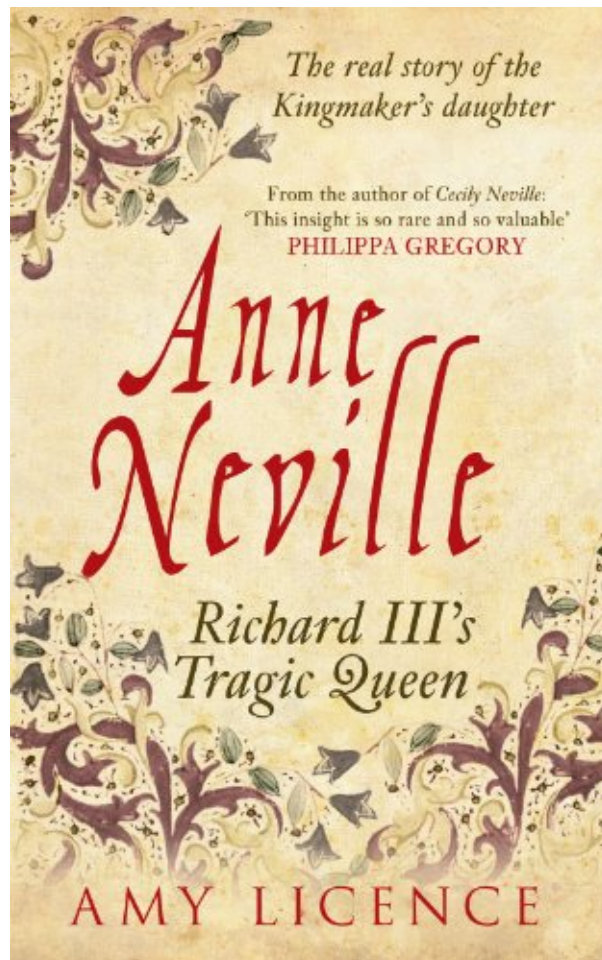
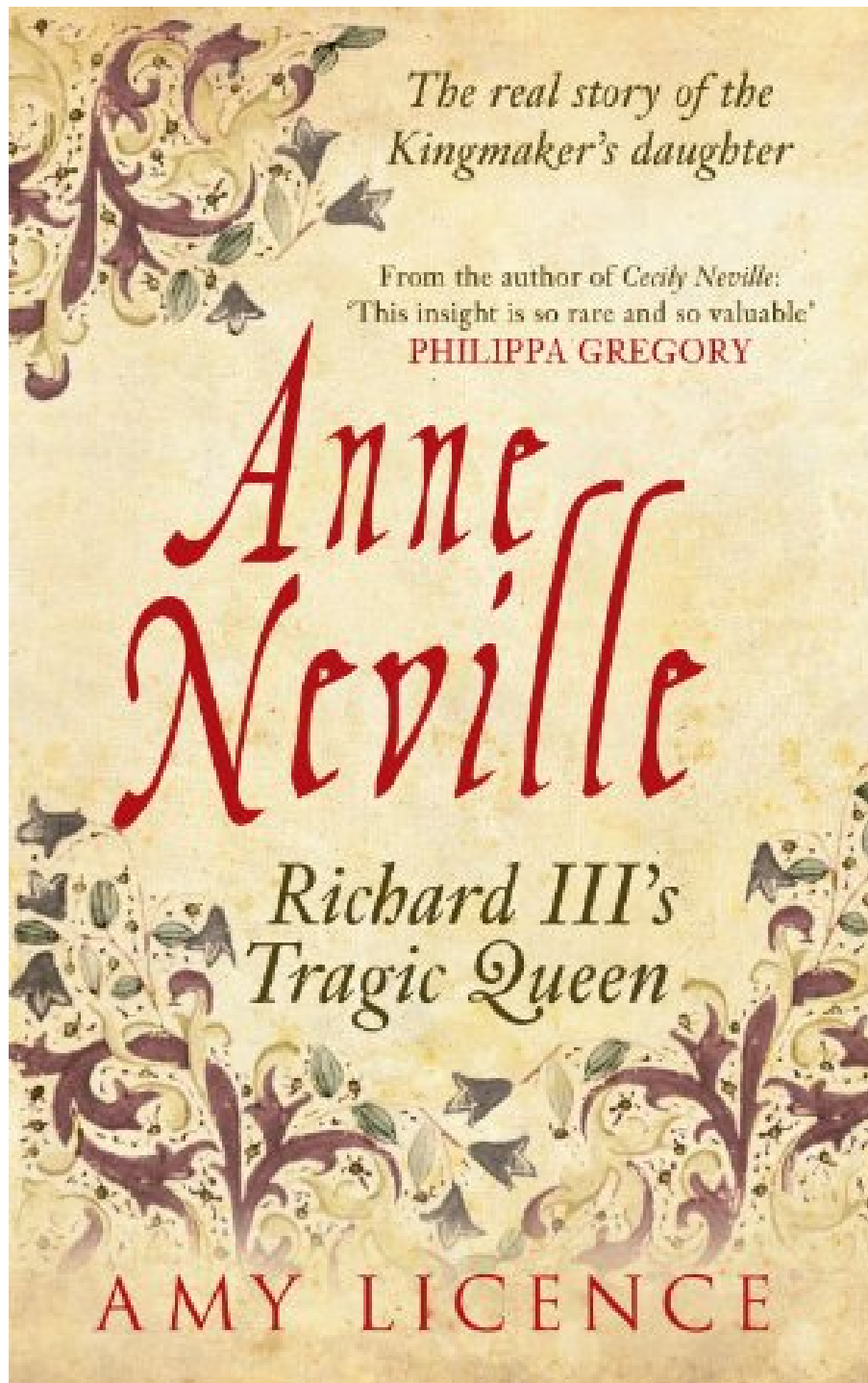


