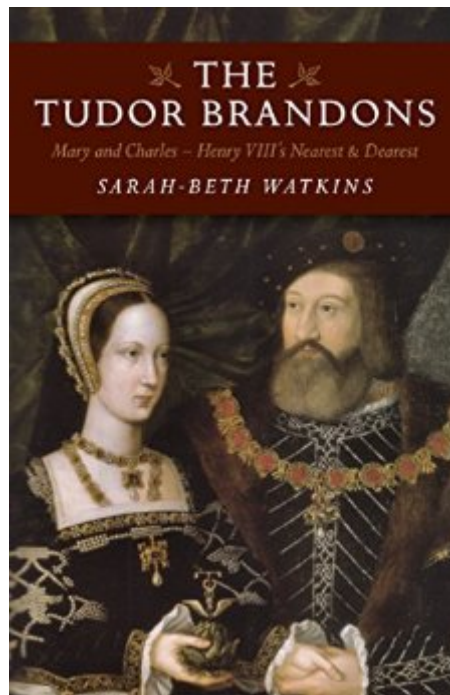


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The Tudor Brandons: Mary And Charles - Henry VIII's Nearest & Dearest



Synopsis

This fascinating book studies the life and times of Mary Tudor and Charles Brandon, Henry VIII's dearest sister and his closest companion. Charles rose from being Henry's childhood friend to becoming the Duke of Suffolk; a consummate courtier and diplomat. Mary was always royalty. At first married to the King of France, Mary quickly wed Charles after Louis XII's death in 1515, against her brother's wishes. Their actions could have been construed as treason yet Henry chose to spare their lives. They returned to court and despite their ongoing disagreements throughout the years, especially over the king's marriage to Anne Boleyn, the Tudor Brandons remained Henry's most loyal subjects and perhaps more importantly, his beloved family.

Book Information

File Size: 4145 KB

Print Length: 209 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1785353322

Publisher: Chronos Books (June 24, 2016)

Publication Date: June 24, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01G2M4MZI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #22,462 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > England #54 inÂ Books > History > Europe > Great Britain #385 inÂ Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

Besides the reading I did in school and university this is the first real non-fiction book I've set myself down to read. It not that I don't like non-fiction but I love the possibilities with fiction | I needn't have worried though. This book is crammed full of detail but told in such a way that it felt like a story playing out rather than just fact and fact. We've all heard of Henry VIII I would hope but this is my first encounter Charles Brandon a very close friend of the King and I it enlightening to

learn more about this period than was covered while I studied it at school many years ago. Although Charles was not the nicest to woman I felt he must have been a very powerful and likeable man as he managed time and time again to keep on the good side of a king we all very much know wasn't afraid to get rid of anyone in his way. We see Charles rise up through the ranks which seems to have caused quite a stir at the time, especially when he marries the King's sister. I'm not going to lie.. I'm not an English expert so I did find it hard to follow some of the text written in Older English but it didn't take anything away from the tale.. it left me curious if anything so had me looking up little things here and there. The only thing I would have liked elaborated on a bit further was the value of money at the time. We are told how much certain people were paid but since I've no knowledge of the currency system back then I've no idea the significance if any | that was the only note I scribbled down while reading. If I had to pick a word to best describe this book it would have to be fascinating.. There's so much history out there that isn't taught at school.. you need to go out and look for it..

The Tudor Brandons is a fascinating look into the life and times of Mary Tudor, the sister of Henry VIII and Charles Brandon his life long friend and companion, who married Mary Tudor in 1515. Mary had agreed to marry Louis, King France in 1514 on the condition that her brother Henry would allow her to marry according to her own choice if the older King died. Her marriage to the king lasted 82 days. After his death, perhaps in an attempt to ensure her safety and return to England, before becoming a pawn of the new French King, Mary persuaded Charles Brandon to marry her, even though Henry had not given them consent to marry. Although, many were not pleased with this decision, the marriage doesn't seem to have damaged the couple, politically, or socially in the long term. The book charts both the rise of Charles and the complex life of Mary as both a political pawn, and as a woman who tried to do her duty by her brother the king. She was also a woman who tried hard to have some control over her circumstances and build a life of her own choosing. I particularly like that this book paints a well balanced picture of both figures. It examines their ups and downs, financial struggles, family hardships and the role they played within Henry's court, as well as their actions and interactions with leading figures of the time. It was also interesting to read about their descendants and the roles they played after the death of Mary and Charles. This work seems to show that Charles, while not always fair to the women in his life, was a man who managed to climb the social ladder, acquiring the title of Duke of Suffolk, along the way. Throughout his life he remained favored by the King, which surely was no small feat. It also shows just how precarious the situation of women could be.

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