

Live chat with Tamise Hills – Lady Jane Grey

Welcome to tonight's live chat and a special welcome and thank you to Tamise Hill of the Lady Jane Grey Reference Guide blog for joining us. Tamise, your talk was excellent, and I'm really looking forward to what you have to say here too. The topic is, of course, Lady Jane Grey...

Tamise Hills23:57

Thanks Claire, I enjoyed recording the talk and am looking forward to this chat.

Claire Ridgway23:58

I'm going to be cheeky and nip in! Tamise, what are your favourite fiction and non-fiction books on Jane?

Hi Claire, Tamise, and Lorna!

Tamise Hills23:58

Hi Laurie,

Lorna Wanstall23:58

Hi Laurie

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Laurie!

Allez! Morning all!

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Roland and RTL!

Roland Hui23:59

HELLO 🍊

Tamise Hills23:59

Claire, to answer your question - Non fiction - Sisters of Treason by Leanda de Lisle and non fiction, Sisters of Treason by Elizabeth Fremantle.

Lorna Wanstall23:59

I love the book 5 gold rings, although it's really more about Katherine Gey, although Jane does play a part in it

Hi Roland and RTL

Tamise Hills00:00

Haven't heard of 5 Gold Rings. Who is it by?

Claire Ridgway00:00

Thank you! I must admit to preferring Leanda's over that of Eric Ives on Jane.

Lorna Wanstall00:00

5 gold rings is by Philipa wiat

They are very different books and there are many reasons I love Eric's work.

RealTudorLady00:01

Hello Tamise, welcome and thank you for sharing this time with us. I love your blog.

Tamise Hills00:01

Thanks Lorna.

Roland Hui00:01

I still have an old bio (by Alison Plowden) I think - very good, but dated. They used the painting of Katharine Parr as Jane for the cover..

Lorna Wanstall00:01

Great to see you RTL how have you been?

Tamise Hills00:01

Thank you RTL! I am so glad.

RealTudorLady00:02

So so, but very excited about the final tomorrow.

Tamise Hills00:02

Roland - Is that Lady Jane and the House of Suffolk? That was 1985, I think.

Claire Ridgway00:02

RTL, I can imagine!

Roland Hui00:02

Yes - Tamise, thats it.

Tamise Hills00:02

RTL what final?

Lorna Wanstall00:03

Do you think Jane would have made a good queen if her father and the Dudleys had succeeded in capturing Mary Tudor etc..

Tamise Hills00:03

Roland - she wrote a later one 2003, which has another portrait of Katherine P on the cover.

RealTudorLady00:03

That one Jane Grey and House of Suffolk is still one of my favourites. Hi Tamise, sorry I was talking about the European Cup in Madrid.

RealTudorLady00:04

I love the book on the portraits of Jane Grey by Stephen Edwards.

Tamise Hills00:04

Lorna - Honest answer is I would have liked to think she would have done. She was young but only 2 years younger than Henry 8th when he became King. Not sure if she would have been religiously tolerant.

Tamise Hills00:05

RTL - going to the pub tomorrow to watch that!

Claire Ridgway00:05

When I was at Hever recently, they had an exhibition about Hever as a film location and there were photos from the Helena Bonham-Carter Lady Jane Grey film, Has anyone seen that?

Roland Hui00:05

I think Jane, if she stayed Queen, would've continued E6's Protestant reforms - She would've made it a priority

Tamise Hills00:06

RTL - Yes, Stephan's work on the Jane's portraits is fascinating. Without that we wouldn't have had the Syon portrait dated.

Roland Hui00:06

'Lady Jane' is a good underrated film.

Tamise Hills00:06

Claire - Am hoping to go this summer.

Roland Hui00:07

Though the love scenes with Guilford were overdone,

Claire Ridgway00:07

Tamise, the dresses from Anne of the Thousand Days are exquisite.

Lorna Wanstall00:07

Yes Claire I did enjoy that film very much and although I'm not too sure I believe the courtyard to Hever castle was also used when the film Anne of a thousand days was made as well

Claire Ridgway00:08

Lorna, yes, they had lots of photos and some costumes from Anne of the Thousand Days.

Laurie Duerr00:08

yes they're beautiful!

