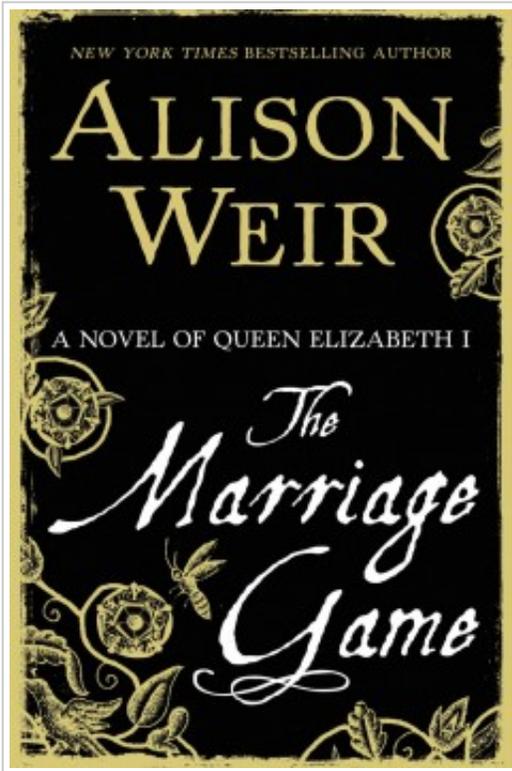


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The Marriage Game

by Alison Weir

Price: \$26.00(Hardcover)

Published: February 10, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: In this compelling novel of Tudor drama and suspense, acclaimed author Alison Weir brings to life one of England's most scandalous royal love affairs: the romance between the "Virgin Queen" Elizabeth I and her courtier Lord Robert Dudley. Only twenty-five and newly crowned, Elizabeth vows to rule the country as both queen and king. But her counselors continually press her to form an advantageous marriage and produce an heir. Though none of the suitors have yet worked their way to her throne, the dashing—though married—Lord Robert lays claim to Elizabeth's heart. Their flagrant flirting, their unescorted outings, and the appointment of Lord Robert to Master of Horse inspire whispers through the court, and even rumors that Elizabeth has secretly given birth to Lord Robert's child. Events take a dark turn when Robert's wife is found dead. Universal shock...

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What We Say

Popular historian and novelist Alison Weir delivers a new work of fiction, this one focused on the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I. She reinvigorates this legendary monarch by focusing like a laser on one signal aspect of her reign: the prospect of marriage. Elizabeth is seen over decades, publicly and privately toying with the idea of marriage. On a personal level, Weir imagines that Elizabeth lives in fear of the physical act for various reasons, including a childhood assault and not unreasonable fears of the dangers of pregnancy. On a public level, the varied reasons are even more elaborate. Elizabeth enjoys power and knows if she marries that her husband will reign over her, and that does not interest, thank you very much. But the favor of her hand would be a brilliant match and mayhap above all Elizabeth uses the prospect of winning her and gaining a country to keep allies and foes off balance and eager to curry her favor. Why launch a war when one might simply woo her? Weir chooses to avoid too much calculation. Elizabeth is seen as even tricking herself in a way when it comes to marriage and what she wants. This keeps France and Spain and her devoted councillors thoroughly off balance. Above all we have her one true love, Lord Robert Dudley, who would have her and does...at least her heart. He is kept awaiting for decades, falling in and out of favor as he falls in and out of her bed, where they enjoy the pleasures of the flesh but not the final consummation. The novel does lag a bit in the middle as Elizabeth toys again and again in a repetitive style with one suitor after another. But if it frustrates the reader, imagine how it must have frustrated the world. Always smart, always interesting, Elizabeth is to say the least enjoyably human. And even casual fans of history will know the dramatic finale that blows her way when the Spanish Armada threatens the nation she has proudly kept at peace for decades thanks to Elizabeth's wily dance. The marriage game almost wears out its welcome -- as does "The Marriage Game" -- but when you see how completely she has won at the end in terms of history, it would be churlish to deny her success. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

Praise for Alison Weir

A Dangerous Inheritance

"A juicy mix of romance, drama and Tudor history . . . pure bliss for today's royal watchers."—**Ladies' Home Journal**

"Highly compelling [with] plenty to keep readers enthralled."—**Historical Novel Review**

Captive Queen

"Should be savored . . . Weir wastes no time captivating her audience."—**Seattle Post-Intelligencer**

"Stunning . . . As always, Weir renders the bona fide plot twists of her heroine's life with all the mastery of a thriller author, marrying historical fact with licentious fiction."—**The Denver Post**

The Lady Elizabeth

"Intrigue and maneuverings. Scandal. Schemers and innocents put to death. [This] history of Tudor England is an engrossing story. . . . Weir marries conjecture with what is known about the life of Elizabeth I from childhood to coronation, and it makes for ripping good reading."—**Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**