

Following in the Footsteps of the Princes in the Tower

Bibliography and Further Reading

Fiction

Vanora Bennett *Portrait of an Unknown Woman* The woman in question is Meg Giggs, a foster daughter of Sir Thomas More, whose conducts tangled love affairs with the painter Hans Holbein and with John Clement, who is later revealed to be the grown-up Richard of Shrewsbury – the younger of the princes. A colourful novel of Tudor England, spread over 500+ pages, that draws inspiration from the theories of Jack Leslau, who claims that John Clement's secret is revealed in a Holbein painting of Thomas More's family.

Emma Darwin *A Secret Alchemy* In a rather more literary piece of historical fiction than other works listed here, Darwin recreates the world of the princes through the power struggles and passion that lay behind their lives and imprisonment. The novel is narrated jointly by Elizabeth Woodville, their mother; her brother Anthony, guardian to Edward Plantagenet; and present-day historian Una Pryor, whose experiences of tragedy, betrayal and lost love help her to unlock the long-buried secrets that led to the princes' deaths.

Philippa Gregory *The White Queen* Elizabeth Woodville is the subject of this novel by a best-selling author of historical fiction. The book opens with Elizabeth's first encounter with King Edward IV and covers the birth and boyhood of her two sons – and provides an intriguing account of what might have happened to the princes during the time they were in Richard's custody.

Mark T.J. Griffin *Richard of Eastwell* Self-published novel recounting the wholly fictional life of the master mason Richard Plantagenet of Eastwell, who – in Griffin's tale – is actually the grown-up Richard of Shrewsbury. The novel's settings range from contemporary and Tudor-era Eastwell to Ludlow Castle.

Terence Morgan *The Master of Bruges* The "master" in question is the painter Hans Memling (1430-94), who in this colourful historical novel moves from Flanders to London in pursuit of a woman and finds himself embroiled in the lives of the princes.

Reay Tannahill *The Seventh Son* Fictional account of the life of Richard III that treats the king sympathetically, providing a counterbalance to novels by Philippa Gregory and others that tend to be more hostile.

Josephine Tey *The Daughter of Time* First published in 1951, this novel by crime writer Josephine Tey sees her fictional police inspector Alan Grant recuperating in hospital from a broken leg – and using the opportunity to investigate, along with an American scholar, one of the most famous murder-mysteries in history, the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower.

Alison Weir *A Dangerous Inheritance* Lengthy historical novel by historian Alison Weir, which recounts the lives of two women of the Plantagenet and Tudor eras – namely Lady Katherine Grey, sister of the ill-fated Lady Jane Grey, and Katherine Plantagenet, illegitimate daughter of Richard III. The bulk of the book concerns the strained love lives of both women (Katherine Grey's clandestine marriage incurs the wrath of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I) – but both women also conduct investigations into the fate of Katherine Plantagenet's cousins, the Princes in the Tower.

Non-Fiction

John Ashdown-Hill *The Dublin King* Intriguing account of the strange case of Lambert Simnel, a “pretender” to the throne during the reign of Henry VII, who claimed (at one point) to be the grown-up Richard Plantagenet, the younger of the two princes. Ashdown-Hill weaves an intriguing yarn that purports that Simnel might have been Edward, Earl of Warwick, the son of the Duke of Clarence, and a cousin of the princes. The possible fate of the princes is the subject of the first part of the book and is well discussed.

David Baldwin *Elizabeth Woodville: The Mother of the Princes in the Tower* Readable account of the life of one of the most complex and powerful women in late fifteenth century England.

David Baldwin *The Lost Prince* Speculative but entertaining account of how Richard of Shrewsbury, the younger of the princes, might have been removed from the Tower to grow up to be the bricklayer buried at Eastwell in Kent who went under the name Richard Plantagenet.

David Baldwin *Richard III* This is one of the most recently-published biographies of Richard (the 2015 edition includes material on the discovery of Richard’s remains in Leicester) and, while not a scholarly biography, or one that makes use of new material, it serves as a readable and balanced introduction to Richard’s life.

Michael Hicks *The Prince in the Tower* Scholarly biography – the only one – of Edward Plantagenet, the older of the princes; inevitably, since what we know of Edward’s (known) life cannot really fill an entire volume, much of the material in the book consists of background accounts of the wider political scene in the late fifteenth century.

Susan Higginbottom *The Woodvilles: The Wars of the Roses and England’s Most Infamous Family* Novelist Susan Higginbottom provides an insight into the powerful family that lies at the heart of the princes’ story; the book includes much information on Anthony Woodville, Edward Plantagenet’s guardian, as well as the princes’ mother and grandmother.

John Higgs *Watling Street* Lively, anecdotal book about Watling Street; the book describes a contemporary journey along its length but includes commentary relating to the history of this ancient routeway, and of towns along it such as Canterbury and Northampton.

