



The Virgin's Daughter

Laura Andersen

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What if Elizabeth the First, the celebrated Virgin Queen, had a daughter? For those who just can't get enough of the scandalous Tudors, the author of the wildly popular Boleyn King series offers an enthralling new saga of the royal family, set in Elizabethan England. Perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory and Alison Weir.

Andersen explores the thrilling possibility of a Tudor heir, the daughter of Elizabeth I, in her new trilogy, a captivating continuation of the alternate history of the Tudors launched in the award-winning Boleyn King trilogy. With her originality and imagination, Andersen breathes fresh life into this ever-fascinating epoch. Peppered with realistic period-details and genuine historical figures to add dimension and texture to her captivating story, Andersen brings the seduction and glamour of the Tudor court to life in this spellbinding new novel.

The Virgin's Daughter Details

Date : Published May 19th 2015 by Ballantine Books

ISBN :

Author : Laura Andersen

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction, Alternate History, English History, Tudor Period, European Literature, British Literature, Young Adult

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From Reader Review The Virgin's Daughter for online ebook

Angie says

Review to come!

Kristin says

I was pulled in by the synopsis but unfortunately this didn't work for me. I thought this was the first in a series but didn't quite realize that it's actually a spin-off/continuation from a previous trilogy. Because of that, there's little to no world building or character development and I found myself not really connecting to the characters or really understanding what was going on and why. Maybe if I go back and read the original trilogy I will have a better time with this book but as a stand-alone it doesn't really work. I wish I had known that before I got the first two book in the trilogy.

TL says

I love alternate history/universe type stories in fanfiction and in novels... that 'what if *insert person or event* happened differently' is very intriguing. So many different outcomes if one decision had been made differently... bittersweet in a way.

Sometimes makes me wish I had a time machine so I could go back and help/warn those involved (who knows if that would have done any good).

I was always intrigued by Elizabeth (the fact that she's a distant ancestor of mine of is a plus) but for some reason never read much about her... as you get older, you get more curious about your roots I suppose.

So when I came across Nenia's review of the book, I was really excited... the possibilities of what would happen if Elizabeth had a daughter. I was counting the days till it would come in the mail.

It ended up a mixed bag for me... parts of it I loved while others went back and forth for me.

The writing was brilliant, putting you right into the time period and court life of Elizabeth, Anabel, Lucette, and the others. It seamlessly goes back and forth between the different players, keeping you on your toes and wondering with a certain two whose side they were really on.

Threads are untangled slowly to the plot hatched by Elizabeth's rivals, quite clever in parts really.

Anabel was great, but I found myself wishing more of the narrative had been devoted to her... Lucette/Julien/Nicolas plot was well done but it got tiring in spots for me and I found myself skimming or speed reading through some.

Loved Dominic and Felix was so adorable :)

LOVE how Elizabeth was written, would have loved to meet her (but not be involved in her court haha), the burdens of being Queen with all that was going on back then... I don't know if I could have borne as well as she did.

The ending was a nice set up for another novel but I'm not intrigued enough to read the rest... lovely journey but I won't be taking another trip to it.

Would still recommend, it's a great effort but it just didn't click with me fully.

Lisa says

4.5 stars!

"...who ever said that being friends with royalty was fair?"

It's no secret that I am a huge fan of the alternate history Laura Andersen began in her Boleyn Trilogy, so I was incredibly excited to learn she was releasing a new series of books set in that same world and focusing on the next generation of characters. While this book is listed as Book #1 of this new series, it very much builds on the story of the first trilogy. While you could read it as a standalone, I would not recommend it. Your enjoyment and appreciation will be so much greater if you are aware of and love the previous books - I am and I do, so I can say without hesitation that I absolutely adored this book as well.

I found all aspects of this novel to be extremely well done. Andersen once again weaves her altered events in amongst historical fact with great skill and believability. As always, I found it fascinating to discover what changed and what didn't in her version of events, and how even altered timelines might lead to identical outcomes. The plot is multi-faceted and very cleverly done. The romance is handled well and complements rather than dominates the story. This author has a lovely writing style and a great sense of pace that makes the reading fun and effortless. Her prose immerses you in this world perfectly, and I could happily spend a great deal of time there.

