

The Life of Margaret Beaufort, Mother of the Tudors



Uncrowned Queen: The Life of Margaret Beaufort, Mother of the Tudors by Nicola Tallis

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Margaret Beaufort was one of the most influential women in English history. She was the mother of King Henry VII, the founder of the Tudor dynasty, and she played a key role in the Wars of the Roses. Margaret was a complex and fascinating character, and her life story is full of intrigue, drama, and romance.

Early Life

Margaret Beaufort was born on May 31, 1443, at Bletsoe Castle in Bedfordshire, England. She was the daughter of John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset, and Margaret Beauchamp of Bletso. Margaret's father was a powerful nobleman who was closely related to the royal family. Her mother was a wealthy heiress who brought a large dowry to the marriage.

Margaret's early life was spent in relative obscurity. She was educated at home by tutors, and she spent much of her time reading and playing music. Margaret was a bright and inquisitive child, and she quickly developed a love of learning.

Marriage to Edmund Tudor

In 1455, Margaret Beaufort was married to Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond. Edmund was a distant cousin of King Henry VI, and he was a potential heir to the throne. The marriage was arranged by Margaret's father, who hoped to gain influence at court.

Margaret and Edmund had one son, Henry Tudor, who was born in 1457. Edmund died in 1456, when Henry was just a few months old. Margaret was now a widow with a young child to care for.

The Wars of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses was a series of civil wars that took place in England from 1455 to 1485. The wars were fought between the House of Lancaster and the House of York, two rival branches of the royal family.

Margaret Beaufort was a staunch supporter of the Lancastrian cause. She believed that her son, Henry, was the rightful heir to the throne. Margaret

played an active role in the wars, and she often advised her son on military matters.

In 1485, Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry was crowned King Henry VII, and the Tudor dynasty was born. Margaret Beaufort was now the mother of the king, and she was one of the most powerful women in England.

Later Life

Margaret Beaufort spent her later years in retirement at Collyweston Priory in Northamptonshire. She devoted herself to religious works, and she founded several schools and colleges. Margaret was a devout Catholic, and she was a patron of the arts.

Margaret Beaufort died on June 29, 1509, at the age of 66. She was buried at Westminster Abbey. Margaret was a remarkable woman who played a key role in English history. She was a strong and determined woman who overcame many challenges in her life.

The Life of Margaret Beaufort, Mother of the Tudors is a captivating biography of one of the most influential women in English history. Margaret was a complex and fascinating character, and her life story is full of intrigue, drama, and romance. This book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in English history or in the lives of strong women.

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