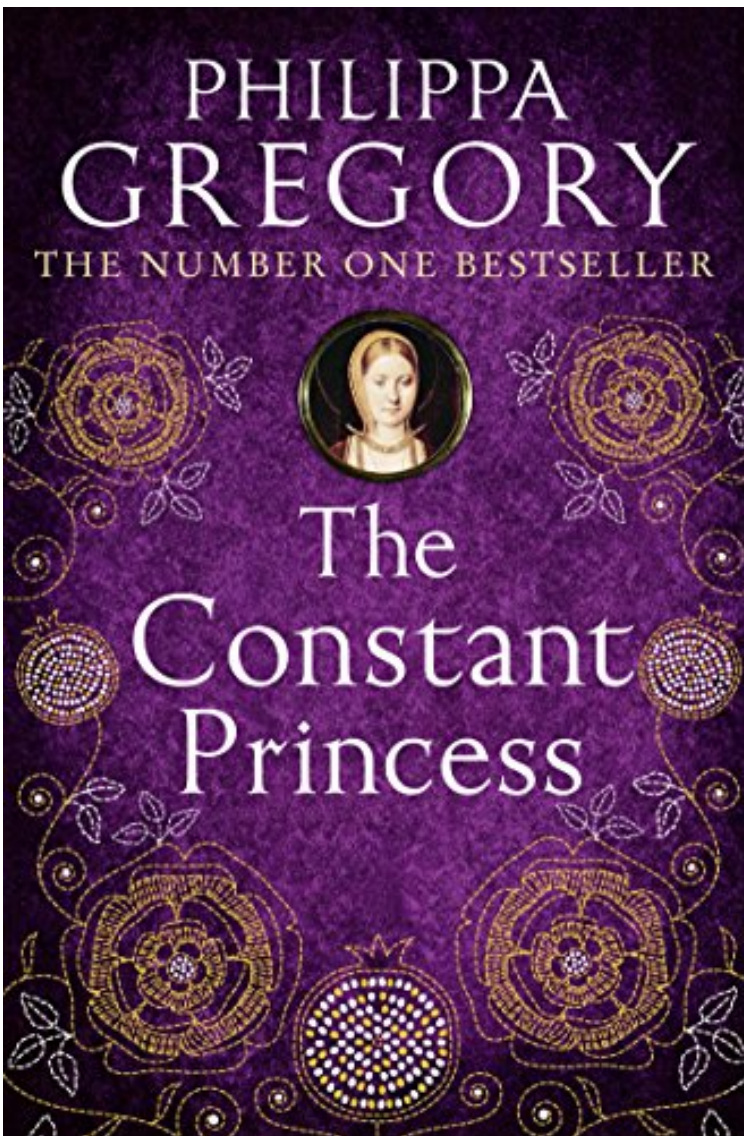


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The Constant Princess



Par Philippa Gregory
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurA splendid and sumptuous historical novel from the internationally bestselling author, Philippa Gregory, telling of the early life of Katherine of Aragon.I was born a princess, destined to be queen, and I know my duty.1491. Henry VII's eldest son Arthur Tudor, Prince of Wales, has been betrothed since childhood to the Spanish princess Katherine of Aragon. Their marriage will cement the alliance Henry Tudor craves to secure his country.But when Arthurs sudden death leaves an 11-year-old boy heir to the kingdom, Henry Tudor must choose whether to send Katherine back to Spain, or to marry her himself. Katherine has no son from her brief marriage to secure her future; her substantial dowry and his powerful contract are at stake.Henry has reckoned without the determination of a young woman set on fulfilling her own destiny to be a queen and the ambition of Prince Harry, the future Henry VIII.From Publishers WeeklyAs youngest

daughter to the Spanish monarchs and crusaders King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, Catalina, princess of Wales and of Spain, was promised to the English Prince Arthur when she was three. She leaves Spain at 15 to fulfill her destiny as queen of England, where she finds true love with Arthur (after some initial sourness) as they plot the future of their kingdom together. Arthur dies young, however, leaving Catalina a widow and ineligible for the throne. Before his death, he extracts a promise from his wife to marry his younger brother

Henry in order to become queen anyway, have children and rule as they had planned, a situation that can only be if Catalina denies that Arthur was ever her lover. Gregory's latest (after *Earthly Joys*) compellingly dramatizes how Catalina uses her faith, her cunning and her utter belief in destiny to reclaim her rightful title. By alternating tight third-person narration with Catalina's unguarded thoughts and gripping dialogue, the author presents a thorough, sympathetic portrait of her heroine and her transformation into Queen Katherine. Gregory's skill for creating suspense pulls the reader along despite the historical novel's foregone conclusion. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From AudioFile What was it like for young Katalina, daughter of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, when her parents sent the young teen off to England to marry Prince Arthur, whom she had never seen? Jill Tanner uses a light touch to portray the young prince and princess, and ages her voice as the story progresses through Catherine of Aragon's life. Her characterization of young Henry VIII likewise changes as he ages from the 8-year-old boy who greets the arriving princess to the adult who becomes King of England and Catherine's second husband. Gregory's accurate history blends well with her fictional lifestyle of the young royals, and Tanner's performance completes a satisfying package. R.L.L. AudioFile 2006, Portland, Maine--

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