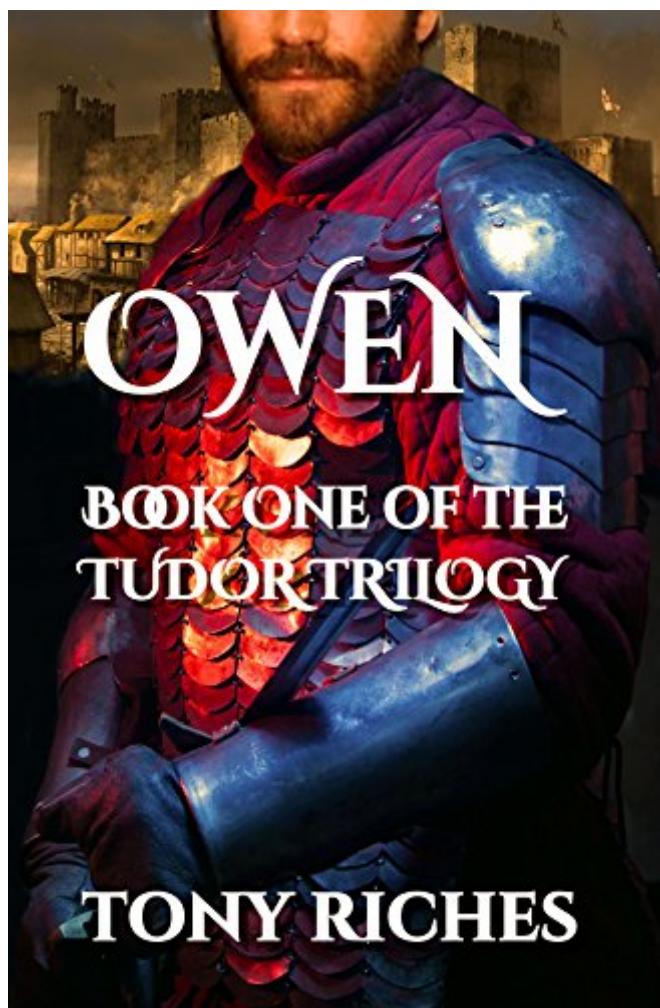


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Owen - Book One Of The Tudor Trilogy



Synopsis

Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, OWEN is the epic tale of one young manâ™s incredible courage and resilience as he changes the course of English history. England 1422: Owen Tudor, a Welsh servant, waits in Windsor Castle to meet his new mistress, the beautiful and lonely Queen Catherine of Valois, widow of the warrior king, Henry V. Her infant son is crowned King of England and France, and while the country simmers on the brink of civil war, Owen becomes her protector. They fall in love, risking Owenâ™s life and Queen Catherineâ™s reputationâ"but how do they found the dynasty which changes British history â" the Tudors? This is the first historical novel to fully explore the amazing life of Owen Tudor, grandfather of King Henry VII and the great-grandfather of King Henry VIII. Set against a background of the conflict between the Houses of Lancaster and York, which develops into what have become known as the Wars of the Roses, Owenâ™s story deserves to be told. Owen - Book One of the Tudor Trilogy is a new addition to the story of the Tudors in the historical fiction tradition of C J Sansom, Conn Iggulden, Philippa Gregory and Hilary Mantel.

