



The Prince Who Did Not Become King: Edward of Lancaster, 1453-1471

Susan Higginbotham

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Edward of Lancaster, son of Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou, spent many of his seventeen years as an exile before dying at the battle of Tewkesbury. This is a short nonfiction piece (about 8,000 words) about the life of the young man who died fighting for his family's right to rule England.

The Prince Who Did Not Become King: Edward of Lancaster, 1453-1471 Details

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Patty Hankins says

Great summary of the life of Edward of Lancaster - especially since so few details are known about his life.

Carolina Casas says

Albeit short, it is a well written biography about a character that is rarely written about or dedicated an entire book -unless it is in relation to other of the major and better known players of the wars of the roses.

There is little known about Edward of Westminster or Edward of Lancaster, however one wishes to refer to him. I prefer the former. He died in 1471, and even there it is not known as Susan Higginbotham points out, if he died in the presence of the sons of York, was given a trial or was executed by someone else. There are many variations of the same story, but even those are inconclusive.

Edward has recently gone into popular culture as nothing better than a psycho boy-Prince who relishes in seeing others suffer, yet the histories of him ordering two men to be beheaded, if they were true, it has to be seen within the context of the time. Henry VI was deposed by the sons of York who conveniently portrayed his wife and son as tyrants; yet if Margaret of Anjou and the Lancastrian faction wanted to regain the throne for her husband, they had to give her son an intensive military education, probably so he would become like his grandfather, Henry V, a military leader that could inspire loyalty.

Dispelling many of the popular myths regarding Margaret's alleged infidelities and her character, Susan brings a better outlook at this Prince's life through their parents' first years of marriage to the end of his life and afterwards when his life became, almost like his father, a site of pilgrimage.

Arleigh says

This critique of the short life of the son of England's King Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou covers the few known facts, mostly relayed through the political movements of his parents. The few documented fragments of his personality are biased, but discussed at length, as well as his unconsummated marriage to Warwick's daughter, Anne Neville (who later became Richard III's Queen).

With illegitimacy claims against him, Edward grew up uncertain of ever obtaining the throne of England, but there were other reasons for the Yorkist rise against his father, the anointed King Henry VI. Though he was the son of the great Henry V, this Henry suffered bouts of madness, probably inherited from his maternal grandfather, France's mad King Charles VI. Add to this the English's dislike of the foreign Queen, Margaret of Anjou, and the country was ready to rally behind the Duke of York's claim, stemming from another branch of Edward III's progeny.

This is an intelligently written piece from an author known for her humorous, though well-written novels on various historical figures of the medieval, Wars of the Roses and Tudor eras. There are plenty of sources cited and it is clearly not written based on the author's opinion. Her novel on these same characters, *The Queen of Last Hopes*, intimately details the Queen's life and all of her travails. *The Prince Who Did Not Become King* serves as a companion to the novel, or a stand-alone non-fiction critique.

Chris says

Nice little essay about Edward (son of Henry VI). Well footnoted. It is more like a study essay, but there is a great amount of detail packed into it. Enjoyable.

Sherry Sharpnack says

It was very short. I learned nothing new. The e-book was well-annotated w/ a large bibliography, however, which is why I gave it four stars.

Rio (Lynne) says

I came across this biography on Amazon (the only place that seems to carry it.) Little is known about Prince Edward, the only heir of King Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou. Susan Higginbotham brings what information she can find to us about his birth, exile, marriage to Anne Neville and his death. Was he illegitimate or not? How was he killed? I'm surprised a Prince's life had such little documented about it. Interesting, quick read.

Elizabeth says

Higginbotham provided a thorough and well researched analysis of the information available on the short life of Edward of Lancaster. While she was a bit scathing towards Murray Kendall (who does write like to elaborate speculatively but still retains the available facts) it was an interesting and well thought out assessment. Of particular interest to me was the various accounts of Edward's death, while Higginbotham examines these closely in attempts to seek the closest to the truth, it would have been interesting to see her examine why there might have been so many differing accounts.

I like how I was able to purchase this for just .99 cents on Amazon, unlike some of my more recent one clicks, I felt this was money not wasted.

Erin says

short tutorial

Geanine Teramani- cruz says

Great essay on Edward whose life we know very little of. Susan set out the facts and didn't make up stuff that's just not there. Reading through everything I could find Edward I realized that all there is to know is

right here.
