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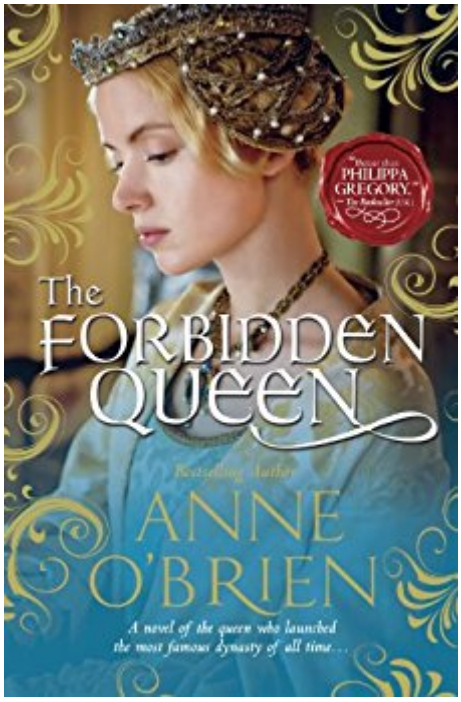
The Forbidden Queen



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Synopsis

An innocent pawnÂ A kingdom without a kingÂ A new dynasty will reign…Â 1415. The jewel in the French crown, Katherine de Valois, is waiting under lock and key for King Henry V. While he’s been slaughtering her kinsmen in Agincourt, Katherine has been praying for marriage to save her from her misery. But the brutal king wants her crown, not her innocent love.Â For Katherine, England is a lion’s den of greed, avarice and mistrust. And when she is widowed at twenty-one, she becomes a prize ripe for the taking—her young son the future monarch, her hand in marriage worth a kingdom.Â This is a deadly political game, one the dowager queen must learn fast. The players—the Duke of Gloucester, Edmund Beaufort and Owen Tudor—are circling. Who will have her? Who will ruin her? This is the story of Katherine de Valois.Â Â "Anne O’Brien has joined the exclusive club of excellent historical novelists." Â —Sunday ExpressÂ "An absolutely gripping tale that is both superbly written and Â meticulously researched." Â —The Sun

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Katherine de Valois was the daughter of King Charles VI of France and Isabelle of Bavaria. When

she was fourteen, her parents entered into negotiations to marry her to King Henry V of England who demanded a large dowry and acknowledgement of his right to the throne of France. After much bantering back and forth, the deal was struck. The moment Henry saw Katherine, he was smitten by her great beauty and they were soon married. True love grew between them and Katherine was very happy with her new surroundings and husband.In 1421, while Henry was fighting in France, she gave birth to a son and named him after his father. Before Henry could return home to meet his namesake, he died of dysentery. At the tender age of 21, Katherine became a widow. Not long afterwards, her father died, leaving the infant Prince Henry to be become king of England and in parts of France.In time, Katherine fell in love with Edmund Beaufort, her late husband's cousin. Humphrey, her late husband's brother, concerned she might remarry, introduce a bill in Parliament making it impossible for Katherine to remarry without the king's consent. If she did so, her husband would lose his lands and possessions, but their children would be considered members of the royal family. Oh, and he also included the clause that the king must have reached his majority before he could grant his approval. At the time this new law was set in place, the king was only six years old. Edward Beaufort abandoned his ambitious quest to marry the dowager queen and soon found himself another wife. Katherine was trapped, kept under watch by the king's counsellors.Ah, but soon, love returned to her life in the form of a handsome man named Owen Tudor of Wales.

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