RealTudorLady00:08

Live on the Big Screen. I also think Jane would be a confident if somewhat over jealous Queen. Like Mary she was not open minded, she knew what she wanted and believed and she was a bit of a fanatic. However, she had a great education and I am sure she would do well.

Tamise Hills00:08

Roland - yes, she would have continued Edward's work. Samantha Wilcoxson wrote a what if feature for History Revealed magazine about what might have happened if Jane kept the throne.

Tamise Hills00:09

I didn't realise that Lady Jane was filmed at Hever until I read about the exhibition. I can't wait to see the dresses from Anne etc.

Roland Hui00:09

Helena B.C. was excellent as Jane, but I didn't care for her Anne Boleyn in that dreadful tv movie.

Lorna Wanstall00:09

Roland, we don't really know what Jane's relationship with Guilford was, but she must have had some affection for him. Yes I agree the scenes with guildfor were a little OTT but as they say sex sells.

Tamise Hills00:09

Yes, LADy Jane is an underated film and paints an unrealistic portrait of her and Guildford but at least there was a film about her!

Claire Ridgway00:09

Roland, the one with Ray Winstone as a cockney Henry?!

Laurie Duerr00:10

And what type of role do you feel that Guildford would have played as her consort?

Claire Ridgway00:10

Ooooh

yes, what do you think about Guildford?

Roland Hui00:10

Yes, Claire - Yikes! Just awful!

Claire Ridgway00:11

Roland, perhaps you just have to treat it as comedy!

Tamise Hills00:11

RTL - I wonder how much Jane would have been able to rule? Or would Northumberland and her father have tried to be the power behind the throne?

Claire Ridgway00:12

Hi Bill!

Bill Wolff00:12

Hi Claire!

RealTudorLady00:12

I didn't like Lady Jane, sorry, loved the costumes but it played to the myths about Frances Grey, Jane's mother. I agree Tamise, Northumberland was ambitious and may have forced a regency but then she did resist making Guildford a King.

Roland Hui00:14

If Jane stayed Queen, one wonders what her relationship with Princess Elizabeth would have been like? We assume Mary Tudor would be a prisoner in the Tower. Elizabeth would've resented Jane for 'stealing' her throne. Perhaps she might've even plotted against Jane.

Tamise Hills00:14

Hmm Guildford. Trying to remember which historian said that she didn't totally refuse to make Guildford King but that it would have to go before parliament.

Lorna Wanstall00:14

I don't believe Frances Grey beat the hell out of her children as some people believe. She was perhaps strict, but not to the point of being brutal

RealTudorLady00:15

Jane was definitely a Tudor and like most of them she was very accomplished. It is a great shame she got caught up in this because it led to her death and she was lost as a great scholar.

Tamise Hills00:15

Feel sorry for Guildford, like Jane. there is so much we don't know about him.

Tamise Hills00:15

What do you think of Guildford?

Tamise Hills00:15

Hi Bill?

Bill Wolff00:16

Sorry I'm late, Tamise!

Lorna Wanstall00:16

Do you think Mary T ever regretted sending Jane and Guilford to the scaffold

Claire Ridgway00:16

I have such a soft spot for the Dudleys, but we don't get to know much about Guildford really.

Tamise Hills00:17

Lorna - Leanda de Lisle wrote a good piece about Guildford and Jane for my website. Eric Ives points out that in one of the translations of Jane's letter to Mary, she writes 'Loving of my husband.'

Laurie Duerr00:17

Yes, seeing the brothers' engravings in the Beauchamp tower is always so moving..

Claire Ridgway00:18

I think too much is made of Jane not wanting to see Guildford just before their executions.

Claire Ridgway00:18

Laurie, yes! I always get a little choked up.

Yes I do feel there was some form of affection between Jane and Guilford.

Laurie Duerr00:18

Yes its always a highlight for me there..

RealTudorLady00:18

I believe Guildford would have been happier in a brothel to be honest but it did make him grow up and from all we know he did try to do his best as her husband. They may not have loved each other but they appear to have had a mutually beneficial relationship.

Tamise Hills00:19

Roland - I can't see Elizabeth just stepping aside from her birthright. Can you? Would they have let Mary live? Considering the dislike Elizabeth felt towards Jane's sisters and saw them as a threat, she probably would not have forgiven Jane for stealing her throne. Trying to remember which historian said about maybe Elizabeth would have settled for land.