My only minor complaint would be that the reader is never really shown 'why' the bad guy came to be bad. I can't fully explain without venturing into spoiler territory, but perhaps others who have read this book will understand what I mean. Don't get me wrong, he totally works as the villain and we know the motivations for his present actions. We simply don't get a clear explanation or trigger for what started him on the path to badness. That was the only real issue I had, and it was in no way troubling enough to spoil my enjoyment of this book. To put it plainly, I loved this book and savored every minute spent with it. It was over much too soon for me, and I am already anticipating the next installment, with fingers crossed that it includes an extra large helping of Dominic...because, even though he's no longer a true lead character in these new books, we could all use a little more Dominic Courtenay in our lives.

"What we think and feel, for good or bad, is all we can honestly offer another human being."

Full review on my blog: <http://greatreadsandtealeaves.blogspot.com>

Melody says

This alternate history picks up years after Anderson's other trilogy left off. This go-around we are introduced to the children of Minuette and Dominic. But neither Minuette or Dominic are able to completely escape their past. Their oldest daughter Lucette particularly must battle the demons of her parents as she attempts to understand the truth of her parentage. Lucette ends up traveling to France to visit Renard LaClerc, an old friend of her parents. She also has an assignment from her queen to get to the bottom of a plot that threatens her life.

It's fascinating to see how Anderson pulls the threads of the history we know. Two of the biggest political markers of Elizabeth's reign come into play. Spain is still there, this time securing a divorce from Elizabeth. After all, many of Elizabeth's strongest revulsions to marriage do not exist in this world where Anne Boleyn produced a male heir. Mary Queen of Scots is still around causing trouble. Anderson even gives motivation for some smaller things. For instance, xenophobia began to run rampant in Elizabeth's England, and this is explained through the uncertain politics particularly between England and Spain. The political plot in this novel is in no way finished at the end.

While the politics are fascinating, as with Anderson's previous novels, it is the relationships that really intrigue. And we're introduced to a fascinating new cast of characters with Lucette, Pippa, Kit, and their older brother Steven, as well as Elizabeth's daughter Anne. This novel was very much balanced in Lucette's favor. I very much enjoyed Lucette and here adventures, but I hope further novels give us more from the other children.

Dominic, Minuette, and Elizabeth are still present in this novel, even if their children have taken the main stage. I was slightly disappointed that I didn't get to see more of Minuette's vivacity that I had missed. Elizabeth here is similar to many of the Queen Elizabeths we see in fiction of this part of her reign. I found I missed the young woman Elizabeth.

Overall, if you have read through tons of Tudor fiction and feel somewhat exhausted by rehashing of events, Anderson is a wonderful way to keep it fresh. It's fun to see where and how the history diverges. And the characters are fun.

Jess says

Anderson is the queen of alternate historical fiction. End of.

Note: Can be read as a standalone. But why would you when the Boleyn Trilogy is so intricately woven and beautifully painful?

Let it be known that *The Virgin's Daughter* butchered my heart. Anderson has complete sway over her words, and in wondrously in tune with her characters, so much as to elevate them into a position that mirrors reality. Alternate historical fiction is a difficult genre to write. It's why you may not of heard of many. Because, well, it's hard to be a winner in this genre. But damn it all, for Anderson brings the genre to life with her interpretation of the Tudor Era. Basically, imagine Elizabeth Tudor was originally just the spare to the heir. Imagine the havoc of such a beautiful familial relationship—the pain, the love, the inevitable

demise. Imagine Elizabeth, in the aftermath, head of state, just no longer a virgin. With a kid under her wing, we are privy to yet another era of monarchs and future heirs and spares and everything in between. It's a Tudor reimagining with a delightful cast of characters.

