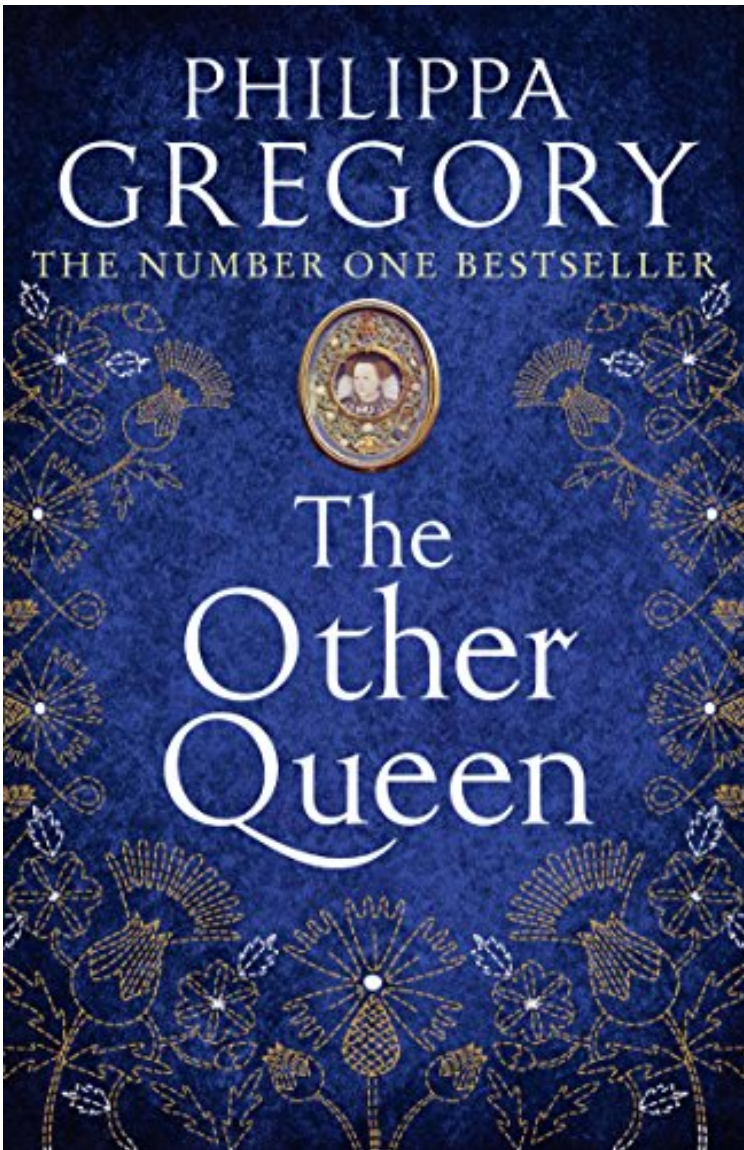


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The Other Queen



Par Philippa Gregory
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurA dramatic novel of passion, politics and betrayal from the author of The Other Boleyn Girl.They can fear me, and they can hate me. They can even deny me. But they cannot kill me.1568. The Virgin Queen Elizabeth I has ruled England for ten years, but refuses to name a successor, despite the rival claims that threaten her kingdom.Bess of Hardwick, the new Countess of Shrewsbury, has secured her future with her fourth marriage to George Talbot. Ambitious and shrewd, Bess anticipates royal favour when she and the Earl are asked to give sanctuary to the fugitive Mary Queen of Scots.But the Scottish queen rails against house arrest in a desolate castle and plots to regain her throne. The castle becomes the epicentre of intrigue against Elizabeth, the Earl blinded by admiration for the other queen. Even Besss own loyalty is

thrown into question. If Elizabeth's spymaster William Cecil links the Talbots to the growing conspiracy to free Mary, they will all face the Tower.co.uk

Philippa Gregory has long been one of the most assured practitioners of historical fiction, but her profile was raised even higher by the film of her novel *The Other Boleyn Girl*. Gregory admirers, however, were heard to remark of that movie: Not as good as the book! And if her new novel, the highly accomplished *The Other Queen* is ever afforded the Hollywood treatment, there will no doubt be a similar chorus. The reason for this dedication by her readers is not hard to fathom: assiduously researched historical facts are married to consummate storytelling skills and the effortless ability to rescue historical figures from the dusty pages of the past. At the centre of this novel is Mary Queen of Scotland, forced to flee into England. Mary, a devout Catholic, is, of course, a living threat to the rule of her cousin Elisabeth, whose Protestant reign is uncertain. We've been here before, of course, in various books and films. But Philippa Gregory's story this time has a different emphasis: Elisabeth's chief advisor, Cecil, formulates a plan in which the destabilising Mary will live under guard with his faithful friend, Bess of Hardwick. Bess is a remarkable woman herself; someone who has forged her own destiny, and is now in her fourth marriage, to the distinguished Earl of Shrewsbury. But soon Bess and Mary find themselves plunged into very different personal crises with Bess's marriage under considerable strain. *The Other Queen* is wonderfully accomplished stuff, evoking a much-pored-over era with a totally fresh eye. --Barry Forshaw

Revue de presse "Mary's hell-bent assuredness combines deliciously with brisk chapters and rich historical detail. Indulge." -- People

"A mesmerizing novel that will keep readers turning pages deep into the night...as sweet and thorny as a wild English rose." -- BookPage

"Mary's hell-bent assuredness...combines deliciously with brisk chapters and rich historical detail. Indulge." -- People