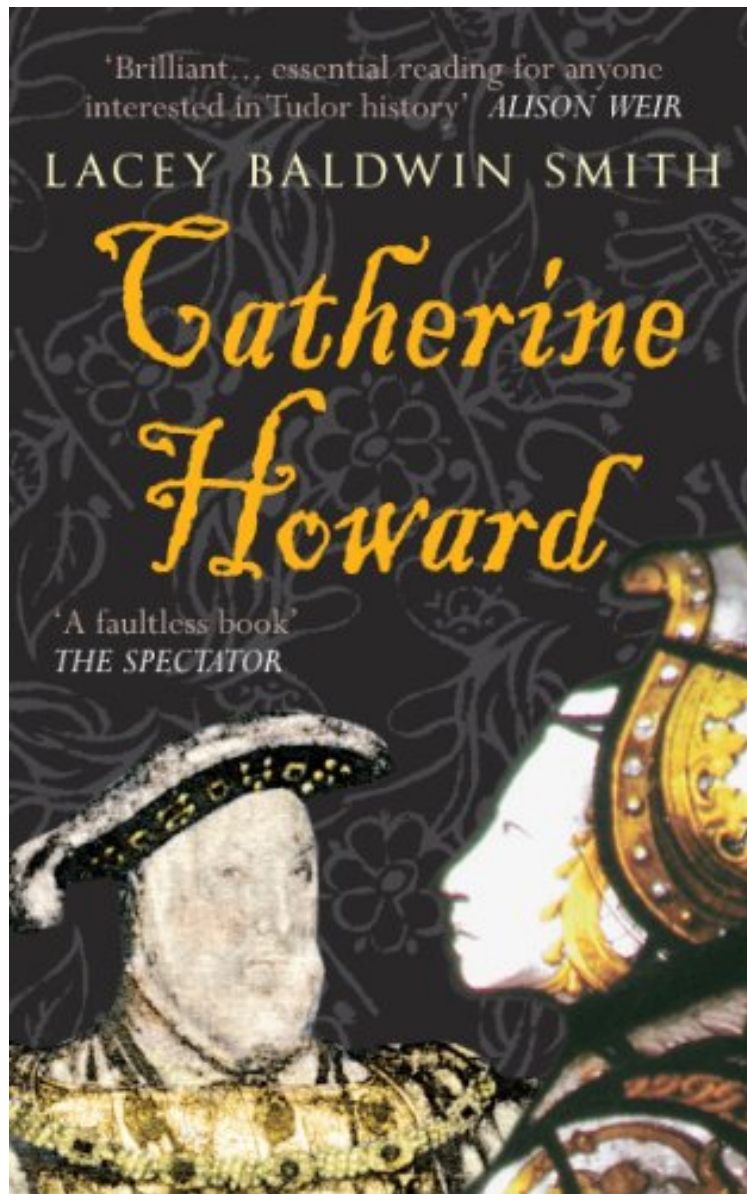


(Online library) Catherine Howard (English Edition)

## Catherine Howard (English Edition)

Von Lacey Baldwin Smith

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**Von Lacey Baldwin Smith : Catherine Howard (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catherine Howard (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Catherine HowardVon LMSmith schreibt klar und bersichtlich, sachlich und mit einer Prise Ironie. Eine Wohltat im

