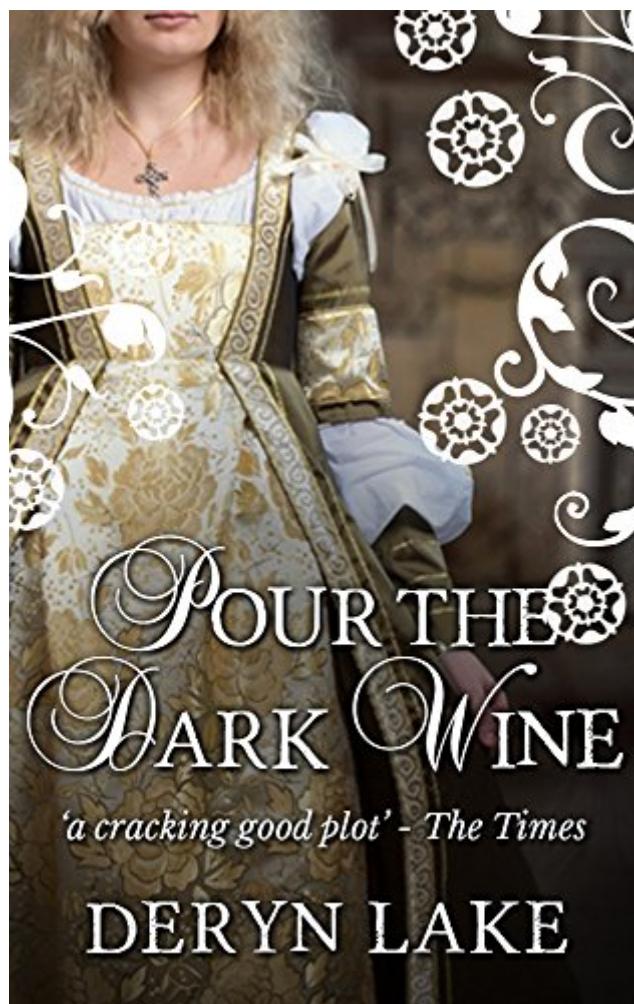


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Pour The Dark Wine



Synopsis

Sixteenth-century Tudor England. A time of intrigue and chaos, with a country ruled by a cruel and determined monarch. In Henry VIII's court a rise to favour can easily be followed by a fatal fall from grace. Four Seymour children of Wolff Hall stand upon Merlin's Mound, said to be able to grant wishes, and make ambitious claims for their futures. Edward, the eldest, wishes to own all the land he surveys. Thomas, rakish and carefree, wishes to marry the highest woman in the land. Elizabeth, their half-gypsy cousin, cunningly wishes for the wisdom of Merlin. And lastly Jane, their plain but romantic sister, wishes that she will one day marry a king. The four Seymour lives will be inextricably bound with the reign of the ruthless King Henry VIII and his sometimes equally perilous passions and hatreds. Each of them will find their childish wish granted – but at what price? All will be at the mercy of the King's bloody reign and victims of their own ambitions as they strive to further the Seymour cause and believe that happiness can be found in power. *Pour the Dark Wine* is a thrilling and superbly written historical novel charting the perilous climb of the Seymours in Henry VIII's court. A cracking good plot – *The Times* Deryn Lake started to write stories at the age of five then graduated to novels but destroyed all her early work because, she says, it was hopeless. A chance meeting with one of the Getty family took her to Sutton Place and her first serious novel was born. Deryn was married to a journalist and writer, the late L. F. Lampitt, has two grown-up children and lives in Mayfield, Sussex, with two large cats. She is also the author of *Sutton Place*, *To Sleep No More*, *The King's Women* and *As Shadows Haunting*. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this version of events in the life of Henry VIII. The story was told from the viewpoint of the Seymour family, beginning primarily with Jane and then moving on to the rest of the family after her death. The story was tied together by the character of an illegitimate cousin who is half gypsy and can foretell the future. In the past I have avoided stories about Jane as I always found her to be boring and washed out when compared to the personalities of Henry's other wives. In this book, however, she is portrayed as a surprisingly passionate woman who knows she is plain but develops other qualities to make herself more interesting. I liked her quite a bit! Having read most of the historical fiction out there about the Tudors, it was refreshing to read this version of events.

New perspective on my buddy Henry VIII. It is especially fun to read books where the focus is on someone other than Anne Boleyn. This characterization of Jane Seymour and particularly the author's take on The Lord Protector, Edward Seymour are very different than the other portrayals I've read. I'm continuously mesmerized by Tudor England. Good Read.

The author must love gardens, flowers, the moon and nature because at least half of this book is filler and descriptions of nature and weather abound on nearly every page. If the author isn't describing nature then she's describing people's eyes as cornflowers and things like that. It made the book much, much longer than it needed to be. Also it was kind of jarring that with no warning the author will skip months or years from one paragraph to the next. If you can ignore all that, it's a pretty decent book. I liked the creativity of adding magic to the story and the addition of the interesting characters of cloverella and dr. Zachary. I liked that the author gave Jane Seymour some interesting characteristics, because most usually don't. I didn't really like the deformity given to Elizabeth and I think that if she had no womanly parts it would have been noticed when she was born or at an early age. I probably would not recommend this to someone who knows nothing about Tudor history, just because if the confusion of the timeline issues and all of the nature descriptions but it's worth a read if you know your history and are looking for something a little different and

creative.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who thinks they have already read all the good Tudor historical fiction. Very interesting and believable character insights on Jane Seymour and her son Edward the VI. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

I love this book. I'm very much into Henry VIII and his wives and this book covers all of them. People die, of course, but there is no graphic detail which for me is wonderful. I usually skip over all that - I love the era but hate the torture. This is more a story of the people and their relationships and makes everyone much more human than some books do. Of course its an Historical Novel and as such much of it comes directly from the author's mind - but that's OK. There are plenty of straight history books out there which tend to be dry and boring. Not this book. I have been reading a little bit each night trying to make it last as long as possible.

While historically inaccurate at times, the story line is fantastic. I will say that this novel makes me hate the Tudor line for sure & cast another interesting view point of what happened between Queen Elizabeth & Thomas Seymour. Also another rare look at what Jane Seymour may have thought about King Henry.

One review thought this book was flowery, I would invite that person to read Clan of the Cavebears, that book is flowery. This book is very well written, just enough description of surroundings etc. and the story moves right along, no time to get bored. I read thousands of books and this is one of the best I have read about king Henry and his wives.

A very different view of the tudor queens and the court, I find that it had some very controversial views that go against generally except facts about this period even in fictional history novels. That being said, it was a new and fresh approach towards the tudors and the known history of this dynasty which I really enjoyed a great deal, since I have read lots and lots of version of history both fictional and non fictional, something kind and controversial is really a treat for me.

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