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From the author of Cecily Neville: 'This insight is so rare and so valuable' Philippa Gregory 'A fascinating story, well told' The Good Book Guide 'Amy Licence is a terrific writer' Susan Bordo, author of The Creation of Anne Boleyn

About the Author

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Shakespeare's enduring image of Richard III's queen is one of bitterness and sorrow. But who was the real Anne? As the Kingmaker's daughter, she played a key role in his schemes for the throne. In 1483 Anne found herself catapulted into the public eye and sitting on the throne beside Richard. The circumstances of their reign put unprecedented pressure on their marriage; amid rumors of affairs and divorce. This fascinating and elusive woman is shrouded in controversy and unanswered questions. Amy Licence reassesses the long-standing myths about Anne's role, her health and her marriages, to present a new view of the Kingmaker's daughter.

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Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Biography of a Tragic Medieval Queen: Anne Neville
By Deborah

This is an excellent biography. First, Amy Licence's style is extremely readable. Second, she clearly delineates what is fact and what is conjecture on her part or the part of other historians, and she clearly strives to be unbiased in her opinions, offering multiple viewpoints. A good example of this is found in her analysis of Anne and Richard's marriage:

"The thorny question remains. Did Richard love Anne? If so, why do the rumors suggest that he treated her cruelly in her last months of life? Setting aside the scurrilous stream of gossip that dogged Richard during and after his life, what happened between husband and wife during what must have been, for Anne, a

'winter of discontent'? If she loved him, the disintegration of their family unit and her health must have been the tragic cost of the crown she now wore. While fifteenth-century definitions of marriage render these responses anachronistic, a modern analysis of his behaviour of 1484-85 cannot avoid such a question. If Richard had loved her, at any point, was this overridden by political imperatives and the need to protect himself and the fragile dynasty from increasing attack? Had his affection been gradually eroded over the course of their years together? Had he married her purely for her inheritance? It would be wrong to assess Richard through a romantic filter when it comes to his marriage; kings did tire of wives they had once loved and seek to replace them with younger models in order to father sons. Elizabeth of York's own son, Henry VIII, provides enough evidence for this. There is no doubt that he was romantically in love with Catherine of Aragon as a young man, yet their failure to produce a living son undermined his emotion. The desire to qualify the Gloucesters' relationship as a love match is strong, but there is little evidence to support or disprove such a theory. It is also natural to seek positive interpretations, in the interests of balance, when rejecting the centuries of defamation that had done so much damage to assessments of Richard as a man and a king. It may have been Anne's tragedy that their previously harmonious marriage did not fit the requirements of a royal match. Richard may have loved her as a wife, but considered that she failed in her primary function as a queen. If any turning point can be identified, the loss of Edward must be it. If they had remained as duke and duchess, the boy's death would have had predominantly personal ramifications. As king and queen, it opened the kingdom to invasion and conflict. Sadly for them as individuals, the Gloucesters' marriage was undone by their lack of fecundity. If Anne was Richard's tragic queen, he was, no less, her tragic husband."

Additionally, Licence provides a wealth of information about life in medieval England. Finally, two other pluses are the large number of color photographs and the information in the Epilogue about the discovery of Richard's skeleton under the famous, or infamous, social services car park. The last three pages of photos are of the dig and Richard's skeleton. Anyone interested in late medieval England in general and Richard III and Anne Neville in particular would be interested in this biography. ANNE NEVILLE

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Not enough about Anne

By Suzanne Hawkins

While the book was informative and easy to read, there was not much information about Anne Neville. It would have been better titled as a book about Richard III with small passages about his wife and queen, Anne.

Also, the author's need to continually go back and quote scenes from Shakespeare's Richard III was quite annoying, having nothing to do with real history, and little to do with Anne. Her use of Earl Rivers and Lord Scales in the same paragraph for Anthony Wydeville, he was only Lord Scales at the time, could be confusing to someone not very familiar with the Wydeville family.

All in all, I cannot recommend this book to someone looking for a biography or even a history of Anne Neville. The author spends too much time and resources on Richard of York.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Very Happy!

By Tiffany Duggin

This is the second book I've read by this author, and again, she did not disappoint. It's a must-read for anybody with an interest in the War of the Roses. As somebody who has yet to visit the UK, it was nice having the beautiful photographs to help visualize the places mentioned in the book.

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