



Young Henry: The Rise of Henry VIII

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'Young Henry' provides readers with a unique and compelling vision of the splendours and tragedies of the court of Henry VIII.

Young Henry: The Rise of Henry VIII Details

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From Reader Review Young Henry: The Rise of Henry VIII for online ebook

Charlene Vickers says

This guy thinks very little of women - and, indeed, knows nothing of them. Kudos for both championing Katherine of Aragon and blaming her for her husband's infidelities - after all, it was her fault for choosing* immoral** maids of honour, and how could the poor, poor woobie victim Henry control himself around them? I also loved how Bessie Blount was forced to leave the court on October 3 due to the "evidence" of her pregnancy with Henry Fitzroy, born June 15. (For the record, a child born June 15 would likely be conceived in late September or early October. She couldn't even have known she was pregnant when she left - which brings up interesting possibilities that this writer hasn't even noticed.)

Also excellent to read an interpretation of Anne Boleyn that makes Eustace Chapuys look like an impartial observer. At least Chapuys had a valid reason to hate Anne; what's this writer's malfunction?

Feh. Feh feh feh. Back to Starkey and Ives...

* In reality, Henry chose them.

** In reality, you weren't allowed to say no to the King - although you were blamed when you didn't. And you thought Heller invented Catch-22?

Bettie? says

description: Immortalized as a domineering king, notorious philanderer, and the unlikely benefactor of a new church, Henry VIII became a legend during his own reign. Who, though, was the young royal who would grow up to become England's most infamous ruler? Robert Hutchinson's Young Henry examines Henry Tudor's childhood beginnings and subsequent rise to power in the most intimate retelling of his early life to date.

While Henry's elder brother Arthur was scrupulously groomed for the crown by their autocratic father, the ten-year-old spare heir enjoyed a more carefree childhood, given prestige and power without the looming pressures of the throne. Everything changed for the young prince, though, when his brother died. Henry was nine weeks shy of his eighteenth birthday when he inherited both his brother's widow and the crown.

As King, Henry preferred magnificence and merriment to his royal responsibilities, sweeping away the musty cobwebs of his father's court with feasting, dancing, and sport. Frustrated, too, by the seeming inability of his wife, Katherine of Aragon, to produce an heir, Henry turned his attention to a prospective second queen whose name would endure as long as his: Anne Boleyn. With the king still lacking a successor by the age of 35, however, the time for youthful frolic had come to an end.

Divorcing his wife and the Catholic Church, executing his lover and his violent will, Henry charged forward on a scandalous path of terrifying self-indulgence from which there was no turning back. Young Henry is an illuminating portrait of this tyrannical yet groundbreaking king before he transformed his country, and

the face of the monarchy, irrevocably.

Deborah Pickstone says

Excellent and fresh account of the early years of Henry VIII. I have read a lot on the subject but.....I learned a lot, came up with a new theory of my own and am generally impressed!

Sarah Bryson says

While I have read a great deal about Henry VIII, his marriages, his policies and life at court I have not read a lot about his younger years and therefore eagerly looked forward to reading Hutchinson's book. I have to say it did not disappoint and I found it just as compelling and detailed as his other books.

Hutchinson's starts off by providing a little information about Henry VIII's parents, Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. He discusses the fact that Henry was actually the second son of Henry and Elizabeth and thus not initially born to inherit the throne. That title was for Henry's older brother Arthur. Hutchinson describes in impressive detail what Henry's early years would have been like, when he was born, where, who would have been part of his nursery and what provisions were made for the boy.

Also discussed was what life in England was like during the time that Henry was growing up. Hutchinson discusses the rebellions and imposters that Henry VII faced as King and how he worked hard to suppress these imposters to show that he alone was the true and rightful King. I found this very interesting as although young Henry was relatively sheltered there were several times when people did challenge his father's right to rule and in turn this could have affected Henry's young life.

Moving on from this Hutchinson discusses Arthur's marriage to Katherine of Aragon and how Henry took part in the wedding. He also talks about Arthur's death and how this affected Henry VII deeply as now he only had one son and heir. Young Henry's life was forever changed and now instead of a spare heir he was the future King of England. He was taken under his father's wing and brought into close proximity to the King.

