



The library reading app.



## 29 October - 12 November

*Boleyn Traitor* is my first return to the Tudor court and to the Boleyn family in over a decade. I could not resist coming back to these well-loved characters and to a woman famously branded a traitor, but who was, in reality, far more complex: England's most hated lady-in-waiting, the mysterious Jane Boleyn, wife of George and sister-in-law to Queen Anne.

Centuries of historians have found her inexplicable, and labelled her as a perverse bawd. But Jane Boleyn was honoured in her own time. She was friend to five of Henry VIII's six queens and pulled off this triumph with the help of a patron – the most powerful man in England, second only to the king himself: the commoner, Thomas Cromwell, who, I believe, talent-spotted Jane and recruited her to his elaborate network of informers.

Learning her trade as a spy, providing evidence against two queens for their divorce and execution, Jane was rewarded with a senior position in the household of the child-queen Katheryn Howard. Here, she met the greatest challenge of her life: how should she negotiate a court addicted to power, with a queen addicted to love?

For all those who discover *Boleyn Traitor* through the Libby Reads campaign, I hope that you will enjoy returning to the Tudor court with me and discovering Jane, who has been demonised by conventional history, but whose story is not quite as it seems.

With my best wishes,

Philippa Gregory