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Elizabeth's Rival The Tumultuous Tale of Lettice Knollys, Countess of Leicester

Nicola Tallis

Keynote

The first biography of Lettice Knollys, one of the most prominent women of the Elizabethan era, also examines the relationship between Elizabeth and Lettice's husband, Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, within the context of his third marriage.

Description

The first biography of Lettice Knollys, one of the most prominent women of the Elizabethan era.

Cousin to Elizabeth I – and very likely also Henry VIII's illegitimate granddaughter – Lettice Knollys had a life of dizzying highs and pitiful lows. Darling of the court, entangled in a love triangle with Robert Dudley and Elizabeth I, banished from court, plagued by scandals of affairs and murder, embroiled in treason, Lettice would go on to lose a husband and beloved son to the executioner's axe. Living to the astonishing age of ninety-one, Lettice's tale gives us a remarkable, personal lens on to the grand sweep of the Tudor Age, with those closest to her often at the heart of the events that defined it.

In the first ever biography of this extraordinary woman, Nicola Tallis's dramatic narrative takes us through those events, including the religious turmoil, plots and intrigues of Mary, Queen of Scots, attempted coups, and bloody Irish conflicts, among others. Surviving well into the reign of Charles I, Lettice truly was the last of the great Elizabethans.

Sales Points

- Gives readers a new and personal perspective on the events of the Tudor period and early Stuarts – Lettice lived through the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I
- Examines the relationship between Queen Elizabeth I and Lettice's husband, Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, within the context of his third marriage
- Explores the effect that Lettice's marriage had on her relationship with Elizabeth I, and what this reveals about Elizabeth's attitude towards women
- This is the stunning new book from Nicola Tallis, whose debut book *Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey* has been widely praised
- **Praise for Crown of Blood:**
 - * 'History as it should be written, vivid, colourful, pacy and evocative, but – above all – authentic and based on sound and innovative research.' – Alison Weir
 - * 'Solid gold!' – Tracy Borman
 - * 'A wonderful investigation ... enlightening and gripping, full of superb research and beautifully written.' – Kate Williams
 - * 'A stunning debut' – *Spectator*
 - * 'Poignant' – *New York Times*
 - * 'Brings us as close to a flesh-and-blood Lady Jane Grey as we may ever come.' – *History Today*

Reviews

- 'Stunning ... Nicola Tallis brings this remarkable woman out of the shadows and dazzlingly to life. It is a story of love, loss, intrigue and betrayal, and is told with customary finesse by one of our most talented historians. Not to be missed.' - Tracy Borman

Author Biography

Nicola Tallis is a British historian and researcher. Her debut book, *Crown of Blood: The Deadly Inheritance of Lady Jane Grey*, was published to wide praise. She has previously lectured at the University of Winchester and worked with Historic Royal Palaces and the National Trust.