Paul Hindle *Medieval Roads and Tracks* This slim paperback (in the Shire Archaeology series) provides an excellent introduction to medieval roads and was invaluable in the preparation of the section of this book on Watling Street.

Jeffrey James *Edward IV: Glorious Son of York* One of the most accessible and recently-published biographies of Edward IV and his life and times.

Richard Jenkyns *Westminster Abbey: A Thousand years of National Pageantry* Accessible and readable account of the history of Westminster Abbey: as Jenkyns explains in his introduction, “This book is partly about a building and partly about its meaning and effect...my themes include architecture, sculpture, memory, tradition, sacred space, urban space, ceremony, community, politics and worship.”

Matthew Lewis *The Survival of the Princes in the Tower: Murder, Mystery and Myth* A neutral examination of the “black hole” of the princes’ fate, exploring the morass of evidence, propaganda, rumour and innuendo amassed over the centuries with a forensic eye. Lewis also asks a crucial but often overlooked question – whether the princes might have survived.

Dominic Mancini *The Usurpation of Richard III* A scholarly edition of Mancini's chronicle, with extensive notes, was published in 1969 by Oxford University Press – and, as a limited-edition academic work, copies sell for a high price on the internet.

Thomas More *The History of King Richard III* Thomas More's controversial history of Richard III includes much narrative detail on the fate of the princes; a scholarly edition was published in 2004 by Hesperus. Sister Wendy Beckett – broadcaster and nun – declares it in her introduction to be “a remarkably vivid account, almost a novel in its immediacy and intimacy. More...is a born raconteur.”

Nicholas Orme *The Education of Edward V* Originally published in 1984 in the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, this article, which was invaluable in the preparation of the sections of this book dealing with Edward Plantagenet's upbringing, can now be accessed online: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1468-2281.1984.tb02237.x>

A.J. Pollard *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower* Informative and enlightening history of Richard's life, with the Princes in the Tower forming a pivotal part of the narrative. All the evidence concerning Richard's involvement with their demise is examined but no firm conclusions are drawn, and this remains one of the most readable, thorough and balanced accounts of the story of Richard and the princes.

Jeremy Potter *Good King Richard? An Account of Richard III and his Reputation, 1483-1983* Potter served as a defender of Richard III in the famous “trial” of the monarch staged by Channel Four Television in 1984. This book, published the previous year, seeks to exonerate Richard from what the author believes is centuries of unfounded slander.

Desmond Seward *Richard III: England's Black Legend* In-depth biography of Richard first published in 1982 but reissued since, most recently by Pegasus in 2017; Seward draws heavily on Thomas More's biography and presents Richard as the murderer of the Princes.

Ron Shoesmith and Andy Johnson (eds.) *Ludlow Castle: Its History and Buildings* Detailed account of the history of Ludlow Castle (and the town that surrounds it), enlivened by photographs, plans and drawings. Published by Herefordshire-based Logaston Press. Shoesmith and Johnson's book was invaluable in the preparation of the chapter in this book on Ludlow.

Lawrence Tanner and William E. Wright *Recent Investigations regarding the Fate of the Princes in the Tower*. In this article, originally published in 1935 in the journal *Archaeologia*, Tanner and Wright discuss their investigations into the remains buried in Westminster Abbey purporting to be those of the Princes; now published online by Cambridge University Press – <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/archaeologia/article/irecent-investigations-regarding-the-fate-of-the-princes-in-the-tower>.

Richard Unwin *Westminster Bones: The Real Mystery of the Princes in the Tower* A short, self-published book in which the author argues that the bones in Westminster Abbey are not those of the princes but instead are seventeenth century bones associated with a publicity stunt orchestrated by the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; a beguiling conspiracy theory!

Alison Weir *Elizabeth of York: The First Tudor Queen* Absorbing biography of the princes' sister – and the mother of Henry VIII; the first part contains much useful information on Cheyneysgate, the house of the Abbot of Westminster where Edward Plantagenet was probably born.

Alison Weir *The Princes in the Tower* First published in 1992, this is a very readable account of the fate of the princes; Weir places more reliance on the veracity of Thomas More's account than some, and firmly blames Richard for their disappearance and murder.

Audrey Williamson *The Mystery of the Princes* This is another balanced account of the disappearance of the princes – one that lifts the blame from Richard to a degree but does not present any firm conclusions. Originally published in 1981; the most recent edition was published in 2010.

Ann Wroe *The Perfect Prince: The Mystery of Perkin Warbeck and His Quest for the Throne of England* Wroe provides the most thoroughly researched and written account of the story of Perkin Warbeck, discussing who exactly he was – and whether his claim to be the grown-up Richard of Shrewsbury can be believed.