Bill Wolff00:20

I agree RTLady, about the brothel, but I am not as sure about the relationship.

Roland Hui00:20

An interesting thing about the Grey saga, is that it was actually Frances Brandon (Jane's mother) who was legally the next Queen in Henry VIII's will, not her daughter.

Roland Hui00:21

Actually, Frances would be the next Queen AFTER Elizabeth, according to the will

Lorna Wanstall00:22

Indeed, as the Scottish line was completely ignored Roland

Tamise Hills00:22

Lorna - Leanda de Lisle wrote about Jane and Frances in one of the appendices of Tudor: The Family Story. She thinks that Frances had a bad press. That most of the theory about frances comes from the account by Ascham who wrote 40 years after the event. The letter discovered by Stephan Edwards in 2013 does mention that Jane was forced to marry Guildford though. Jane's latest biographer thinks that Frances deserves her reputation (Nicola Tallis), as does Alison Weir.

Roland Hui00:22

So legally, E6 should have made Frances Queen.

Tamise Hills00:23

RTL - Such a waste of potential. Jane would probably have been a leading Protestant at Edward's court.

Tamise Hills00:23

Thanks for joining the chat Bill.

RealTudorLady00:24

Mary was too feisty to sit down and let them steal her crown, although she saw Jane as something of an innocent so I can't see Elizabeth letting it happen, but then she wasn't much older than Jane herself. Would Elizabeth who had been pretty closeted have been able to gain the support Mary did in 1553? I am not convinced she would. Mary was considered by most people to be the true heir, everyone knew her and how she had suffered, Elizabeth was still something of a mystery.

Tamise Hills00:25

Lorna - I think that Mary did regret having to send Jane to the scaffold. She did not want to execute her but Jane's father's involvement in the Wyatt rebellion sealed her fate. Mary did grant some lands back to Frances and took the two surviving girls into her household.

Lorna Wanstall00:26

RTL and you could say Elizabeth stayed an enigma even now, as no one knew what she was thinking or even go to do until she did it.

Tamise Hills00:26

Claire - Am looking forward to the new book about the Dudleys next year

Claire Ridgway00:27

I just love them, one of my very favourite Tudor families.

RealTudorLady00:27

I agree, Lorna. What new book on the Dudleys, Tamise?

Laurie Duerr00:27

Tamise, what do you think about how Elizabeth treated Katherine and Mary Grey during her reign?

Lorna Wanstall00:27

Am I right in thinking that "featherstone"? actually wept on the scaffold

Tamise Hills00:28

Sorry, getting a bit behind.

Claire Ridgway00:28

Don't worry, Tamise!

Tamise Hills00:29

Lorna - The book is by Joanne Paul.

RealTudorLady00:29

Thank you.

Lorna Wanstall00:30

Laurie, Elizabeth treated Katherine and Mary Grey with scorn I think that's the right word. Katherine died in the Tower and Mary found happiness with a man called Thomas Keyes only to have Elizabeth snatch that happiness away Poor Thomas died in the Tower as well I think

Roland Hui00:30

Interestingly, Eric Ives has argued that that Jane WAS a legal Queen, as E6 was allowed to pass the crown to whom he wanted. And that Mary Tudor was the rebel.

Tamise Hills00:31

Laurie - Elizabeth treated them badly but not as badly as Mary Queen of Scots. What choice did she have? There was Katherine Grey with 2 potential Kings as sons. People might have preferred them to Elizabeth. Don't think anyone would have put Mary on the throne though.

Claire Ridgway00:31

Roland, yes, he looks at it from a legal perspective, common law and illegitimate children.

Tamise Hills00:32

RTL - If Mary had died, maybe the people would have rallied behind Elizabeth? She was Henry's daughter and Jane was married to the Dudleys?

Roland Hui00:32

I don't agree with Ives, as H8's succession will was made law by Parliament.

Laurie Duerr00:32

Makes sense, thanks Tamise!

Roland Hui00:32

Also, E6 was still considered a minor, so unable to make a will

Tamise Hills00:32

Roland - Didn't Henry exclude Frances from his will? Wasn't Jane after Elizabeth and her heirs?

