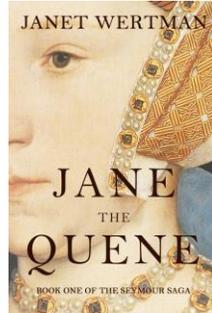


Jane the Quene, by Janet Wertman

All Jane Seymour wants is a husband; but when she catches the eye of a volatile king, she is pulled deep into the Tudor court's realm of plot and intrigue....



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the author chose “Jane the Quene” as the title?
2. Compare the way women in the era of Henry VIII were treated to the way that women in the 21st Century are treated. Is marriage still used to advance the status and fortunes of families?
3. How does religion inform the book’s characters and events?
4. Was this a moral society? Or was it pragmatic or even amoral?
5. The three main characters -Jane, Henry, and Cromwell – are quite different. With whom did you most identify, and why? What did you like or dislike about each?
5. How did the alternating point of view between Jane and Cromwell shape your impressions of Henry?
6. Henry was a very complex character: religious but broke with the church; sensitive but executed wives; loving to his children but breaking off at a moment’s notice. Do you have any people like that in your life? What do you think caused him (and them) to behave like that?
7. Talk about Jane’s family dynamics. What roles did Edward and Tom play in her life? Her sisters? Her father? Her sisters? How did they shape Jane’s self-image?
8. Aside from her beauty (which was not considered as great as Anne Boleyn’s), what aspects about Jane do you think Henry VIII found attractive or desirable?
9. How does Jane manage to keep the King interested in her while turning down his expensive presents?

10. What effect does the incident of her first meeting (the joyous dance) have on Henry VIII?
11. What are Jane's feelings toward Henry? Why does she admire and love him? How does she demonstrate her love?
12. What are Jane's motives and values? In what ways does Jane's personality and values distinguish her from Henry's other lovers and wives?
13. The morality of the time was dictated from Leviticus...therefore the marriage to Catherine could be annulled because she had no heir, and Anne Boleyn could also be set aside. How did the third marriage follow the moral paradigm and therefore become recognized in the eyes of God?
14. How does Jane reconcile the treatment of Anne Boleyn and her belief in the goodness of Henry VIII?
15. What role did redemption and punishment play in Jane's coming to grips with her actions? How do you feel about her analysis and/or justifications?
16. In what ways are Jane's actions a testament to her grace? Give some examples.
17. Talk about Jane's treatment of Catherine of Aragon's daughter Princess Mary.
18. Jane showed a great deal of quiet strength. Has there been a time in your life when you've had the same courage?
19. Talk about Jane's mission to save the Abbeys. Why do you think she risks Henry's wrath in her attempt to save them?
20. What does Jane finally come to realize about herself...what self-awareness does she gain? How has she changed and evolved during this book?
21. Often people say that Jane is the moral one and Cromwell not. What in this book leads you to believe it is more complex than that?
22. Knowing history, does this book help you imagine how the rest of the Tudor era unfolded?