Vergleich zu manch anderen Historikern. Ein Kapitel des Buches erklärt die Howard-Dynastie: sie hatte ihren Ursprung im 15. Jht. (Sir John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk - gefallen mit Richard III in Bosworth). Im Laufe der Zeit entwickelte das Haus Howard eine höchst elitäre Haltung und arbeitete sich durch seine geschickte Heiratspolitik immer näher an den Thron von Henry VIII heran. Catherine Howard wurde wahrscheinlich 1521 geboren. Über ihre frühen Jahre weiß man nichts. Bekannt ist, daß sie bei einer Verwandten, der verwitweten Duchess of Norfolk, ihre Kindheit verbrachte. Erst ab 1536 weiß man Konkretes über Catherine, als sie 14jährig Henry Manox kennen lernte und später Francis Dereham. Eine gewisse Promiskuität sei akzeptiert worden, meint Smith, da man damals nicht prude gewesen sei. 1539 kam Catherine durch ihren Onkel, den dritten Duke of Norfolk, an den Hof von Henry VIII. Dort sollte sie natürlich die Interessen des Howard-Clans fördern und sich vorteilhaft verheiraten. Bald fiel sie dem König auf, der mit seiner vierten Frau, Anna von Cleve, höchst unzufrieden war! Henry war damals bereits 48 Jahre alt. Er kannte Catherine etwa drei Monate, dann heiratete er sie. Früher war sie noch der Inbegriff der Tugend. Smith schreibt, Catherine habe offenbar nicht erkannt, welches Verhalten man von ihr als Königin (zumal als Gemahlin von Henry VIII!) erwartet hätte. So beschäftigte sie in naiver Weise ihren früheren Liebhaber Dereham als Privatsekretär. Später schrieb sie an Thomas Culpeper einen höchst kompromittierenden Brief und ließ über Lady Rochford (Lady of the privy chamber der Königin) Treffen mit ihm arrangieren. Dies konnte natürlich nicht gut gehen am Hof von Henry VIII: Dereham und Culpeper wurden hingerichtet, die Königin 1542 und - nach ihr - Lady Rochford. Smith verurteilt Catherine nicht aus moralischen Gründen. Er sieht in ihr auch das Produkt der damaligen Zeit. Ungeeignet als Königin, eher oberflächlich und ich-zentriert. Mit dem alternden und kranken Henry VIII berfordert. Das Buch ist bebildert, die verwendeten Quellen sind angeführt. Das Buch hat mir einen prägnanten Eindruck von Catherine Howard und ihrem Umfeld vermittelt (soweit es die vorliegenden Quellen zulassen). Das Lesen war ein Vergnügen. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Wife No. 5: an empty-headed wanton or the rose without a thorn? A fantastic description of the life and times Von Amelrode Lacey Baldwin Smith is an author who specialized in the court of Henry VIII of England. And that specialization just shows in his book on Catherine Howard. This is far more than a biography on the life of this short-lived Queen Consort, but on the times, the political dimensions and the main personalities involved. Catherine Howard was the grand-daughter of the 2nd Duke of Norfolk by one of his younger sons. She educated according to the standards of the station, could read and write - far above the vast majority - but far below all other consorts of Henry VIII. She was not particularly intelligent and or an intellectual, had none of the regal splendor of Catherine of Aragon, none of the fascination of Anne Boleyn, the intelligent submissiveness of Jane Seymour, the cleverness of Anne of Cleves or the superb intelligence and scholarship of Catherine Parr. She was a doll like figure whom the fast aging and obese Henry VIII chose to be his companion and she had no choice. She was used by the Howard faction (the religious conservatives) as a tool to move Henry back into the folds of conservative-catholic England. Of course, tricking the opposition of the protestant reformer, not to her a person, but for what she stood for. I suppose she was not even aware of it, even though she was quite aware to be a Howard. She behaved as Queen Consort as if she was still a girl in the household of the Dowager Duchess of Norfolk and even that in quite a silly way. Whether she fully committed adultery with her lover when Queen or whether she merely intended it, before the law at the time it did not make any difference. Lacey Baldwin Smith paints a sympathetic picture of her. She was however an unimportant personality in all ways who would have gone down unrecorded in history had the King not cast his eyes on her. She was not an evil spirit, even though guilty under the law of the times. It is amazing how Lacey Baldwin Smith puts her into the context of the times, into the great struggles taking place and into the context of the life and personality of the obese King. She was a chess piece moved by others. One understands that quite clearly and somehow one pities her. However, he does not turn her into really sympathetic person. She comes across as too silly for it. But she was not the "slut on the throne" either. The real fascinating parts are the studies on the politics and personalities of the times. One understands why even that unimportant personality gained importance. So this is far more than a mere biography of Catherine Howard. Unwise the cover foto: this is not Catherine Howard. Written in 1969 it is still very readable - a real classic.

Kurzbeschreibung 'Lacey Baldwin Smith has so excellently caught the atmosphere of the Tudor age' - The Observer 'Lacey Baldwin Smith is one of our finest historians' - Alison Weir 'A faultless book' - The Spectator At seven o'clock on the morning of 13 February 1542, Catherine Howard stepped out into the cold of the great courtyard of the Tower of London. Slowly she was escorted across the yard and carefully helped up the steps of the wooden scaffold. Only a small group of sightseers had gathered to watch the death of a queen; there was no weeping, no remorse, only chilly curiosity. The axe rose and fell, a life ceased, an episode came to an end. The life and death of Catherine was truly a Tudor tragedy. A mere teenager, the vivacious and flirty Catherine Howard was an unsuitable bride for the elderly and fat Henry VIII. Like most of Henry's wives she had come to his attention at court whilst lady-in-waiting to his fourth wife of only a few months, Anne of Cleves. Henry was soon besotted and came to adore Catherine, his very jewel of womanhood. His head already turned by the 19 year old, Henry never consummated his marriage to Anne, he

divorced her and married for the fifth time on 28 July 1540. Lacey Baldwin Smith, one of the finest historians of the Tudor age, narrates the rise and fall of the most tragic of Henry's queens, the woman who dared to cuckold the king of England. The Kindle edition contains 25 colour illustrations.

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