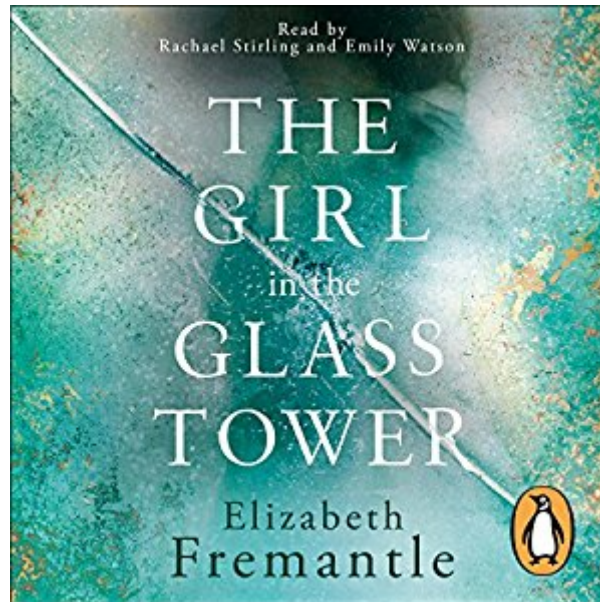




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The Girl In The Glass Tower



Synopsis

Penguin presents the unabridged downloadable audiobook edition of *The Girl in the Glass Tower* by Elizabeth Fremantle, read by Rachael Stirling and Emily Watson. Fremantle's *The Girl in the Glass Tower* is a stunning historical thriller set in the chaos leading up to the death of Elizabeth I. Tap. Tap. Tap on the window. Something, someone wanting to be heard. Waiting to be free. Tudor England. The word treason is on everyone's lips. Arbella Stuart, niece to Mary, Queen of Scots, and presumed successor to Elizabeth I, has spent her youth behind the towering windows of Hardwick Hall. As presumed successor to the throne, her isolation should mean protection - but those close to the crown are never safe. Aemilia Lanyer, writer and poet, enjoys an independence denied to Arbella. Their paths should never cross. But when Arbella enlists Aemilia's help in a bid for freedom, she risks more than her own future. Ensnared in another woman's desperate schemes, Aemilia must tread carefully or share her terrible fate.... *The Girl in the Glass Tower* brilliantly explores what it means to be born a woman in a man's world, where destiny is strictly controlled and the smallest choices may save - or destroy - us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This author creates a heartfelt insight into what the world of Arabella Stuart could possibly have been like and brings to life several interesting historical figures

This is a well written story of yet another obscure member of the Stuart family who had other family

members contriving to make this individual the heir to Elizabeth I. The historical background is very detailed and the writing makes the characters come alive. Makes one glad to NOT be a member of royalty in the 1600"s!

Lady Arbella Stuart is *The Girl in the Glass Tower* and I picked up this book with interest: Lady Arbella Stuart had always been a shadowy figure in my reading about Tudor/Stuart history. I knew that she had been considered as a possible successor to Elizabeth I, and when I first came across her name I was convinced it had been misspelled. But I knew little about her. First, some biography. Lady Arbella Stuart was the only child of Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox and his wife Elizabeth Cavendish. She was a grandchild of Matthew Stewart, Earl of Lennox and Lady Margaret Douglas, whose parents were Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus and Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England and widow of James IV of Scotland. In short, Arbella Stuart was the great-great- granddaughter of Henry VII, and was in line to the English throne. While it seems that she did not seek the throne herself, there were others keen to push her claims. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Cavendish, better known as *Bess of Hardwick* was key. In this novel, Elizabeth Fremantle brings Arbella Stuart out of the shadows. Arbella's story is told in the past tense, in conjunction with the story of another historical figure, Aemilia Lanyer (Ami) a writer and poet whose story is told in the present. It makes for an interesting juxtaposition: Ami's story moving back in time as Arbella's story moves forward. The gaps in one story are filled in the other. Arbella spends much of her time with her grandmother, effectively imprisoned behind the imposing glass windows of Hardwick Hall. She is being kept safe: there is much danger in the world for those with royal blood. And living within this glasshouse, unable to take control over many aspects of her life, Arbella wishes to ride her horse Dorcas, and longs to be free. *You may not be Queen of England but you are queen over the realm of your body.* The historical facts can be found readily for those in search of them, having all of the detail before reading the novel may well spoil the experience for some readers. Arbella wanted to marry, but because of her place in the succession neither Elizabeth I nor James I would agree. There were offers made for her, but they came to nothing. As Arbella grew older, she sought to control her life by controlling her body. In this novel, her one last chance for happiness was thwarted. Ami Lanyer is part of this and, while aspects are wholly fictional, it provides an interesting dimension to Arbella's story. I finished this novel feeling like I had some greater sense of Arbella Stuart, but also wanting to know more about Aemilia Lanyer. I was left with a small question, though: were containers really

called cartons in late 16th and early 17th century England?Note: My thanks to Michael Joseph and NetGalley for providing me with a free electronic copy of this book for review purposes.Jennifer Cameron-Smith

Arabella herself wrote that her life was boring and that's what this book was.

I really like the finished product. It just took me a while to get there. The directions are REALLY bad.

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