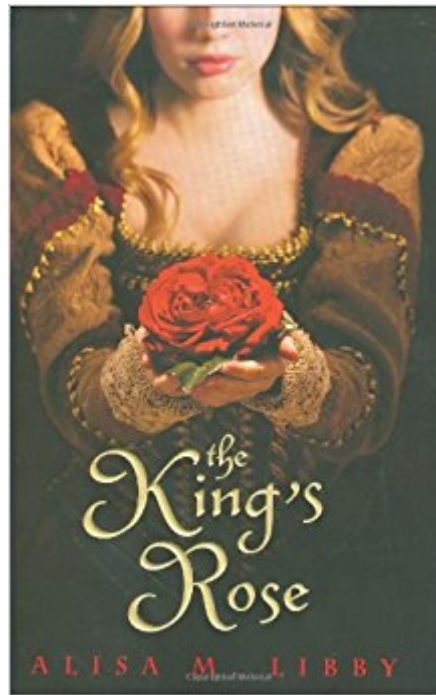


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The King's Rose



Synopsis

Life in the court of King Henry VIII is a complex game. When fifteen-year-old Catherine Howard catches the king's eye, she quickly transforms from pawn to queen. But even luxury beyond imagination loses its luster as young Catherine finds her life—and her heart—threatened by the needs of an aging king and a family hungry for power. Will their agendas deliver Catherine to the same fate as her infamous cousin, Anne Boleyn—sacrificed at the altar of family ambition? Engaging historical fiction with a throbbing YA heartbeat, this thrilling novel will draw readers into the intrigues and dangers of the Tudor court.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (21 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

From the slender threads of what is known about the historical Catherine Howard, Alisa M. Libby weaves a complex and beautiful tapestry of the life of an ordinary girl at the court of Henry VIII. In Catherine, Libby paints the portrait of a teenage girl whose family did not offer her enough guidance, leaving her to stumble into romantic and sexual entanglements at a young age. Once Catherine arrives at the court and attracts the king's eye, however, the powerful Howard family pushes Catherine's indiscretions into the background, making her appear a paragon of virtue. She marries Henry and quickly acquires a taste for luxury. Catherine tries to be a good and dutiful wife and queen, but Henry's age and ill health cannot satisfy her desire for true love. The king's appropriation of Catherine cut short a budding romance between her and her cousin Thomas Culpeper. Culpeper is one of the king's servants, and he and Catherine find themselves constantly thrown together,

making it difficult for them to hide their feelings for each other. Meanwhile, childhood friends and an old flame appear at court, creating a licentious atmosphere and threatening Catherine's position and reputation. The only way Catherine and her family can hold onto power is for her to bear a child, but the king appears increasingly impotent. To produce the son Henry cannot provide, the Howard family and Catherine turn to Thomas Culpeper. Other powerful courtiers look to gain from the Howard family's fall, however, and someone reveals the truth to Henry. Depressed and enraged, the king banishes Catherine, who ends up in the Tower of London awaiting her death. In *The King's Rose*, Alisa Libby does more than bring the glamorous but sordid Tudor court to life.

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