, has escaped to Brugge, where she has established herself as a successful merchant and businesswoman. Much to Anne's dismay, she finds herself still in danger as several assassination attempts are made on her life, with Queen Elizabeth Grey as the prime culprit behind the attacks. Therefore Anne must be more cautious than ever, relying on her intelligence, wit, insight, and strategic abilities in order to survive; all while her love for King Edward IV burns as strongly as ever.

Posie Graeme-Evans once again creates an elegant, page-turning tale featuring a highly likable and admirable heroine. Anne de Bohun's character in *The Exiled* is much stronger, confident and has more panache; while hating Queen Elizabeth Grey is inevitable because of our loyalty to Anne. It never fails to amaze me how historical fiction authors can influence you to take certain sides of characters in specific novels; for example, it's amusing to read Philippa Gregory's *The White Queen* told from Elizabeth Grey's point of view as "the victim" and then reading *The Exiled* in which we passionately hate her. For it's setting in time and place, *The Exiled* causes Anne to stand out more than ever as one of the most memorable heroines in the historical fiction sub-genre.

As for Posie Graeme-Evans' writing style, her stories are so richly and intricately composed that you can vividly picture and imagine the setting perfectly. Whereas some historical fiction novels give you a detached glimpse into the lives of the figures in question, Graeme-Evans places you right there with them, making for an addicting and involved experience. The outside world will truly fall away when you read this series! I HIGHLY recommend all three novels.

The final book in the War of the Roses trilogy is called *The Beloved* (2006), with the alternate title being *The Uncrowned Queen* in the United States. Graeme-Evans has also written a stand-alone novel titled *The Dressmaker* (2010).

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Sorcha says

Second in the series of Anne de Bohun, who in the previous book had been exiled from England by her lover King Edward. In the year since, she has given birth to their son Edward, and established herself under patronage of a wealthy trader in Bruges. She uses her intelligence and gossip to build a fortune, but in doing so, engenders the ire of her growing list of enemies (including that of the Queen of England). Finally things come to a head, bringing her back into the sphere of the King....[return][return]Reasonably distracting story, not a heavily historical read

Amy says

I did not realize this was the 2nd book in a series. So I didn't know that Anne was Henry VI's daughter or any of that until long after I feel like I should have. The plot was really hard to get into for me. I was about to put it down when Edward IV appeared on the scene and then it picked up. The parts with the wedding and immediately leading up to it and following were the best. After that I was just waiting for Edward to come on

the scene again.

I'll echo the others with the warning that there are a couple scenes that describe Anne and Edward's physical relationship in detail.

I found the minor characters were not treated well, paraded in and out very quickly. Let's have a whole chapter to describe the background of three characters that Anne meets in England, integrate them into the plot, then abruptly halt their subplots with an explanation in the next chapter "they died."

I read spoilers online about what happens in the 3rd book so I don't have to read it. I don't want to waste another 450 pages finding out.

Emma Louise says

Started but didn't finish. Didn't grab my attention. Glad it was very cheap.

Karla says

The second book of the Anne de Bohun saga continues...

Anne has gone to Brugge to live in exile, the secret of her birth father and her affair with England's King Edward IV putting her in danger of being used as a pawn by either Lancaster or York, whoever gets their hands on her. At loose ends with her life, she focuses her energies on partnering in trade with her guardian, merchant Mathew Cuttifer. Although her gender sets the English Merchants against her, she has an ally in the Duke of Burgundy and trumps all the guys in the upcoming influx of trade goods for the Duke's impending nuptials with King Edward's sister, Margaret. However, trouble follows Anne from the English court and she finds herself having to escape all kinds of danger.

It's a mystery to me why I've enjoyed this series as much as I have. Anne is the type of heroine that normally annoys me. She's beautiful, supernaturally talented (she has visions), makes men lust after her and queens plot jealous murder, and is overall perfect and innocent and catnip to everyone around her. Give me a bucket, I'm gonna frow up...

But like the eponymous heroine in *Lily Cigar*, Anne de Bohun is simply a **good person**. She has some human frailties, but she does her best with what she has to work with and tries to retain her honor and integrity no matter what. So even though both Lily and Anne crossed over into "Are you for real??" territory plenty of times, I thought they were both well-written examples of the saccharine heroine. Instead of wanting to punch Anne in the face, I wanted to see her stay safe and be happy, just for a little while.

That said, I thought this trilogy middle child lacked the pacing that the first one had. The first half of the book is mainly devoted to Anne's maneuvering around the trade guilds in Brugge, gambling on shipments of stuff from Italy for import before the ducal wedding and leaving the smartypants guys in the guild sitting on their thumbs. It was a good plot move to show Anne relying more on herself and taking chances to secure her position and that of her son in the big bad world, but I thought it went on too long before the intrigue and action started. But once Edward arrives to deliver his sister to the Duke, with angry wife Elizabeth not far

behind, then the trashy connivery and fluff that made the first book so much fun really got cooking, and the last half of the book went down far more enjoyably.

The ending is bittersweet, just like Book 1, and it feels like little was accomplished or resolved (Edward's still shackled in wedlock, Anne can't risk staying in England), but the balance of fluff and angst and trash hit still hit the spot more often than it didn't.
