



# ELIZABETH'S RIVAL

The Tumultuous Tale of  
*LETTICE KNOLLYS*,  
Countess of Leicester

NICOLA TALLIS

Published 15th November 2018  
Paperback, £9.99, Michael O'Mara Books

'Nicola Tallis, one of our great popular historians.'  
Alison Weir

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

Paperback publication to coincide with the film release of  
Mary Queen of Scots

'Dazzling. Told with customary finesse by one of our most talented  
historians. Not to be missed.' **Tracy Borman**

Cousin to Elizabeth I – and very likely also Henry VIII's illegitimate granddaughter – Lettice Knollys had a life of dizzying highs and pitiful lows. 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, **outliving both her family and Elizabeth I**, 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.

**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 critical acclaim. She has previously lectured at the University of Winchester and worked with Historic Royal Palaces and the National Trust.

**Nicola is available to comment on the latest Tudor film and to write pieces**

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