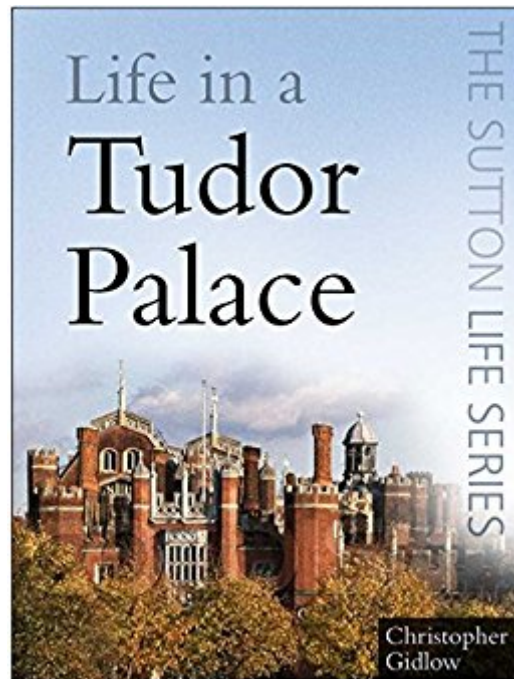




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Life In A Tudor Palace (Sutton Life)



Synopsis

This book lets us take a tour round a courtly palace and peep around each door, as we encounter the kitchens, the bakery, the laundry, the bedrooms, the gardens and the privvies! Everything you could wish to know is here, as the book describes the different lifestyles of the court, and the people who served them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good glimpse into daily life at the court of King Henry VIII. It explains the way the entire court (sometimes consisting of 1,000 people) moved and settled in at any one of the palaces (Greenwich, Westminster/Whitehall, Hampton Court, Woodstock, Richmond, Eltham, and Beaulieu). Gidlow shows us how the Eltham Ordinances, written by Henry's all-powerful Lord Chancellor, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, gave the rules, procedures, and protocols that every courtier was expected to obey. These ordinances gave a formal structure to the way the royal household was conducted - all the way from the scullery to the people allowed into the Privy Chamber. This short book covers a typical day at the court starting just before sunrise and ending late at night when the clerks in the Compting House cast up the daily accounts. It's a fascinating read and I would

recommend it for anyone who plans to read Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* and *Bringing Up the Bodies*. For me, it added some texture and gave me a little better understanding when I read those two great novels. *Gidlow* also touches on some of the political machinations in Henry's court (especially those concerned with Ann Boleyn) but really gives us an insight into the way the palace was run. He writes without embellishment and the book is a pleasure to read. The language is simple and clear and is suitable for early teens up through adults. It's a fine read.

I have always had a love of the English History. After watching "The Tudors", I became more interested in that period. So when I came across this book, I knew I had to purchase it. And I'm glad I did. I highly recommend it. If you are familiar and love the history of the tower you will not be disappointed.

I enjoyed reading this little history book, and I learned things I hadn't previously know. For instance, I knew that Anne Boleyn had been executed on trumped-up charges of adultery, and that she had lost favor by failing to produce a son, but I didn't know that she joked with Henry's Gentlemen and mocked the King on the size of his underwear, which probably wounded his delicate pride. I also hadn't known what a dangerous place the palace would have been for the courtiers. I didn't know that one lady in the court was imprisoned for asking, "How many wives will he have?" I hadn't known what lodgings were like for nobility, or how the king's and queen's apartments were arranged, or how the daily activities of the servants were organized. All of that was very interesting to me. I rather wish that the author had included a list of suggested reading for those interested in knowing more. This history was just a morsel. Also, I wanted a bibliography. Sometimes when I was reading accounts of specific conversations that supposedly took place, I wondered, how does the author know that this happened? Who reported it? Who wrote it down? And how was the account preserved all these centuries? Sometimes when I'm reading things I've never heard before, I want to know the source of the information, or at least another historian to go to and obtain more information for myself. This author didn't provide that, which surprises me because he is an educated man, and he knows that part of higher education is learning to question everything and to gather more sources of information that support his statements. In all, it was a solid effort. The author did a good job of writing in a conversational style, and as much as I wanted a more academic approach, I still appreciated that this didn't read like a history book. It's very brief, which is fine, but I wish there had been a recommended reading list for those interested in knowing more. I paid \$0.99 for the Kindle version, and I'm pretty satisfied with what I got for my dollar. I'm more fascinated with

this man and his wives and families than ever.

This is a very short, fast read. Mostly, it's a "day in the life" type book. It seems intended to be a quick overview of its subject, and it's nicely done. I read a lot of heavily detailed historical books - so this book was a rather nice break from reading something more detailed.

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