RealTudorLady00:32

I think Eric Ives was correct save for one thing, the Letters Patent didn't get to go through Parliament with a Bill as Edward died first and legally H8 had passed the Third Act of Succession and Mary was next in the natural line.

Lorna Wanstall00:33

Roland, I think it might be argued that E6 made his "device" under duress, I believe Mary felt that E6 was just a boy and not able to make decisions such as who would rule, without the council ratifying it first

Roland Hui00:33

I don't think H8 excluded Frances, it was E6 who did.

Tamise Hills00:33

I think Guildford and brothels is largely down to the film Lady Jane! LOL!

Claire Ridgway00:33

Henry really should have made his daughters legitimate again!

Tamise Hills00:34

Claire - yes, you are right. Ives writes that Jane's poise in the last few days of her life was not easily won and seeing Guildford would have made things harder for her. It might have comforted him though.

Lorna Wanstall00:35

Claire. H8 ego couldn't cope with that, if he had had Mary and Elizabeth legitimate, that would mean he was admitting that his marriages to COA and AB were legal after all

Claire Ridgway00:35

Tamise, yes, and instead people make out that she was cold or didn't care for him.

Claire Ridgway00:36

Lorna, I think he could have done it with the good faith argument.

RealTudorLady00:36

I agree, Tamise, the people would accept Elizabeth if Mary died because she was also the daughter of Henry VIII. The proclamation of Mary I is one page long, so is that of Elizabeth I assume, but the one for Jane went on for four pages explaining who she was.

Tamise Hills00:37

Roland - will need to look up Henry's will and check.

Lorna Wanstall00:37

I think Jane was mentally ready for death, but to see Guildford before his death would have weakened her resolve so to speak

Tamise Hills00:37

RTL - Yes, Jane's proclamation was shown in the Helen Castor programme, it was interesting to see how long it was!

Roland Hui00:38

Whether Jane was historically legal or not, if in the future someone named 'Jane' became Queen, should she be called 'Jane I' or 'Jane II'?

Tamise Hills00:38

If Edward had lived until the September, would he have got his devise through parliament? What do you think?

RealTudorLady00:38

That was an excellent three part documentary.

Tamise Hills00:38

If Edward had lived until the September, would he have got his devise through parliament? What do you think?

Claire Ridgway00:38

I'd vote for Jane II.

Tamise Hills00:39

Yes, Eric Ives has a different way of viewing Mary as the rebel.

Tamise Hills00:39

Lorna - Think the Guildford weeping on the scaffold comes from Alison Weir.

RealTudorLady00:40

Mary might have stormed Parliament. A Tudor rebel with fire in her eyes.

Bill Wolff00:41

Tamise, I believe the weeping!!

Lorna Wanstall00:41

If Edward had lived till september, Jane may well of had enough time to have got pregnant. I think if she was pregnant at the time of E6 death the device would have gone through as people would be assured that the next monarch, hopefully male was already in the oven

Roland Hui00:41

Yes, the contemporary account doesn't mention Guilford weeping at his death. I think that came from fiction writers.

Tamise Hills00:42

Roland - I was hoping that Kate and William would have a daughter named Jane and then that would answer the question LOL! If there was another King Edward he would be Edward 9th, even though the 8th wasn't crowned. I would say Jane II, because Jane would then be known as Jane I. What do you think?

Bill Wolff00:42

Tamise, I for one Like It!

Roland Hui00:43

I think a 'new' Jane would be 'Jane I' as JG's reign was illegal.

Laurie Duerr00:44

Tamise, do you think that Jane would have actually wanted to be held up as a Protestant martyr? Or that she was just doing what any true Protestant would have done?

Tamise Hills00:44

It is a shame there will probably never been a Queen Jane for us to find out! LOL!

RealTudorLady00:45

I think we have to sort of say she was definitely Queen whether legal or not because she issued letters and proclamations under the signature Jane the Queen.

Lorna Wanstall00:45

Could Jane actually be classed as the 1st protestant Martyr,

Tamise Hills00:45

Lorna - If Jane had had a son before Edward died, Edward would have made him King with Jane as regent.

Claire Ridgway00:46

No, there were others before her, but as queen do you mean?

Lorna Wanstall00:46

yes

Claire Ridgway00:47

Her story is so sad, so much potential...

