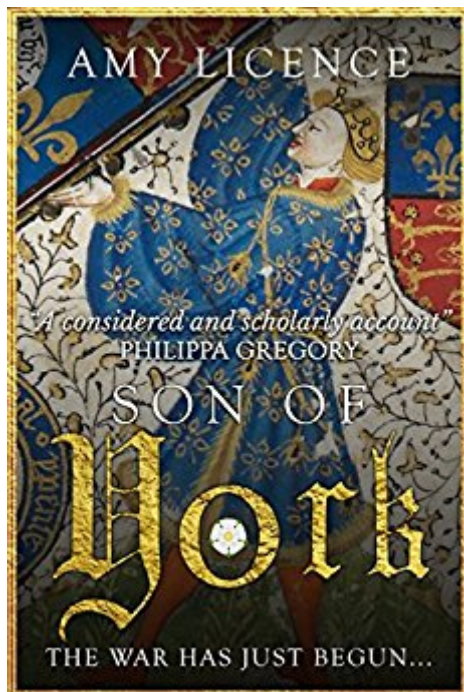


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Son Of York



Synopsis

England, 1455 King Henry VI is proving to be an unstable monarch, prone to bouts of mysterious illness and susceptible to manipulation from others. Richard of York, the most powerful magnate in the land, steps in to manage affairs whilst Henry is unwell. Many people prefer York's rule, which does not please the queen. The country begins to divide and plots start to hatch. York himself is directly descended from the royal family line, in fact, a little more directly than Henry but he puts this fact aside and strives only to serve the king. This, however, becomes increasingly difficult due to the acts of the queen, who, now feeling threatened by York, calls her men to get rid of him. The York family is strong and the two eldest sons, Edward and Edmund are approaching manhood. Edward, bold and eager, is keen to leave his childhood behind and enter the world of men, of politics, combat and love. Edmund, the younger brother is more introspective and struggles to project his public image. Both boys look to York as their mentor, a match for any king; and Richard is proud of them both. But with sons comes the question of inheritance. Who will succeed Henry's throne? His own son, the young Prince Edward, or the capable York and his heirs? This historical window into the past lifts figures from the history books and gives the personality and purpose behind their actions. The story bears witness to the extremes of the human condition, from loving tenderness in court to vengeful violence on the battlefield.

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Customer Reviews

Interesting and a pleasant read, and gives a good feel for the period.

A great historical twist. Engaging.

Ms. Licence has written a real page turner which brings the young Edward IV to life in a superior and well-crafted novel. If more history was written in this manner, combining historical facts with a great narrative, readers would enjoy their history lessons more. The characters are perfectly described in their complex relationships, are well drawn and the descriptions of the battles are among the best I have ever read. Thus is such a good read, that I know I will enjoy this book a second time in the future.

This is Amy Licence's first novel and it is brilliant! She has taken her impeccable research of Edward IV and his rise to the throne, and combined it with her unparalleled storytelling, to bring his world to life. Ms. Licence's depth of knowledge of this era, and her detail to the finer points of the history are exceptional, she leaves no stone unturned when researching these turbulent times. You meet Edward as a young man beginning to find his own way in the world; leaving the days of childhood behind; days of learning with his tutor and horse play with his dearly loved brother Edmund, giving way to the instincts of an older, healthy teen. The love and bond between Edward and his brother Edmund is brought to life. Edward's family shows the relationships that encouraged him; nurtured him, and how he came to be, the man he is, by the time he is proclaimed King. Amy Licence has given us a new breed of historical fiction here. While the dialogue is her own, and the extra characters are fictional; the central figures and events, are real and beautifully depicted. The history is exquisitely taken into consideration, and the result is a story stunningly told.

I had been reading too many mystery/thriller/murder books and needed a change of scene. This piece of history gave me all I needed and more. I will be keeping an eye out for this author definitely in the future. King Henry VI is the monarch at the time. He is unwell and seems to be more suited to a spiritual life. Sad that kings cannot decide what they want to do. He seemed so unfit to be King of

a country that was always in turmoil and needed his attention and care. His wife the French queen was not a popular choice and her backers were those who were looked at with suspicion. The Duke of York was a man who felt strongly over the King's role in the country and looked initially to be protector of the King against elements who were dangerous. Over time, with the continuation of the King's absence from Court and the wider influence of the Queen, he sought the position of King for himself. The story of the Duke of York and his two sons and their rise in fame towards the position of King forms the basis of the story. Told in detail with a great deal of history accounted for, this book is a must for those who like English history. I enjoyed the telling of it, both from the personal angle of the House of York as well as from the angle of the greater overall picture of the rise of the House of York.

I'd never read anything by Amy Licence before (some of her e-books are a little pricey), but I'm glad I gave this one a try. Her writing style flows so easily and kept me interested from beginning to end. I loved her realistic interpretation of Edward IV and the factors that shaped him into the man and king he grew up to be. I also enjoyed reading about his doomed brother Edmund, who history has almost forgotten about. Looking forward to starting her Elizabeth of York novel next!

If you're a fan of Philippa Gregory's writing, then *Son of York* is definitely for you. Licence's prose is swift and cinematic - she paints clear pictures of scenes and characters that could very well lend themselves to the screen. Her writing is very present and has a good sense of flow, and I appreciated how Licence often imparts historical information via dialogue - having us learn the latest court intrigues and alliances that will shape the Yorkists' fate alongside the characters. In this very present and absorbing narration, we see how political winds shift at the slightest provocations, sending the Duke of York's family headlong into war against combatants supporting the ailing Henry VI and his powerful French queen, Margaret of Anjou. Eventually, the two families' battle over dynastic claims shifts from debate in council chambers to combat in the field, and the Duke's eldest son Edward finds himself growing into manhood against this hostile backdrop. We witness him go from a boy shunning his lessons, to a teenager entering into an affair with a young married woman (no doubt a precursor to his philandering ways later in life), to an exile in France, all the way to the head of his household back on English soil, leading armies to support his family's claim to the throne. All the while, Licence's exploration of the relationship between Edward and his brother Edmund - younger by a year and growing up in Edward's shadow - really piqued my interest. Looming large in our cultural conscience are Edward's relationships with his other brothers - the

ill-fated George, Duke of Clarence, and the infamous Richard III. Yet, Licence pays careful attention to another fraternal story, shading the contrasts between Edmund and Edward. She illustrates nicely how two young men of differing temperaments approach a politically precarious situation, and how varyingly they respond to questions of inheritance, leadership, and eventually armed conflict. Indeed, the novel very well could have been called Sons of York. However, this is ultimately Edward's story, and as a study of a young man stepping into adulthood, and the royal role he was destined to play, Son of York is an enjoyable read that is tough to put down.

The character of Richard of York and his sons is a great story worth of a great deal of attention and this is a marvelous addition to the body of literature on the topic. It is well written and insightful. Extremely helpful in understanding the flow of events of this very complex period of time.

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