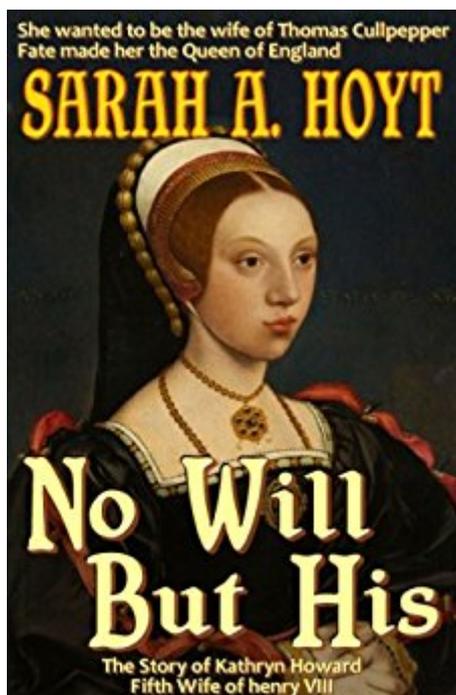


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No Will But His



Synopsis

Kathryn Howard belongs to a wealthy and powerful family, the same family that Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's great love originated from. From a young age, her ambitious relatives maneuver to make her queen. Brought up in a careless manner, ignorant of the ways of the court, Kathryn falls victim to her kind heart, all the while wishing she could be the wife of Thomas Culpepper.

Book Information

File Size: 1039 KB

Print Length: 353 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0425232514

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Goldport Press (September 2, 2013)

Publication Date: September 2, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00EYO3B8G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #340,994 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #141

inÂ Books > Romance > Historical > Tudor #12313 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Historical Romance #12411 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Customer Reviews

Sarah A. Hoyt's "No Will But His" is an excellent historical romance about Kathryn Howard, the fifth wife of King Henry VIII of England. Kathryn Howard has always been given short shrift by scholars because she was young, frivolous, and her letters showed abominable penmanship and little literary craftsmanship; seemingly, Kathryn Howard was the one woman King Henry VIII married without accomplishment. But as Ms. Hoyt's novel shows, Kathryn Howard was far from stupid or silly; she was young, vivacious, somewhat unlettered but bright and ambitious . . . and she attracted the King as a bee attracts honey because of her good qualities, not in spite of them. Kathryn Howard's life

has always been an enigma to modern readers, partly because of the motto she chose from the first -- "No One Will Than His," which was a shrewd move on her part as she was the second cousin of his doomed second wife, Anne Boleyn, and Kathryn knew as well as anyone that King Henry VIII's overweening pride must be catered to at all times. So she adopted a somewhat deceptive mask of docility, and played up her best qualities to attract, then keep her husband, the King, engaged and focused. She found it her patriotic duty; she felt it was important, and necessary, and needful, which is why she married the King despite having no love for him. (She did like the King, and she hoped that would be enough. And of course there was no realistic way to tell King Henry VIII "no" in anything, so once Henry's will and focus was upon her, she had to acquiesce. That she enjoyed doing so is a product of her time and mores, as Ms. Hoyt ably shows.

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