The thing with Anderson's books that I adore is the characterisation of her female characters. They are the epitome of strong women in their context. You see, it's hard to ever find a woman leading in a context where the patriarchy head such dominant power. And yet, here we have characters who defy the mould. We have a Queen. We have woman who pull the strings behind the scenes—discreet and manipulative. Each woman is cunning. And you have to be in a society where it's alpha dogs left and right.

For those new to Anderson, it can be said that the POVs are rather confusing as they interchange throughout. But they do so fluidly. Each is integral to the overall picture and all story lines intersect with ease at the point of climax.

There's mystique, deception and political intrigue—everything I love in my historical setting. There's defiance of society's predetermined roles. There's a romance that will stab in you in the heart and drag you in the dirt with its passion, tension and bloody glorious banter. You heard it, it's all the good stuff. Grab yourselves a copy of *The Virgin Queen*, ASAP.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: HANDS DOWN, ANDERSON SHOULD BE YOUR GO-TO ALT/HISTORICAL TUDOR ERA AUTHOR. REVIEW TO COME.

Seriously though, alternate historical fiction does not get better than this. Anderson writes characters with conviction and absolutely ingenious woman (especially for the era. You'll love it.) There's a hella lot of passion. And pain. Lots of pain.

Sheena says

I love Tudor era historical fiction. It is such a seductive and captivating age that I lose myself in all the danger, plotting, beheading and scandalous liaisons. Andersen's *Virgin Daughter* is an unexpected departure from typical Tudor romance story telling. Her take on the genre is an "alternative" historical. Almost like a giant "Elizabethan England fan fiction" story. I was intrigued and what I experienced was quite off the rails from what I have come to expect.

The first lesson is, alternative means alternative. Hundreds of fictional novels have been written on the life and times of King Henry VII and his penchant for maidens and uxoricide and all of the precariousness of his court, and we know the tale quite well. Tinkering with the historical facts and playing fast and loose with the framework can be dicey and a definite gamble. Andersen was ambitious, however, *The Virgin's Daughter* did not quite get there for me.

Because copious amounts of literary licence was taken in the rebooting of Queen Elizabeth's story, not to

mention as the 4th book in the series, there was an unpleasant amount of loose world building that took place, which distracted me from really losing myself in the story. I do not recommend this novel as a stand alone. Becoming engaged in the story required some heavy lifting. I found myself a little bored after a few chapters, but stuck it out to the end to see what, if anything could be salvaged of the plot. The story is not inviting and felt more like a history book. While I enjoy history, I have not had an inkling to read a history book in more than fifteen years. The structure of the novel was a big hurdle as one of the best features of historical fiction is the dialogue and there was far to many passages of summary and far too little action happening in real-time on the pages.

I do not feel as if I were able to get to know the characters and I do not care to continue the series or pick up the first four novels in the series. Though the resolution is not a great mystery, there is a twist that I will not spoil for those who may find this novel interesting enough to delve into. I can say, however, that the main historical occurrences are present. Queen Elizabeth does feel the danger and tensions surrounding her relationship and alliance with Spain and Mary Queen of Scots is very much her adversary. The story of Anabel, the daughter to Elizabeth and Philip of Spain, is at the forefront, yet, her life paled in comparison to the more interesting subplots regarding Queen Elizabeth's tenuous hold on the throne. Just when I would be settled in and think, okay, it is getting interesting again, the focus would shift and I would be right back at not being able to care less what ultimately befell this fictional revisionist daughter. One positive note I can share is that there are some beautiful letters between the characters that often times saved a sinking chapter. The information in the letters actually moved the plot along further than any of the rambling passages ever did.

By the time the action began, it ended with my favorite scene being the prisoner barter where Mary's freedom is on the line.

“I won’t offer again,” Nicholas promised.

“You said Mary’s freedom for the girls.”

“I promised a princess for a queen. You have her.”

“And my sister?”

“Ah, a sister requires the offer of a brother.”

Kit glared. “Good thing I’m standing right here.”

“Not her brother, boy. Mine...”