Tamise Hills00:47

I don't know about the first but I think that Jane wanted her death to have meaning, that she was dying for her faith. The care she took over the recording of her debate with Feckenham and she knew her last letter to Katherine would be published.

Laurie Duerr00:48

Very fair point, thanks..

Lorna Wanstall00:48

That's the name I was trying to remember Feckenham, did he weep for Jane when she went to the block

Tamise Hills00:48

RTL - the seal was used against Northumberland at his trial, when he tried to argue that his actions were legal.

Roland Hui00:49

I don't think Jane could be called a martyr as she was executed for treason (assuming Mary's crown) not heresy.

RealTudorLady00:49

I know Jane had a strong faith and Foxe counted her as a martyr, Lorna, but I am not sure I agree, from a personal point of view because she wasn't strictly executed for religious reasons, but some people argue that as she was offered her life if she became Catholic as that would mean the Protestant party could not use her, that maybe she was a martyr. On the other hand many saw Mary Qof Scots as a Catholic martyr.

Claire Ridgway00:50

But she might have saved herself by recanting...

Bill Wolff00:50

Thanks everyone. A terrific hour. Come again Tamise!! I enjoy these chats immensel

Claire Ridgway00:51

Thank you for coming Bill!

Tamise Hills00:51

Jane didn't want the Protestant cause to be tarnished by her treason.

Tamise Hills00:51

Thanks Bill.

RealTudorLady00:51

Thanks Tamise. Night Bill.

Roland Hui00:51

I'm not sure Feckenham's visit to Jane in the Tower was meant to save her life (she was already a condemned traitor) but only to save her soul.

Bill Wolff00:52

it's 4pm in California, RTL, we're just getting started!!

Claire Ridgway00:52

I think he believed that there may be a chance that Mary would save her.

Tamise Hills00:52

Will look up the whole treason thing and post it on my blog.

Roland Hui00:52

Meaning Mary never offered Jane her life if she abandoned her Protestant faith.

Lorna Wanstall00:53

Would Mary have spared her if Jane had recanted? Personally I don't think so Mary couldn't take the risk with Jane

RealTudorLady00:53

I find the talks between Father Feckingham fascinating, so much detail, I believe he cared about her. Afternoon Bill, sorry.

Claire Ridgway00:53

Roland, but Feckenham seemed to think that she just might. Who know, she might have done. So many what-ifs!

Claire Ridgway00:54

Enjoy your weekend, Bill!

Bill Wolff00:54

Thanks Claire.

Roland Hui00:54

That might have been the Abbott's own personal belief (that Mary would spare Jane). Well, who knows...

Tamise Hills00:54

So many things about Jane are unknown. Did Mary send Feckenham to save her soul, meaning she would be executed anyway but saved from hell?

RealTudorLady00:54

I believe Mary hoped it would be a last attempt to save her life but had to agree to her death in the end.

Laurie Duerr00:55

Yes definitely alot of speculation , but ultimately Jane was too dedicated to her faith to ever waiver..

Laurie Duerr00:55

Yes definitely alot of speculation , but ultimately Jane was too dedicated to her faith to ever waiver..

RealTudorLady00:57

Very true. What a pity her father got involved with Wyatt the Younger having been pardoned his original treason.

Claire Ridgway00:57

Well, that hour flew by! Thank you so much, Tamise, for your talk and the chat session. It's been wonderful. Thank you, everyone for coming. It's always lovely to talk Tudor! Our June chats are on 15th and 29th. Have a great weekend everyone!

Tamise Hills00:57

RTL - Yes, that was a stupid thing to do!

Lorna Wanstall00:57

Laurie, more or less like Mary Q of Scots..... her Catholic faith was the be all and end all and in the end it cost her, her crown, her child and her life.

Laurie Duerr00:57

Thank you Tamise! Very interesting!

Bill Wolff00:58

Hey, I'm looking at the Tudor coffee mug, and Jane is listed there! (or is it a Tea Mug 😊)

Tamise Hills00:58

Thank you for inviting me Claire and thank you to everyone for joining in. I have loved the experience!

Laurie Duerr00:58

yes good point Lorna

Tamise Hills00:58

Bill - yes it is nice when Jane is included in the list of Kings and Queens!

Claire Ridgway00:58

Bill, she is indeed!

Night everyone. It's 1am here so bed is calling!