

# The Poet and the Queen: Thomas Wyatt and Anne Boleyn in Historical Biofiction

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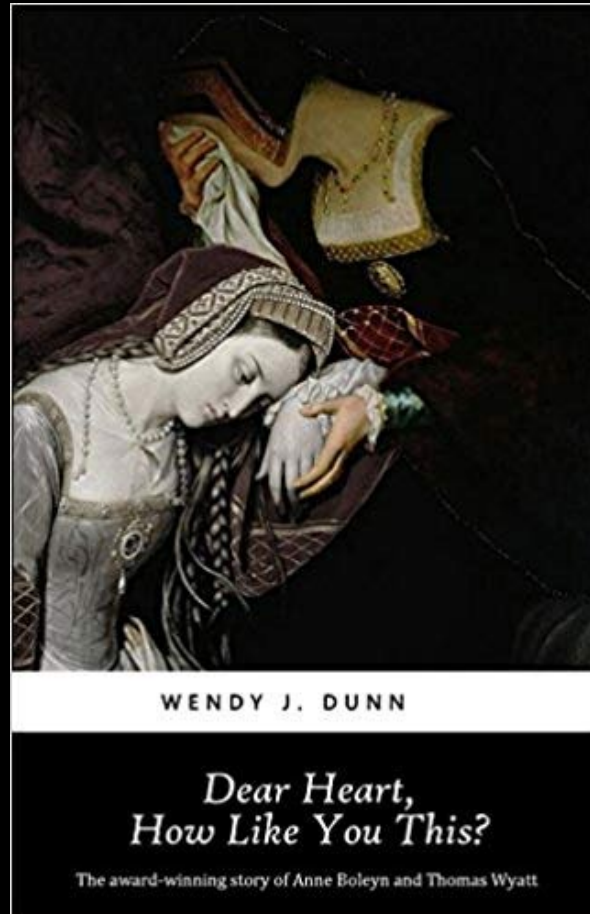
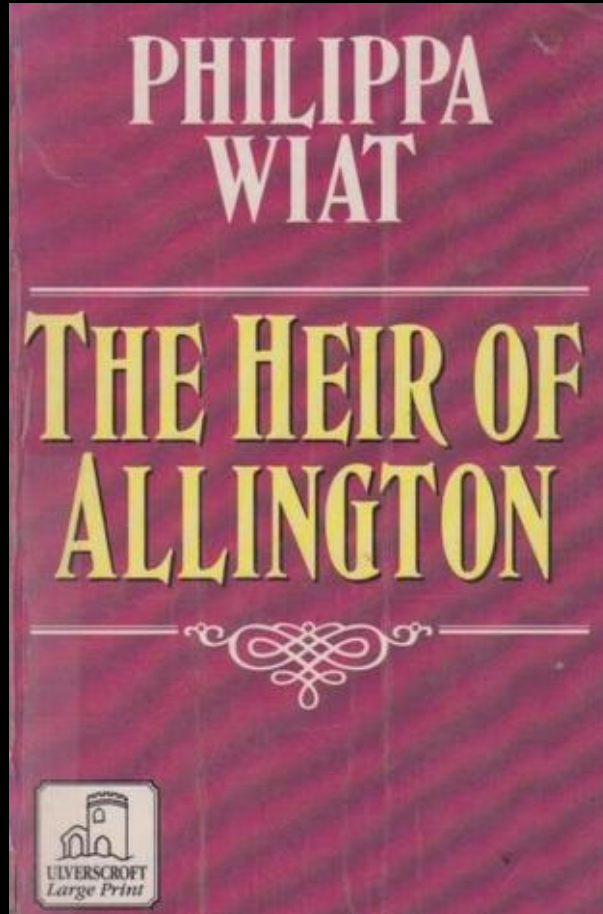
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# *The Tudors* (Showtime, 2007-2010)



# Thomas Wyatt as focaliser



# The sources

- Nicholas Harpsfield (1550s): Wyatt warns Henry about Anne, describing himself as “one [who] has had my carnal pleasure with her”.
- Nicholas Sander: Wyatt tells the entire court of their affair.
- Spanish *Cronica del Rey Enrico*: Wyatt tells Henry of his sexual relationship with Anne in order to get out of prison.

The problem: all Catholic propagandists who had a vested interest in representing Anne as the whore who destroyed the Catholic Church in England.

# George Wyatt

- Anne “rejected all [Thomas Wyatt’s] speech of love”
- Tells a romantic story about Wyatt stealing a jewel from Anne.
- The problem: George Wyatt’s father, Thomas Wyatt the Younger, was executed by Mary I to put Elizabeth on the throne. This plot nearly resulted in the execution of Elizabeth. George Wyatt was writing in order to revive his family’s honour with Elizabeth by presenting her mother in the best possible light.
- The only other evidence: an accumulation of *possible* references to Anne Boleyn in Wyatt’s poetry.

# Whoso List to Hunt

Whoso list to hounte I know where is an hydne;  
But as for me, helas, I may no more:  
The vayne travail hath wearied me so sore,  
I am of them that farthest cometh behind;  
Yet may I by no means my weried mynde  
Drawn from the Diere: but as she fleeth afore  
Faynting I folowe; I leve of therefore,  
Sithens in a nett I seke to hold the wynde.  
Who list her hount I put him owte of dowbte,  
As well as I may spend his tyme in vain:  
And graven with Diamonds in letters plain  
There is written her faier neck abowte:  
'Noli mi tangere for Caesars I ame,  
And wylde for to hold though I seme tame'



# The execution of Anne Boleyn

