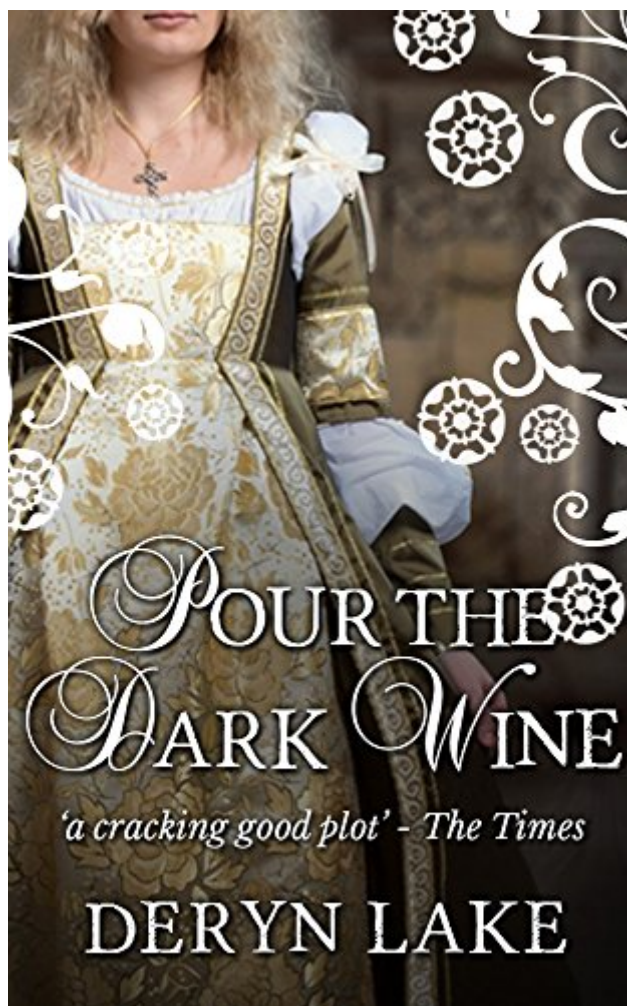


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# Pour The Dark Wine



## Synopsis

Sixteenth-century Tudor England. A time of intrigue and chaos, with a country ruled by a cruel and determined monarch. In Henry VIII's court a rise to favour can easily be followed by a fatal fall from grace. Four Seymour children of Wolff Hall stand upon Merlin's Mound, said to be able to grant wishes, and make ambitious claims for their futures. Edward, the eldest, wishes to own all the land he surveys. Thomas, rakish and carefree, wishes to marry the highest woman in the land. Elizabeth, their half-gypsy cousin, cunningly wishes for the wisdom of Merlin. And lastly Jane, their plain but romantic sister, wishes that she will one day marry a king. The four Seymour lives will be inextricably bound with the reign of the ruthless King Henry VIII and his sometimes equally perilous passions and hatreds. Each of them will find their childish wish granted – but at what price? All will be at the mercy of the King's bloody reign and victims of their own ambitions as they strive to further the Seymour cause and believe that happiness can be found in power.

*Pour the Dark Wine* is a thrilling and superbly written historical novel charting the perilous climb of the Seymours in Henry VIII's court. "A cracking good plot" – *The Times*

Deryn Lake started to write stories at the age of five then graduated to novels but destroyed all her early work because, she says, it was hopeless. A chance meeting with one of the Getty family took her to Sutton Place and her first serious novel was born. Deryn was married to a journalist and writer, the late L. F. Lampitt, has two grown-up children and lives in Mayfield, Sussex, with two large cats. She is also the author of *Sutton Place*, *To Sleep No More*, *The King's Women* and *As Shadows Haunting*. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent publisher of digital books.

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## Customer Reviews

Pour yourself a nice cup of tea, curl up in a favorite chair and enjoy this excellent historical novel. Wonderfully written, it seamlessly weaves fictional characters and events with historical ones. It is one of the best of this genre I have read in a long while.

I love this book. I'm very much into Henry VIII and his wives and this book covers all of them. People die, of course, but there is no graphic detail which for me is wonderful. I usually skip over all that - I love the era but hate the torture. This is more a story of the people and their relationships and makes everyone much more human than some books do. Of course it's an Historical Novel and as such much of it comes directly from the author's mind - but that's OK. There are plenty of straight history books out there which tend to be dry and boring. Not this book. I have been reading a little bit each night trying to make it last as long as possible.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who thinks they have already read all the good Tudor historical fiction. Very interesting and believable character insights on Jane Seymour and her son Edward the VI. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

A very different view of the Tudor queens and the court, I find that it had some very controversial views that go against generally accepted facts about this period even in fictional history novels. That being said, it was a new and fresh approach towards the Tudors and the known history of this dynasty which I really enjoyed a great deal, since I have read lots and lots of versions of history both fictional and non-fictional, something kind and controversial is really a treat for me.

One review thought this book was flowery, I would invite that person to read *Clan of the Cavebears*, that book is flowery. This book is very well written, just enough description of surroundings etc. and

the story moves right along, no time to get bored. I read thousands of books and this is one of the best I have read about king Henry and his wives.

I really liked this book and saw another her side of Jane I hadn't seen before.

This period of history has always fascinated me. Pour the Dark Wine filled in many gaps and allowed me a greater knowledge of each of the players in the saga. I had difficulty putting it down. As it is based on history I can't really say it was full of surprises but it was enlightening and told well, plumping out the characters.

An enjoyable read. Familiar ground covered during Henry the eights rein but with unexpected twists and characters. The astrologer and his adventures adding magic and mystery to the story line.

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