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Customer Reviews

I love a good, intelligent historical novel. There are so many out there, and I have to be honest and say that, on many occasions, I have bought a promising looking book, only to abandon it within the first few chapters. Very often, the detail won't be right, or the characters will behave in a way that just isn't realistic for the time. One of the main issues though is that the dialogue can be so hard to get right. I've read so many historical novels where the characters use words that just wouldn't have been around in the period in which they are set, or, alternatively, where the writer is so keen to make the dialogue authentic that they overdo it and render the book unreadable. I'm pleased to say that neither of those things were issues in this book. The historical detail was rich and informative. I felt as though I learned a great deal about this particular period of history while immersed completely in Owen's story. And the language was spot on too. Nothing felt out of place. The story is fascinating. Owen Tudor, a Welsh servant, falls in love with Queen Catherine of Valois, the widow of King Henry V. I had never heard of Owen, and knew nothing of his remarkable story. Their romance, and the dangers it brings, is played out against the background of the conflicts, intrigues and betrayals of the time that led to the War of the Roses. Riches certainly knows his subject. There was so much detail here. The reader is carried from Windsor, to Wales, to France, into battles and life at court, with rich detail at every turn. I felt though, that there was so much detail here, so much going on, that Owen's own story was a little lost at times - in terms of his emotions and feelings. I didn't always feel connected to him, even though the novel is written in first person. It felt sometimes as though he was dashing from one event to another without pause for breath. When tragedy struck, I didn't always feel that Owen's feelings came across. The novel is written in present tense which was a bit off-putting for me. While present tense can bring immediacy to a story, I do think this would have worked better in past tense. Having said that, the writing was solid. I do recommend this to those who enjoy historical novels. It's a thoughtful, intelligent book that doesn't disappoint.

I thoroughly enjoyed this well-written book. I did enjoy the telling of the story in the first person. The story of Owen Tudor is so often just a side note in the telling of the War of the Roses and the Tudors. The fact that this man would marry the former Queen of England and the sister of the King of France is fascinating. Of interest to me is the mental illness by Catherine and her son Henry VI. Could this have caused the mercurial moods of Henry VII and Henry VIII? I am looking forward to the next books about Jasper and Henry VII.

So little is known about Owen Tudor except that he married the widow of Henry V, (Catherine of Valois) and they had two sons. Due to this book I learned there was another son, Owen, who became a priest.. Tony Riches did a wonderful job researching and padding the known history as much as he dared. This made the book less creditable. Even so, the author did the best he could with what he had and full marks to him for that. I didn't realise before reading "Owen - Book one of the Tudor Trilogy" how power-hungry were Owen's two sons - Edmond and Jasper. Edmond in particular for marrying Margaret Beaufort and making her a mother at 13 years to ensure his ascendancy. As he lost his life soon after the future Henry VI was born, he didn't reap the harvest he hoped for. Poor Margaret Beaufort who almost lost her life and could never have another child, due to the horrific birth. Jasper's exploits towards the end of the book dragged for me, although I was surprised to learn that Owen had fathered a child in his declining years - his namesake. It hasn't deterred me from my intention of reading the next in the series - Jasper Tudor who was the guardian of the future King Henry VI. This isn't a bad book - quite readable, but too much padding and poetic license used.

This author's writing style is a little different to get used to, but I gave it a few chapters and found that I really enjoyed it. This is the most I have ever read about Owen Tudor. I find him usually as a supporting character, but in this book he finally took center stage. Tony Riches did a great job of bringing Owen Tudor back to life. I liked the pace of this book and I was so entertained by it! I will definitely be reading the others in this series!

4+ Stars ~ " Owen Tudor, a Welsh servant, waits in Windsor Castle to meet his new mistress, Queen Catherine of Valois, widow of the warrior king, Henry V" It was an enjoyable and enlightening book about Owen Tudor himself. I have read The Forbidden Bride and books about the Beauforts, but this one was solely about Tudor himself, which was different. Sometimes I do prefer the female viewpoint so I will explore what Book 2 of the Tudors which is "Jasper". It was written well enough for me to look at his other books and I am currently exploring Eleanor Cobham as book subject, so will give that a go also. Little is known of the youth and early history of Owen Tudor so I think that the book was factual and interesting without being at all heavy. Recommended for all who enjoy this period of time and other historical characters outside of the main Tudor family.

I enjoyed the first person story telling. It made Owen Tudor come alive and humanize his story. I

think though more time could have been spent on the love story between Queen Catherine and Owen. Had I not known the history, I think I would have not had as much empathy for them. Also, the later years, as the War of the Roses approached, more background on the issues that lead to this schism and the Tudors roles up to Owen's death. Perhaps an Epilogue summarizing the outcome and the birth of the Tudor dynasty would have wrapped it all up. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and look forward to checking out other books by this author.

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