Shortly after Arthur's death Elizabeth of York fell pregnant again. Tragically she would die shortly after giving birth and Henry had not only lost his brother but now his mother and a sister barely a few days old. This had a dramatic effect upon Henry and how he viewed women for the rest of his life.

Hutchinson discusses Henry's relationship with Katherine of Aragon and his on and off again marriage agreement with her. He discusses how Henry was trained to be the future King and the relationship father and son had. At almost eighteen years of age Henry's father died and he was now proclaimed King. Hutchinson discusses these early years of Henry's rule, how he was a fun loving King who wanted to put his father's rule behind him and move onto a bright future.

Shortly after his succession Henry VIII married Katherine of Aragon however their marriage was to have many ups and downs over the years. Hutchinson discusses Henry's marriage, his mistresses and also his relationship with his future second wife, Anne Boleyn. Hutchinson also details Henry's desire to go to war with France and how this put a great strain financially upon England and Parliament had to draw money

from the coffers to fund the war. This was a fascinating section to read and Henry certainly did build up his battles and believed them to be far greater than they really were!

The book ends at Henry VIII's annulment of his first marriage and his subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn. The epilogue describes the next few years of Henry's life and gives a little detail about what happened to him throughout his final years.

At the end of the book there is a chronology which briefly details the important events in Henry's life from his father's birth in 1457 right through to the birth of his second daughter, Elizabeth, in 1533. In addition Hutchinson also provides some detail about the important figures that played a role in Henry's life including his wives, members of royalty, members of the clergy and other important members of the court. This section was really interesting in itself as it provided a little more detail about different people who at one stage or another made an appearance in Henry's life.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Hutchinson provides a very detailed and interesting look at Henry VIII's younger years. He discusses the events that happened to Henry and talks about how these may have shaped his view on the world and those around him. It was these feelings, thoughts and views that the King took with him throughout his life and ultimately would affect his relationships with those around him and the decisions that he made. I would certainly recommend this book to anyone that is interested in gaining a deeper understanding of Henry VIII.

Jaclyn says

Nicely written work about the early years of Henry VIII. Sadly he comes off as a total loser as far as leaders go (though Ferdinand is a piece of work as well; in contrast, I didn't realize what a war hero Norfolk was - enjoyed that bit in particular). There is not much romanticizing of Henry in this book.

However, his passion for learning, arts, and sport make him somewhat endearing. Interesting information about the 'pretenders' -- didn't realize there were so many. Some nice extras too -- timeline, who's who and colored plates of Henry and family. Good read.

Amanda Jo says

I was expecting it to be less of a day by day biography and more of a novel about his life. For instance, what is the point of knowing the exact length of cloth that was bought for each royal occasion?

I did learn a lot about the life and society of the time when Henry the IV was growing up, and how it may have shaped his later years of eccentricity. However, I was sad that the author only went into depth about his first two wives and had a epilogue chapter to briefly name his other wives.

I think I would have appreciated a more consistent understanding of his life and less oddly specific details.

George Foord says

a treat for any tudor fan, this book is written really well and has so much information in it

Kara says

It's an interesting concept to examine Henry VIII's beginnings, but Hutchinson doesn't quite pull it off – the chronology was muddled and Hutchinson blurs the line between fact and speculation too often, assigning thoughts and actions and feelings concerning Henry and those around him that the author has no way of knowing.

Hutchinson also seems to have realized he didn't have enough material for a full book, (Henry is king before page 100), so he pads things out with other people and events, plus too much irreverent commentary, and stretches things out all the way to when Henry was 42 – hardly still young or just on the rise.

I liked the idea, but the whole book needed tightening to sharpen the focus and better prove his theories.

Anna says

Hutchinson has managed once again to write in a concise manner which is engaging and very factual. The book was well sourced and easy to follow with a much appreciated chronology in the back of the book and detail of key figures that the reader can use for reference, something that I feel all historical books would benefit from. His arguments are both compelling and well referenced. I very much enjoyed the earlier chapters which provided lots of detail on the reign of Henry VII, a very interesting, not sufficiently written about figure. Overall, an enjoyable read which I think anyone interested in the subject would be able to enjoy and follow, I look forward to now reading his 'The Last Days of Henry VIII'.