Finally! Though, I would have had Mary taken care of her long before (hey, its Tudor fan-fiction-revisionist history, there are no real implications on the monarchy and church anyway right!?). Besides, invested fans of the series, I am not sure what audience would really enjoy this novel. Very slow paced, the action was much ado about nothing quite frankly and the heat factor ranks at barely a sizzle. This is absolutely my last foray into alternative history Tudor fiction.

Rachel Levy says

This is the first book in the second trilogy based on the Tudor family. Again, as with the first it is based on a "what if" that is intriguing. The children from the first trilogy are now adults and lead this second trilogy's plot. Queen Elizabeth married, had a daughter, divorced, Mary of Scots was released. So many "what if" plots that made this book exciting.

If you love Tudor history this is a author to read. This is my fourth book now and I plan to start the fourth very soon. Laura Anderson makes the alternative narrative quite believable, making the reader wishing it were true. This is the fourth book I have read of hers and will be starting the fifth soon.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Is there anything Laura Andersen could write that I wouldn't love? **Nope. None.** It seems like there are Historical Fiction books and there are Laura Andersen's books. What I'm getting at is, Andersen can pretty much send her grocery list to me and I would probably end up rating it five stars.

The Virgin's Daughter is the first book in a three book series and the spin off of The Boleyn Trilogy. In my opinion you do not have to read the former books to understand The Virgin's Daughter, but you might as well do it, since the preceding series is equitably stellar.

The first installment in Tudor Legacy explores the *what if*, Elizabeth the First had a daughter. In this alternate story she did have one.

Most of the prominent characters from The Boleyn Trilogy return as supporting cast, while there's a fairly great new addition faces to the mix. The Virgin's Daughter accommodated handful of intertwining plots and narration, to my relief they are hardly confusing. The transition and shifting point of views was smooth. There is a separate distinction for every character. As expected from Andersen, she writes the romance and mystery aspect of the novel just as well. The thrilling suspense is palpable.

I was a little bit worried the climax would be anticlimactic, but the book ended where I thought it would be. **With a painful cliffhanger.** I am already eyeing my favorite pairing so far. Please prepare yourself to swoon.

To sum it up, Andersen's work is the pinnacle of Historical Fiction that every book should thrive to be.

Review also posted at Young Adult Hollywood.

Ani says

Read my review on my book review blog!

Erin says

Gretchen says

I received an ARC from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

2.5 stars (Maybe that means, I should give a three star rating instead of a two but I just can't bring myself to give the novel a full three stars. It's really a 2.5 closer to 2 than it is to 3. Clearly math wasn't my strongest subject, right?)

If you haven't read the previous three Tudor Legacy novels (previous titled The Boleyn Trilogy), you will want to do that before reading this book. One could probably figure things out well enough without reading the previous three novels but the previous three help put some of the current characters into better context.

I found myself a little excited for this novel. I enjoyed The Boleyn King and felt it was an excellent start to what was going to be an exciting series. By the end of The Boleyn Reckoning, I was sadly disappointed. I looked forward to a new start for Elizabeth after the events of books 1-3. Let's just say I am not really looking forward to book five.

Marketing these books as alternate history is a little misleading, in my opinion. Sure there are characters and events that have no historical record but you can say that about any work of historical fiction. That's why it's called fiction. Elizabeth never married Philip of Spain and they never had a daughter. Elizabeth did capture and imprison Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary, Queen of Scots spent most of her days in England plotting ways to get out and take Elizabeth's throne. France and Spain took issue with England's religious choices. Mary, Queen of Scots and religion are still at the center of Andersen's alternate Tudor reality but we have the addition of Anabel, daughter of Elizabeth and Philip. Based on how Andersen concluded the previous novels, I have already formed some ideas as to how I think things are going to end for many of the main characters. If I ever decide to continue with this series, it would only be to see if I'm right.

All of that is sort of going on in the background. The bigger story is Lucette. Lucette is the daughter of Minuette, the protagonist from the previous three novels. If you have read the previous novels, you know Lucette's story. Lucette finds herself in the middle of some sorted love triangle (much like her mother's) and comes to the realization it's not going to end well for somebody (again, similar thing happens to her mother). It gets old, fast.

