

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910459260703321
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Titolo	Tudor Queens of England / / David Loades
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Continuum, , 2009
ISBN	1-4725-9970-5 1-282-87441-1 9786612874413 1-4411-4034-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (273 p.)
Disciplina	942.05
Soggetti	Queens - Great Britain Queens - Great Britain - History - 16th century Electronic books. Great Britain History Tudors, 1485-1603 Biography Great Britain History Tudors, 1485-1603 Great Britain Kings and rulers
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [235]-252) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Becoming a Queen -- 2. Before the Tudors -- 3. Elizabeth of York -- 4. Catherine of Aragon -- 5. Anne Boleyn -- 6. Jane Seymour -- 7. Anne of Cleves -- 8. Catherine Howard -- 9. Catherine Parr -- 10. Mary -- 11. Elizabeth -- 12. After the Tudors
Sommario/riassunto	An intimate and revealing look at the daily lives and responsibilities of the Tudor Queens of England From Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch, to Elizabeth I, her grand-daughter and the last, The Tudor Queens of England delves into the secret lives of some of the most colorful and dramatic women in British history. The majority of the fourteen queens considered here, from Catherine de Valois and Elizabeth Woodville to Elizabeth of York, Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr, were consorts, the wives of kings. Although less frequently examined than ruling queens, queen consorts played a crucial and central role within the Royal Court. Their first duty was to bear children and their chastity within marriage had to be above

reproach. Any suspicion of sexual misconduct would cast doubt on the legitimacy of their offspring. Three of these women - Margaret of Anjou, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard - were accused of such conduct, and two were tried and executed. A queen also had to contribute to her husband's royal image. This could be through works of piety or through humble intercession. It could also be through her fecundity because the fathering of many children was a sign of virility and of divine blessing. A queen might also make a tangible contribution to her husband's power with her marriage as the symbol of an international diplomatic agreement. A ruling queen was very different, especially if she was married, insofar as she had to fill the roles of both king and queen. No woman could be both martial and virile, and at the same time submissive and supportive. Mary I solved this problem in a constitutional sense but never at the personal level. Elizabeth I sacrificed motherhood by not marrying. She chose to be mysterious and unattainable - la belle dame sans merci. In later life she used her virginity to symbolize the integrity of her realm and her subjects remained fascinated by her unorthodoxy. How did they behave (in and out of the bedchamber)? How powerful were they as patrons of learning and the arts? What religious views did they espouse and why? How successful and influential were they? From convenient accessory to sovereign lady the role of queen was critical, colorful, and often dramatic. The Tudor Queens of England is the first book of its kind to intimately examine these questions and more