Paul Pessolano says

“Young Henry The Rise of Henry VIII” by Robert Hutchinson, published by Thomas Dunne Books.

Category – Biography

Most of us view Henry VIII as an obese English King who is known for beheading wives and forming the Church of England.

Robert Hutchinson gives us a view of Henry VIII as a young man. Few know that he was known as the “spare heir” due to his older brother Arthur who was to become King. When Arthur died, Henry became the next in line to succeed Henry VII.

Henry grew up footloose and fancy free and he took those attributes into his kingship. He was frivolous with his money and his father was miserly. There was no end to the jousting, feasting, and pageantry of his reign.

Henry's major concern was the continuation of the Tudor succession to the English Throne, and for this he needed a male heir. His marriage to Katherine of Aragon seemed to be a perfect marriage and would have

been had she been able to produce a male heir.

Henry petitioned the Catholic Church to annul the marriage so he could remarry. The Church refused the annulment and Henry left the Church and instituted the Church of England.

This book is for those interested in history, those interested in the Kings of England and their lives, and those who would like to know more about Henry VIII and the impact, which was substantial, in changing the course of history.

Belinda says

A fairly quick read about the early to middle years of King Henry VIII. A fair amount of unusual information on Henry's youth and the early part of his marriage to Katherine of Aragon. There are some really nice color plates, including some fairly rare art (a beautiful bust of Henry as a child is especially nice) and the notes and historical references at the end of the book are excellent. I can't say it changed any opinions I may have held about Henry (he's a big jerk--pretty much from childhood on). My biggest complaint is the repeating of some pretty commonly debunked myths as well as some assumptive conclusions on the author's part--mostly regarding the deaths of some of the many people at the Tudor court. It's one thing to have an opinion on whether someone was poisoned or died of cancer but to state it as fact without backing is really not what I look for in historical writings. This also applies to stating that the "King could more than likely no longer procreate" while married to Katherine Parr-- it is commonly stated that he was very physically enamored of her, so that's making a bit of an assumption. I also took umbrage at some of the author's language towards Anne Boleyn--it was a bit "drinking the Kool-Aid" in that manner for me--it is possible to have sympathy for Queen Katherine without hating Anne Boleyn and I found that a bit distracting. Overall, interesting and decently written and minus the opinions and assumptions would have been much better.

Baniza says

The stories goes like this when Henry became the unexpected heir to the precarious Tudor throne 1502, after his elder brother Arthur died. He also inherited his brother's wardrobe and his wife, the Spanish princess Katherine of Aragon. He became king in 1509.

It's ironic and unfussy history ...

Johanna H. says

A solid biography about a young Henry VIII. The book covers the period from Henry's birth to roughly the end of his fight for the divorce to Katherine of Aragon (including of course some family history). Since the author only had to cover a very short period of Henry's life he had the luxury of including details that would otherwise have to be excluded for times sake. Especially about Henry's childhood which is always a little bit left out in his biographies. Still, the author didn't bring a lot of news to the already brimming Tudor nonfiction (and fiction) book market. The main story will always be the same but in terms of conclusions & opinions every author draws a very personalised picture of the past events. From this point of view the "Young Henry" is probably not worth reading for someone who already read a lot of Tudor literature

although it is still enjoyable.

Susan says

Entertaining, well-written account of Henry's youth. I can't say I found any new insights in it, but it was a good read.

David Hines says

Most books on King Henry 8th focus on the later dramatic years of his reign, when he takes over the Church of England, marries again and again, executing 2 wives along the way, and becomes a despotic tyrant. This book, *Young Henry*, focuses instead on his early years, as a prince, then through his early reign to the time he begins to seek divorce from Catherine of Aragon and is pursuing Ann Boylen. The book is informative on this period in Henry's life and the narrative is lively and flows well, not bogged down in scholastic details. His early reign, often skimmed over in other works, is well presented. I've read many books on Henry, and yet I still learned quite a bit from this one. Additionally, there are a number of fine color pictures that add to the narrative. For a shorter, non-scholarly work, this book is likely the best recent book there is out there on Henry 8th's early reign. A quick and useful read for those who want a fuller picture of Henry's life and reign.