I give Andersen credit for her ability to amp up the drama. There are scenes in the novel where you can just feel the tension oozing out of the pages. I enjoy those scenes but again, I've heard this story before. I want something different. If you are giving me an alternate history, give me an alternate history. If you are going to tell me a new story, tell me a new story. Don't just give people new names and call it new. Not even the big reveal at the end of the novel surprised me. I saw that coming from page one.

Erin Arkin says

It's official, Laura Andersen is on my auto-buy list and I want everyone to read her books. I almost hesitated

in requesting The Virgin's Daughter only because I had assumed The Boleyn Trilogy had been completed. And it had...this story continues years after Dom and Minuette's story wrapped up in The Boleyn Reckoning. If you haven't read that series and you plan to, you may want to hold off on reading the rest of my review as I don't want to give anything of that story away. Don't get me wrong – this is truly a companion but if you do plan to read the other series you may want to start there since this is so far in the future.

The Virgin's Daughter centers around Elizabeth's daughter Princess Anabel and her friend, Lucette Courtenay. Yes, Courtenay – of the Dom and Minuette Courtenay's. We also get to meet the other children of Dom and Minuette and I loved seeing the characters of the past make an appearance alongside their children.

Anabel is the daughter of Elizabeth and Phillip of Spain. She is opinionated and definitely Royal. She is also comfortable with the politics of court and figuring out the balance between what will make her happy and what will make her mother happy. As Elizabeth finds out about the Nightingale Plot – the plot to free Mary and make her Queen – she enlists the help of Lucette to infiltrate the house of the LeClercs as she is provided evidence that one of the sons is helping the cause.

When Lucette finds herself in France, she is faced with Julien and Nicolas and begins to try to find out who is guilty of plotting against her Queen. What she didn't plan for was falling in love and as she figures out who is guilty and who she loves, Lucette ends up playing a very large role in how things move forward for both Queen Elizabeth and Mary. You will notice, I haven't told you who is who between the brothers. You only really have to know that there are definitely some swoony parts and the back and forth mystery of who was really the guilty party was something that had me unable to put this book down.

That's about all I can say without ruining any bits of the story. Just know that the minute I finished this I was scouring goodreads to find out when the next book comes out because it was that good! The end of this one definitely leaves you wondering what will happen next for everyone involved. Now...go out there and get reading. I want everyone to love these characters that Andersen writes as much as I do. If you have an interest in alternative history or historical books at all, definitely check this out when you can.

Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for the review copy!

Caz says

I've given this an A- at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars, rounded up.

I have always enjoyed reading historical fiction, but I tend to stick to books about "actual" history - so when Laura Andersen's The Boleyn King came out a few years ago, with a storyline based on the premise – "what if Anne Boleyn had given Henry VIII a son?" I was sceptical, and didn't pick it up immediately. Eventually, however, curiosity won out, and I'm glad it did, because if it hadn't, I'd have missed out on what have been some of my favourite books of the past few years. I reviewed the final book in the *Boleyn Trilogy* - The Boleyn Reckoning last year, knowing that Ms Andersen's next venture would be a series of books featuring the daughter of Elizabeth I.

So yes, **The Virgin's Daughter** takes place in another alternate Tudor timeline, this time one in which Elizabeth actually married Philip of Spain and had a daughter by him. The book takes place some twenty

years after the events of *The Boleyn Reckoning*; Elizabeth's daughter, Anne Isabella, is eighteen years old and in full possession of the famed Tudor temper and her mother's – and grandmother's - cleverness and guile, and the queen and her Spanish husband have long been estranged and are about to divorce.

While it's not absolutely necessary to have read the **Boleyn Trilogy** in order to appreciate this story, I do think potential readers would benefit from having a knowledge of the events that took place in those books and a familiarity with the principal characters – especially Dominic and Menuette Courtenay, whose daughter Lucette is the principal protagonist in *The Virgin's Daughter*.

