

**Hello from Barbara Kyle
May 2009**



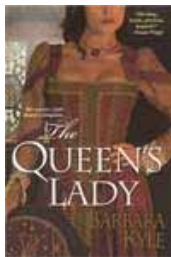
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SECOND PRINTING

I recently got the great news from my publisher that *THE KING'S DAUGHTER*, published just eight weeks ago, has sold so well it's going into a second printing. Publishers Weekly praised the novel for its "complex and fast-paced plot, mixing history with vibrant characters."

My mail from readers about this book, and about *THE QUEEN'S LADY* (the first in the "Thornleigh" series) has been a treat. My favorite was from Eve T. saying she gave the first book to her friend who got so anxious about a certain character's death she messaged Eve to ask what happened next. Made my day.



TUDOR TALES

I'm at work writing the next book in the "Thornleigh" series. This new novel takes the Thornleights – Honor, Richard, Isabel and Adam – into the final, tumultuous days of the reign of Henry VIII's daughter, Queen Mary. It features Honor as a secret advisor to the 20-year-old Princess Elizabeth, who was in constant danger of losing her life at the hands of her jealous, royal half-sister. It also features Adam Thornleigh, smitten by the vibrant and volatile Elizabeth.

I won't give away any more of the plot. (Better that you read the fully fleshed story, don't you agree?) But it's no spoiler to note that Elizabeth, becoming queen at the age of twenty-four, went on to rule England for forty-five years, one of the most cunning and astute monarchs who ever lived.

Interesting sidebar: our present fascination with the Tudors is nothing new. It goes back to before the Victorian period, with a murder mystery called *Kenilworth* published in 1821 by Sir Walter Scott, a best-selling author of his day comparable to our John Grisham.

Scott based his tale on a case that was a scandal in Elizabeth's time concerning the Earl of Leicester, Elizabeth's longtime favorite at court – and longtime lover, many scholars believe. In 1560 his pretty wife, Amy Robsart, living at their magnificent country house, was found dead at the foot of the stairs.



The Death of Amy Robsart by Victorian artist William Frederick Yeames

Kenilworth was an immediate, huge success with readers and critics, sparking a popular hunger for stories about Elizabethan England that continues to our day.

I'll be sure to let you know when my own window into the enthralling world of the Tudors – via the next "Thornleigh" novel – is available.

SEX SCENES

In my November 2008 Newsletter I reported that I'll be speaking on a panel at the Historical Novel Society conference in Chicago in June on the topic "Is Sex Necessary: Spicing Up Your Historical Novel (Or Not)", and I asked for readers' opinions on the question. What a delight it's been to read your replies. Here's a small sampling:

Dymphny D. "I prefer a well written tease to having to plod through too many awkward details. Very few writers can do it with grace ... It either sounds like a clichéd porn script or so self conscious that I blush on behalf of the author. I like just enough hints to leave the rest up to my lurid (and private) imagination."

Tom R. "Sex sells! That being said, I don't actually remember the naughty scenes from any novels I've read."

Shelley N. "I find sex scenes often give me that 'more information than I wanted' feeling and tend to skip over them. If however, it includes a sense of humor or illustrates a theme, kind of functions as a metaphor as well as spice, then I'm more likely to read through it."

Roelf W. "Sexual response does not require explicit sex. Some of the material that I have had strong personal responses to over the years have been suggestive rather than explicit."

Alan P. "I think sex serves to intensify the reader's emotions. If sex is between two likeable characters, they will become more likeable and will fulfill the reader's vicarious desires. On the other hand, if one or both of the characters involved are 'unsavory' they will, in the reader's mind, become downright disgusting."

Bonnie B. "Often the suggestion of a more intimate act will stir the imagination of the reader . . . and we know that many of us will create a completely different fantasy scene, depending on our experience and most especially our age or gender!"

My thanks to all of you who replied. I'll compile the salient (not salacious) points for my comments at the HNS conference.

JULY BOOT CAMP

July 20-24, 2009 I'll conduct my "Fiction Writer's Boot Camp" at the Haliburton School of The Arts, set in the beautiful Haliburton highlands of Ontario.

For emerging writers or experienced writers, this course sharpens personal creative skills. Through lectures, writing exercises, and my constructive critiques, participants will come away equipped to create unique and compelling fiction.

My "Boot Camp" always fills up quickly, so if you're interested, or know someone who is, I recommend registering soon. For info see:

<http://www.barbarakyle.com/Workshops-Courses.page> and
<http://www.haliburtonschoolofthearts.ca>

Happy reading!

Best regards,

Barbara

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