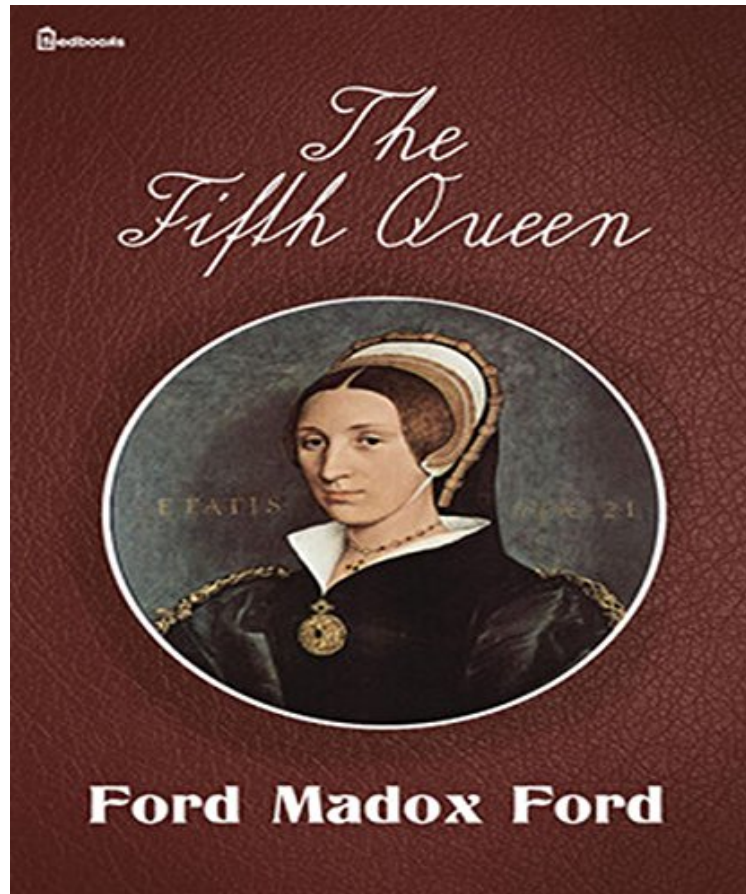


[Download free ebook] The Fifth Queen (Illustrated) (The Fifth Queen Trilogy Book 1) (English Edition)

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Von Ford Madox Ford

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Von Ford Madox Ford : The Fifth Queen (Illustrated) (The Fifth Queen Trilogy Book 1) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fifth Queen (Illustrated) (The Fifth Queen Trilogy Book 1) (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Parable Von James Cianci Ford Madox Ford's "The Fifth Queen" - actually a collection of three separate novels - is a fictionalized account of the fifth wife of England's Henry VIII, Katharine Howard. As A.S. Byatt explains in her Introduction, "This figure bears little relation to what we have about the real Katharine . . ." and thus the reader should be conscious that Ford's Katharine - a young, pretty, pious woman who yearns for a return to Catholicism after Henry's split with Rome - is strictly fictional. That said, the only real failure of this work is that Katharine is the least appealing, least interesting character; we first meet her as a dispossessed ingenue seeking entrance to Henry's court around the time of his disastrous fourth marriage to Anne of Cleves, and it is this description which will follow her throughout the book. Even as she becomes Queen, it is almost by accident, surviving the machinations of Cromwell,

Lord Privy Seal and the recklessness of her devoted cousin Culpepper. She is Queen by default. She constantly protests that all she seeks is a Catholic England - the "old ways" - and yet throughout she resigns herself to letting events happen to her, as if she cannot control the consequences of her own life. Indeed, her final speech to Henry where she confesses to an adultery which did not occur, becomes her last fatal act of passivity, for which she pays with her life. She cannot see that there are those who wish to help her and that her naive, narcissistic piety does not have to be her ruin. What holds these novels together is the rich supporting cast: the aforementioned Cromwell, who has his own sovereign Protestant image of England, free from the entanglements of Rome. There is the brooding Princess Mary, Henry's daughter by his first wife, who knows how to carry a grudge for her mother's divorce, the super-spy Throckmorton, the lecherous Magister Udal and more. Ford uses Katharine to show that the blind commitment to an ideal - any ideal - will only result in failure, that this world is more than ideas and faiths, but of people who are imperfect, people who will fail. It is a world five hundred years in the past, but it is also our own.

KurzbeschreibungHis portrait of Catherine Howard, impulsive, warm-hearted, truth-speaking, yet daring amidst the most un-principled intrigue, is singularly attractive and life-like, making an admirable foil to the grimly-conceived Lady Mary. PressestimmenFords last Fifth Queen novel is amazing. The whole cycle is a noble conception. Joseph ConradThe best historical romance of this century. The Times Literary Supplement (London) The Fifth Queen is a magnificent bravura piece. Graham GreeneKurzbeschreibungHis portrait of Catherine Howard, impulsive, warm-hearted, truth-speaking, yet daring amidst the most un-principled intrigue, is singularly attractive and life-like, making an admirable foil to the grimly-conceived Lady Mary.