At the beginning of the book, Elizabeth summons Lucette and asks her to undertake a particularly difficult and delicate mission, which will require her to travel to the French estate of the LeClerc family. The LeClercs and the Courtenays are very close; Renaud LeClerc is one of Dominic's closest friends and it was he who provided shelter to Menuette when she fled the late king's wrath, and it is at his family home of Blanclair that Lucette was born.

Elizabeth's wily spymaster, Francis Walsingham, has reason to suspect that one of the LeClerc men – Renaud or one of his sons, Nicholas and Julien – is the brains behind the Nightingale plot, which aims to free Mary Queen of Scots from English custody. Elizabeth wants Lucette to visit the family on the pretext of being interested in marrying either of the LeClerc sons, and to try to find out who is behind the plot. Lucette is both wary and intrigued. She has known the LeClercs all her life so the idea that one or more of them could be working against Elizabeth is abhorrent to her – yet she is restless in England and is willing to go to France, even though she knows her mother and Dominic are likely to be less than enthusiastic.

Once there, she renews her acquaintance with Nicolas, with whom she'd been dreadfully infatuated as a child, and his younger brother Julien, whom she had always found rude and dismissive and had never liked. It's not long before she realises that both brothers are keeping secrets – but which one is the traitor and which one can she trust? Nicolas, now a widower with a young son, is as handsome and amiable as he ever was, but Julien, reputed to be a rake of the first order, clearly deeply troubled and who hasn't been home in eight years is the man to whom Lucette is inexorably drawn.

I'm not going to spoil the plot, which is enjoyably complex without being confusing, and will just say that I loved all the background detail, the intrigue and the skilful way in which Ms Andersen weaves her various plot strands together. I was particularly invested in the gradual revelation of the truth that lies behind the LeClerc brothers' tortuous, complicated relationship, and how it ultimately plunges both Lucette and the Princess Anne into a dangerous game of treachery and deception.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Virgin's Daughter*, which grabbed me from the first page and quickly became a book I couldn't put down. The amount of research that has gone into the story is evident, because the majority of the historical figures who appear in the story actually lived and many of the events described actually happened; and it's sometimes difficult to tell fact from fiction. It takes a great deal of knowledge and skill to "get it wrong" in such a way as to be completely believable and the author does just that in a very readable and captivating manner.

The main plotline is well executed, but I also very much enjoyed the Courtenay's familial relationships and found the complicated relationship between Elizabeth and her daughter to be very plausible; two very strong-willed, clever women, both knowing that they hold the fate of a kingdom in their hands are never going to be completely easy in one another's company.

The romance between Lucette and one of the LeClerc brothers plays a large part in the story, although it's

not the main focus. It does seem to spring into being almost fully-formed, but there is a depth of feeling from both characters that makes it work within the larger context of the story.

As this is an ongoing series, there are plotlines left to be wrapped up in the following books. This one ends with an almighty cliffhanger, which left me with a big smile on my face (at Ms Andersen's audacity!) and I'm eagerly awaiting the next in the series this autumn.

Tanja Glavnik says

I have to say, this one had me on the edge of my seat from the moment I started reading to the moment I put it down - reluctantly realizing there were no more pages to read. Of course, as the author herself notes, this trilogy, as well as the preceding one, are both works of FICTION, so obviously this never happened. But it is a VERY intriguing possibility of what MIGHT have happened - and the author does a wonderful job in bringing it all together. To be honest, I probably have to reread the last book of the Boleyn trilogy, since a lot of allusions made me scratch my head and try to remember, but it was a thrilling tale nonetheless. The new characters, children of the first quartet, make a sizzling entrance into this world of fiction, although the title is a bit misleading in the sense that the book isn't so much about Elizabeth's daughter as it is centered around her, and those people who have read the book or will read it will know the difference. The main story is set between Lucette Courtenay and Julien LeClerc, and honestly, there weren't enough scenes between them for my taste. I wanted more! Luckily, there is a semi-happy ending, but with Mary, Queen of Scots, on the loose in Europe, there could be disastrous consequences. I cannot wait to read the second book.

For a more extensive review, see here: <http://reviewsresort.blogspot.si/2015...>
